

DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING

December 1, 2016
 Karen Sullivan
 Defer Principal



Defer Behavior Pledge

Today I will DO my best to BE my best

I will be respectful

I will practice responsibility

I will always be safe

I will show my Dragon pride.

Seven Habits
 Be Proactive

Begin with the End in mind

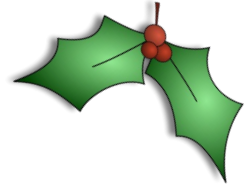
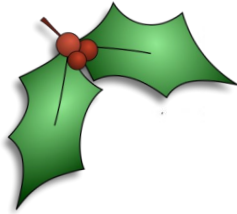
Put first things first

Think Win-Win

Seek first to understand, then to be understood

Synergize— together is better

Sharpen the Saw



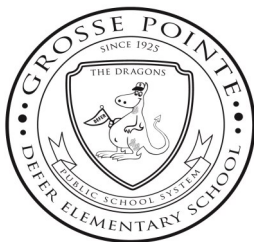
Happy Holidays

Feeling Grateful!
Andy

Doug Olavin
 Elizabeth Moses
 Stefani Makowski
 Carolee
 Carrie Monin
 Tina Justice
 Eleanor Caraselli
 Tricia Gout
 Janette High

Shelley Denison
 Laurie Hanna
 Daisy Hill
 Kristina
 Jason Lenka

Viv Caputo
 Jackie Müller
 Mrs Richards
 Cheryl Lapensee
 Shelby Nadelstet
 Ann Lightbody
 Keturah
 Katy Frailo
 Karen Sullivan
 Erin AMOS



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www.gpschools.org/defer

Town Hall



Defer staff and students have added another element to our leadership work. This year each Defer student has a *leadership necklace* that they wear every Friday. The necklace recognizes the ways in which students are serving as leaders at Defer. Students earn *charms* for their necklace as they show leadership and once a month our entire school comes together to celebrate the charms earned at our Town Hall meeting. Our first Town Hall was November 22nd and the following categories were awarded a charm:

October Homework - These students had all homework completed for the month of October.

Green Squad – These 3rd and 4th grade students help to recycle every lunch hour as well as handling classroom paper recycling.

PBIS – These students had zero card flips for the entire first semester.

Shooting Star – One student from each class is recognized for their classroom leadership that is going *above and beyond* the expectations.

The *Shooting Star* awards will be posted in the hallway outside of the gym and each month a new set of *Shooting Stars* will be added to this hallway of recognition.

Ask your child about their leadership necklace. What charms have they earned so far? What is their goal? How will they achieve their goal?



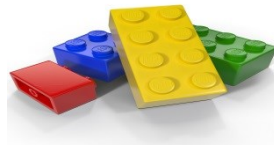
Stand Up and Cheer!



We are cheering at Defer School! We have three groups of students who recently participated in competitions and we couldn't be prouder of them or their accomplishments!

FIRST LEGO League

Eight of our fifth grade girls competed on November 19th in the FIRST LEGO League competition. The competition provides the opportunity to apply science, technology, engineering, and math concepts (STEM), plus a big dose of imagination, to solve a problem. Along their journey, they develop critical thinking and team-building skills, basic STEM applications, and even presentation skills, as they must present their solutions with a dash of creativity to judges. They also must design, build, and program a robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS®, and then compete on a table-top playing field. The girls were successful in all areas.



Our Defer team was made up of: Ella Johnson, Lauren Lemmen, Natalie Lemmen, Allison Novak, Kate Ozar, Millie Robarge, and Chloe Roy and was coached by Mike Novak. Congratulations to the entire team! They will be presenting their work at the December 12th School Board Meeting to the entire community.

WCCCD Holiday Family Traditions Art and Essay Contest

This annual contest is open to all students in Wayne county and provides an opportunity for students to write about traditions their families have around the holidays. Winners of this contest were invited to ride on the fire truck during the Grosse Pointe Thanksgiving Parade on Friday, November 25th. This year winners from Defer school include: Miah Evans, Emilia Koper, Mikinzi Allen, and Ella Neds-Fox. Honorable mention went to: Addie Wiegand, Liam Raether, Lily Ozar, Elijah Hinz, and Mason Cole. Congratulations to all of these authors!

