

# DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING

January 12, 2017

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**

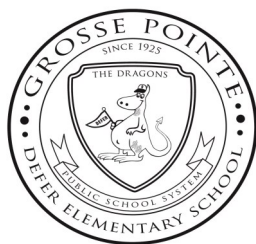
Welcome Back! Happy New Year to all the Defer families! We hope you had a wonderful holiday with family and friends. The staff and I are excited to be starting up our work again with students. Defer is a joy-filled school in which learning is celebrated every single day.

I'd like to begin the New Year by recognizing the Defer PTO. This fall the Defer community ran our one-and-only fund raiser for the year – The Fun Run. It was a huge success not just in terms of the money that it generated for Defer School but really, the greater success, was the spirit of community it generated. Having a common goal, having a shared commitment to our students, and being a part of this was the true *Win Win*.

Our PTO has worked with the Defer staff this Fall to determine how the funds raised can best impact our Defer students. Those discussions are on-going but several purchases have been put in place and I'd like to share them with you.

- Playground Equipment – If you haven't had a chance, stop by Defer's playground and see our new pieces of climbing equipment. Our goal was to add to the playground and focus on our youngest students. The *Jig-Jag Walker and Climber* provides horizontal climbing activities at a safe height. This week was the first chance to use the equipment and needless to say – it is a big hit!
- iPads – Our goal is to purchase six iPads for each Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom. These grades had been using Nooks that we received through a grant. These Nooks are now about six years old and are not capable of running the apps we are presently using in these grades. We will be using Title 1 funds as well to help support this purchase.
- Homework Club – Our Wednesday after school Homework Club is being supported this year by the Defer PTO. This is an opportunity provided by three staff members and the NHS students from South. This opportunity to extend our day supports our students.
- Apps – The PTO has generously sponsored several learning apps this year including: Think Through Math and Storia. Our goal is always to provide learning opportunities in a variety of ways and meet the varied learning styles of our students.
- Young 5s t-shirts – Thanks to our PTO our very youngest students are now wearing their own *Defer Dragon t-shirts*. They are 'sporting' the tie-dye look.

Thanks Defer PTO and the entire Defer community for your unwavering support for our Defer Dragons!



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# Classroom Technology



At Defer, thanks to our PTO and grants we have received through the Foundation, we have the use of technology in all grades. In addition to the four classroom computers in each classroom Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> has a supply of Nooks and this winter we will be adding six iPads to each classroom. This iPad purchase will come to us through both Title 1 funds and the generosity of the PTO. In grades 3 – 5 the classroom computers are supplemented by a set of 30 chrome books at each grade.

So, how is this technology used? Below are some of the key programs/licenses we use regularly as part of classroom instruction. Many of these programs are accessible at home and teachers have provided each child with passwords.

## Lexia

Lexia's pre-K–5 literacy solution is built around the specific needs of each student. The solution is designed to adapt based on student responses and provide real-time personalization while students work independently online. Real-time data from student interaction is sent to the teacher, fueling customized lesson plans based on each student's needs. We are providing use of this program in grades K – 3.

## Storia

Storia offers both school-wide and classroom subscriptions to eBook libraries. Students can select books at their reading level and interact with them online.

## Raz Readers

This program contains more than 1000 leveled books in multiple genres and formats to meet the unique needs of every student. There are printable and projectable leveled readers at 29 reading levels. In includes in-depth guided reading lesson plans, worksheets, and assessments.

## Newsela

The idea behind *Newsela* is to create a way to present the same content in a range of reading levels. *Newsela* starts by selecting news stories published by McClatchy-Tribune papers that are likely to have some interest or relevance to students. Each story is then rewritten and published at four different reading levels as well as in its original form, for a total of five different reading levels.