U of M Dearborn Young Author Festival

The 4/5 Magnet classroom students participated in a writing contest through U of M Dearborn's Young Author's Festival. The guest author at the festival was Christopher Paul Curtis. His book, Bud, Not Bud-dy, highlights the importance of family and helping others. Students were invited to write a personal narrative, poem, or essay related to the importance of family using personal family stories and memories. There were over 250 entries from 3rd-5th grade students around Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland county. We had 5 of the winners from Defer, including the Grand Prize winner. Jet Miller won the grand prize, Hanley Desmyter won 1st place for 5th grade, Cassidy Woolums won 2nd place for 5th grade, Josh Lemanski won 1st place for 4th grade, and Maria Fontes won 2nd place for 4th grade. Our students were asked to read their winning pieces at the Young Author's Festival and they participated in breakout sessions on how to become better writers. They also participated in a book signing with Christopher Paul Curtis. It was a great day celebrating our 5 writing contest winners



Winter Recess Reminder

Defer students go outdoors for recess two times each day throughout the school year unless it is raining hard or the wind chill is below zero degrees Fahrenheit. All students must have boots and snow pants to play on the field once the snow is on the ground – otherwise they must stay on the blacktop and woodchip areas. Please make sure your child comes to school dressed properly for the weather. We ask that you write your child's name on his/her gloves, hats, boots, and coat.



Distinguished Employee



For the last seven years the Grosse Pointe Public Schools has been honoring employees through the Distinguished Employee Award. The Award is to recognize staff that has gone *above the beyond* in their role. This year Mrs. Janette High, one of our first grade teachers, received this award and she, along with nine other employees, were honored at the November 28th School Board meeting. Mrs. High has been a teacher in the district for 22 years with almost her entire career being at Defer. Janette is an amazing person and teacher and our Defer students and families know her as *the heart of Defer*. Congratulations to Mrs. High!



SAFETY/SERVICE

In November, Defer Safety/Service walked to TCBY for a waffle cone. It was a beautiful day for a walk. Ashley at TCBY, was fabulous to everyone. Everyone got a chance to participate in the Mannequin Challenge. It was wonderful to see all the students interacting so well outside of school.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday,

Helen Srebernak

Safety/Service Member of the Month-November

Safety: Haddon B.

Service: Stephanie K.





Happy Holidays from your Elementary Library Media Specialists!

(click on each image for a link)



Before you start your holiday shopping, check this site for their “Best-of” recommendations for families. The lists includes age-appropriate movies, video games, apps, websites, books, music and educational materials.



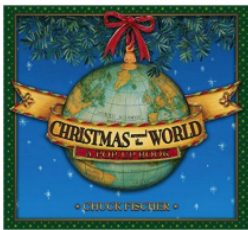
NYT Notable Children’s books of 2016

The best in picture books, middle grade, and young adult fiction and nonfiction, selected by the children’s books editor of the New York Times Book Review



Notable Children’s books of 2016

This list include books of especially commendable quality, books that exhibit venturesome creativity, and books of fiction, information, poetry and pictures for all age levels (birth through age 14) that reflect and encourage children’s interests in exemplary ways.



Christmas Around The World: A Pop-Up Book by Chuck Fischer
Featuring France, Germany, Russia, Latin America, Scandinavia, Great Britain, Italy, and the United States, every spread is packed with delights: a luxurious central pop-up image, plus removable booklets, pullouts, mini pop-ups, and more.



Walk this World at Christmastime

by Debbie Powell
This is a children’s flap book, there are several flaps on each page that must be lifted to see what is underneath. The book takes a trip around the world and illustrates not only how different cultures and countries celebrate Christmas, but also the other holidays that are celebrated around Christmastime.



Celebrate Christmas: With Carols, Presents and Peace

by Deborah Heiligman
This National Geographic publication reflects the global nature of the celebration: Pere Noel in France, Santa Claus in America, La Befana in Italy, and the Three Kings of Hispanic cultures. With first-person narrative, informative back matter, and evocative photography, *Celebrate Christmas* is a rich historical and cultural resource for children.

Elementary Library Media Specialists

- Danielle Gostomski: Kerby, Mason, Poupard
- Amy Hermon: Defer, Maire, Monteith, Richard
- Sherry Martin: Ferry, Mason, Poupard
- Cheryl Quinlan: Defer, Maire, Monteith, Richard
- Rachel Walpole: Defer, Richard, Trombly



December 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--|-------------|--|-------------|--|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 Book Fair Begins Holiday Craft Fair |
| 4 | 5 Book Fair Vocal Concert 7 pm Gr. 1,3,5 and Choir | 6 Book Fair | 7 Book Fair Diversity Parent meeting Maire 6:30 | 8 Book Fair | 9 Book Fair | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Report cards home | 13 | 14 PTO meeting 7:00 PM | 15 | 16 Pierce Choir Performance 2:50-3:15 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Holiday Sing Along and Instrumental Concert 10:00 AM Pierce Choir Performance 2:15 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 Holiday Break Begins School resumes January 9th | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

January 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 School Re-sumes | 10 PTO Meeting 7:00 pm Maire | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 No School MLK Day | 17 | 18 | 19 Kindergarten Information Night | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Safety Service Pierce Pool | 26 | 27 No School Staff Development | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |



DEFER PTO

Providing Support to Students, Teachers and Parents at Defer Elementary since 1924



December 2016



President
Becca Ozar

Vice President
Heather Wiegand

Treasurer
Emily Summerfield

Secretaries
Kelly Woolums
Jessica Kodanko

Communications
Sara Martin

Fundraising
Kelly Warnick

Hospitality
Kim Rhodes

Membership
Lindy Holloway

School Board
Observer
Kelley McLean

Volunteers
Brooke Macuga

Faculty
Representative
Janette High

Defer Wear
Megan Bejin

Past President
Renee Palazzolo

As we enter into the holiday season there is much to celebrate here at Defer. We have had an amazing Fall filled with fundraising and family activities. We raised over \$20,000 through the fun run and with that money we have been able to purchase new playground equipment, new technology, computer applications for almost every grade and even wonderful new t-shirts for our young fives students.

We have an amazing staff at Defer and many reasons to celebrate them. Our own Mrs. High was recently presented a distinguished employee award by the Grosse Pointe School Board. There were quite a few families in the audience to cheer her on. In an attempt to show our own appreciation of our wonderful staff we have recently started what we hope will be a new tradition. Every Tuesday we are bringing in treats for the staff to show how grateful we are for their dedication to Defer. If you are interested in showing your appreciation please contact the PTO and we will add you to the rotation.

We have our annual craft fair and book fair this weekend. This is a great opportunity to share an experience with your child and also share a love of reading with them. Please take a moment to stop by the book fair this Saturday during the craft fair, Tuesday after school or Friday after school. Our books make great gifts for kids and for teachers.

Finally, we have to celebrate you! We have seen so many new faces at our monthly meetings and have noticed new names on all of our volunteer lists. Thank you for supporting the Defer PTO, your donation of money, time and energy have made this a great start to the school year.

Happy Holidays,
Becca Ozar
PTO President



Volunteers Needed!



Defer Dragon Parents and Teachers –

The cold months are fast approaching and it's that time of year again where we are looking for some gracious volunteers to help run a Lunch Time Enrichment class. This program really provides a great opportunity for our students do something fun and interesting outside of their everyday curriculum. Previous programs have included **Legos, Drawing, Theatre, Cooking, Board Games, Chess, Knitting, Computers, Yoga, Newspaper**, etc. the possibilities are endless. This is also an excellent way to get involved by sharing your knowledge and passion with our students.