Students take short quizzes, aligned with Common Core standards and associated with the different levels to assess their comprehension. If they struggle with the quiz, they can read the story at a lower level (or similarly at a more complex level if they ace the quizzes). Because all students get a chance to absorb the same material, however, teachers can lead class discussions on the article topics with all



## The Importance of Homework

What does the term 'homework' mean to you? In your family, does 'homework' have a positive or a negative connotation? For some, the word 'homework' is associated with the idea that such work is drudgery, a necessary evil of attending school. For others, homework is viewed as a precious opportunity to boost learning, *and they're right!!!!*

There are three purposes for assigning of homework. They are listed below along with an example of this type of homework being assigned at Defer.

**To give students opportunities to practice skills.** To execute a skill, students must reach a level of self-sufficiency. When practicing, they are to improve their accuracy and speed. *At Defer math fact practice, spelling practice, and EDM homework all fall into this category.*

**To prepare students for a new topic.** To do this students have to retrieve their prior knowledge. This homework might ask a child to reflect on what they have learned from other classes, or from their reading. *For example, if the students were going to read Jack London's "To Build A Fire", the homework might be to write experiences they have had in bitter cold.*

**To elaborate on introduced material.** This type of homework asks the student to extend their knowledge. *For example, our 5<sup>th</sup> graders studied controls and variables in Science and then set up an experiment to test their own hypothesis using controls and one variable.*

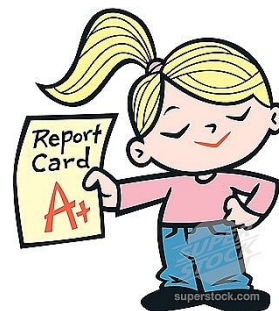
### Fast Facts and Tips for Homework

- In order for students to reach competency, **they must practice it 24 times**. When your child does not do their homework they have missed out on a practice session towards mastery. Students should keep track of their assignments by using an agenda or homework notebook. *Our students complete their agendas every day at Defer.*
- If students are practicing a skill like times tables they would benefit from keeping track of their speed and accuracy. *Students track this information in their data binders at school.*
- All students should read for at least 20 minutes a night. This is in addition to their assigned homework. Parents should help with homework by establishing a routine and finding a place.
- The amount of homework should be enough to equal grade level times 10. In other words, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders should have 30 minutes of homework on school nights, and 4<sup>th</sup> graders should have 40 minutes. This does not include reading for 20 minutes nightly.

## Bottom Line . . . .

**Homework is essential to student learning!**

***Did you do your homework tonight?***



## 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.



### SAFETY/SERVICE

In December, Defer Safety/Service celebrated in the Defer Gym. We enjoyed Mr. C’s pizza, drinks, snacks, and desserts together. Afterward we played an aggressive game of Turtle Soup. It was great to see everyone enjoying just being together.

Every morning the safeties enjoy hot cocoa to “Warm the Safeties.” Thank you, to the PTO, it is greatly appreciated.

If you see a Safety/Service doing a good job, please tell them.

Happy New Year,

Helen Srebernak

Safety/Service Member of the Month-December

**Safety: Kendall M.**

**Service: Millicent B.**

#### Post Times

Safety: 8:10-8:20a.m.

3:35-3:45 p.m.

Service: 8:15-8:25a.m.

3:35-3:45p.m.

#### Late Start Monday

Safety: 8:50-9:05a.m.

3:35-3:45 p.m.

Service: 8:55-9:10a.m.

3:35-3:45p.m.

Safety Patrol Members check the weather before leaving their houses in the morning and **if the weather is below 0’ F degrees with the wind-chill, then the Safety Patrol Members will not be at their posts.**

# 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	11	12	13	14
15	16 No School MLK Day	17	18	19 Kindergarten Information Night 7:00 pm	20	21
22	23	24	25 Safety Service Pierce Pool	26	27 No School Staff Development	28
29	30 Lunchtime enrich- ment classes start	31				

# February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 PTO Meeting 7:00 pm	8 Count Day	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Mid Winter Break begins	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 School Re- sumes	28				