We are looking for 1 hour a week for approximately 4 to 6 weeks during lunch time in January /February. If you are interested or have any questions, please return the slip below or email raetherd@gmail.com or text **586-876-1310** with the information below. Hope to hear from you soon!

Your Full Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Topic _____

Preferred Volunteer Day of the Week _____



Green Squad News

STACK & SAVE YOUR HOLIDAY CATALOGS

For an upcoming *Catalog Canceling Challenge*

Being sponsored by the Defer Green Squad.

Don't forget to recycle all that holiday wrapping paper.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from our Green School & Home to Yours!

Receive up-to-date information about Defer happenings:

Join the PTO Yahoo email blast group

(send an email to: deferpto-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

You will receive a confirmation email, to which you must respond by simply hitting the reply button.

Follow Defer Elementary PTO on Facebook:

(<https://www.facebook.com/Defer-Elementary-PTO-153168848088901/>)



The Defer print directories have been sent home to all PTO families. It is not too late to join the PTO and support all the wonderful efforts at Defer. Questions?

Contact Lindy Holloway at (313) 719-1179 or lindyh51178@gmail.com.

Online Ordering NOW AVAILABLE!

Welcome to the Defer Elementary Spirit Store!



"Vintage"



"D"



"Dragons"

ORDER ONLINE:

<https://gpschools.formstack.com/forms/deferspiritwear>



| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Hoodies: | Hunter Gray | Logo: D Dragons Vintage | |
| Adult | S M L XL 2XL | | A\$30 |
| Youth | S M L XL | | 2XL \$35 |
| Long Sleeve Tshirt: | | Logo: D Dragons Vintage | |
| | Y\$20 | | |
| | Hunter Gray | | A\$23 |
| Men's | S M L XL 2XL | | 2XL \$25 |
| Ladies | S M L XL | | |
| Youth | S M L XL | | |
| Short Sleeve Tshirt: | | Logo: D Dragons Vintage | |
| | Y\$15 | | |
| | Hunter Gray | | A\$18 |
| Men's | S M L XL 2XL | | |
| Ladies | S M L XL | | |
| Youth | S M L XL | | |
| ¼ Zip: | Gray | Logo: D Dragons GPPS Seal | \$35 |
| Men's | S M L XL 2XL | | 2XL \$38 |
| Ladies | S M L XL | Logo will be embroidered | |
| Baseball Hat: | | Logo: D Dragons GPPS Seal | \$15 |
| | Hunter Gray | | |
| Adult | | | |
| Youth | | Logo will be embroidered | |
| Winter Pom Hat: | | Logo: D Dragons | \$18 |
| Winter Skull Cap: | | Logo: D Dragons | \$15 |
| Name: | Order Total: | | |
| Teacher Name: | Paid: Cash Check _____ | | |

Order using this form or online via the Defer School website
 Orders will be delivered to Defer in approximately 2-4 weeks
 Questions? defer.spirit.store@gmail.com




Mark Your Calendars!

*Saturday Dec. 3— Craft Fair 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*Volunteers still needed for the Craft Fair. Sign up here: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/20f0845a8ac28aafc1-defer2>

*Saturday Dec. 3— Book Fair (open during craft fair)



Defer Book Fair
Defer Book Fair
December 3rd-December 9th.
Please take a moment to sign up for a time slot. It will be the easiest volunteering you do all year!
Thank you,
Becca Ozar and Heather Wiegand
Location: Defer Library

Volunteer at the book fair:
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c48acae2babf49-defer1>

Can't make it to the fair?
Online shopping is an option.



Shop Online
Support our school by shopping online!

- Send student wish lists to family and friends
- Shop teachers' classroom wish list
- Shop our expanded selection of books
- Purchase books online or through the [Book Fairs app](#)



Come back 11/27 - 12/10 to Shop.

Did you know?
When a classroom collects 500 Box Tops, they earn a popcorn party.
Last month, we had a popcorn party in 3 classrooms and this month there will be 3 more!