# DEFER PTO

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



January 2017



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

**Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed your winter break and are ready to take on 2017. Defer started the year off great! We were [featured in the Grosse Pointe News last week](#) for the amazing things we are doing with the money you all raised with the Defer fun run. Hopefully all of the students have had a chance to try out the new playground equipment. I have to admit I am kind of tempted to climb to the top.**

**Lunchtime enrichment starts soon, which is always an exciting time of the year for our 1st-5th graders. I look forward to hearing about the new and interesting options this year.**

**Looking ahead, we would again like to invite you to attend at least one PTO meeting this year. We try to keep them at an hour or less as we all have busy lives and many other hats to wear. We have enjoyed seeing at least one or two new faces at each of our meetings so far.**

**Happy New Year!  
Becca Ozar  
Defer PTO President**

Receive up-to-date information  
about Defer happenings:

Join the PTO Yahoo email blast group  
(send an email to: [deferpto-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto: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/>)





## Coming Soon... Defer's 1<sup>st</sup> Box Tops contest!



Please remind your family and friends (near and far!) to save their Box Tops to support our school. More details coming later this month.



### **Green Squad News**

Did you know that there are 19 billion catalogues mailed to American families every year? And 53 million trees are used to create the paper?

This month, the Defer Green Squad is sponsoring the Catalogue Cancelling Challenge. Students (along with their parents) will be encouraged to cancel unwanted catalogues in an effort to reduce waste and help our planet. The grade with the most participation will receive a pizza party to celebrate.

Look for more information coming home this month.

# 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	
	Y\$25		
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](mailto:defer.spirit.store@gmail.com)





## Volunteers Needed: March 2

The Disability Awareness Workshop will be Thursday March 2, 2017

**This is a hands-on program for fourth grade students to learn about the challenges others experience every day due to physical impairments, cognitive disorders, vision and hearing deficits, learning disabilities, speech challenges and more.**

We are looking for volunteers to assist in operating stations, to introduce/explain assistive devices & technologies and to help students use the devices.



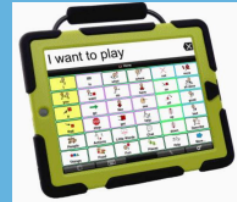
Volunteer shifts will include:

Morning: 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Afternoon: 12:30-2:30 p.m.

or

All Day: 8:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.



*Email Sara Martin ([saraeatonmartin@gmail.com](mailto:saraeatonmartin@gmail.com)) if you're interested in volunteering for one shift or all day.*

**Did you know?  
When a classroom  
collects 500 Box  
Tops, they earn a  
popcorn party.**

**Keep turning Box  
Tops in to help Defer!**

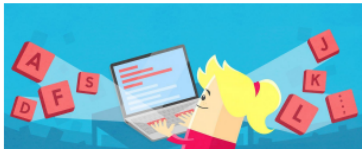




## Happy New Year's from your Elementary Library Media Specialists!

(click on each image for a link)

Try some of these websites with your students! You will be surprised how long students will stick with these 3 keyboarding games and how quickly they master the keyboard. Bad habits start early so consider using these websites with even the youngest elementary students. The last 2 websites are kid-appropriate Internet search engines.



[Dance Mat Typing](#) Website - No subscription required. There are four levels to play, each divided into three stages. Students start by learning the home row keys. Each stage builds on previous lessons, gradually introducing new letters.



[Super Hyper Spider Typer](#) Website - No subscription required. There are 3 levels to play. Students strengthen their keyboarding skills and save the spider from the hungry chameleons.



[Popcorn Typer](#) Website - No subscription required. Students can select from 3 different levels and focus on home row keys, upper and lower keys. Once they've mastered this level, they can challenge themselves with 3 and 4-letter words.



[KidRex](#) searches emphasize kid-related webpages from across the entire web and are powered by Google Custom Search™ and use Google SafeSearch™ technology to check keywords, phrases, and URLs.



[KidsClick](#) KidsClick is owned and run by the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) at Kent State University and was originally created by a group of librarians in an effort to guide their young users to valuable and age appropriate web sites. Advantage: No advertisements Be advised: This is not a filter.

### 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

