

DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

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

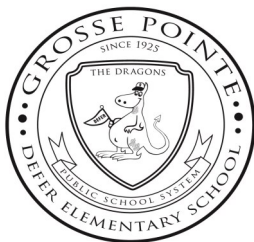
Put first things first

Think Win-Win

Seek first to understand, then to be understood

Synergize– together is better

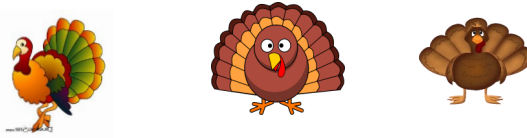
Sharpen the Saw



Defer Elementary School
15425 Kercheval
Grosse Pointe Park, MI
48230

Phone: 313-432-4000
Fax: 313-432-4002

www.gpschools.org/defer



November 3, 2016

Karen Sullivan

Defer Principal

Happy November! It is hard to believe that we are entering the third month of the school year! October was a busy month for our PTO at Defer. Some of the highlights included:

Fun Run – Our school community fund raiser was a huge success and our Defer Dragons ran with pride and spirit cheered on by parent, grandparents, and older siblings.

Pumpkin Patch – Our PTO ushered in the Halloween spirit with a front yard filled with pumpkins, cornstalks, hay and a treat for all – donuts and cider!

Movie Night – Blankets, chairs, and even a couch provided a great lounging spot for our family movie on the Defer field.

Haunted Garage – Many of our families enjoyed being scared at our local Haunted Garage event. This is a district fund-raiser benefiting each building's PTO.

We wrapped up the month with our Halloween celebrations. Our festivities were a rousing success as students celebrated with our school parade, class parties, and our school assembly. Needless to say, a good time was had by all!

So what's in store for November? Parent- Teacher Conferences are coming up on November 16th and 17th. The schedule will include a morning session, an afternoon session, and two evening sessions. We welcome this important opportunity to discuss your child's learning and set goals. Ideas for ways to support your child's education will be shared. Conference reminders will be sent home the week of November 7th.

The schedule for the conferences is as follows:

Wednesday, November 16th - School for Students 8:20 – 3:38

Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Thursday, November 17th – No School for Students

Parent –Teacher Conferences 8:30 – 11:30a.m., 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

& 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Here's another important date – Sunday, November 13th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon. This is the District Open House in which community members are welcome to visit any of the Grosse Pointe Public Schools and learn more about the learning program. You don't have to be new to Grosse Pointe to participate. This is a great opportunity for next year's Kindergarten families to visit Defer and for our 5th grade families to visit Pierce or one of the other middle schools.



W.I.G.

Wildly Important Goals



During the months of September and October the Defer staff at each grade level reviews the Spring data from the previous school year as well as the Fall data. This study results in establishing the overall goal for the grade and this goal become the focus of our tiered support for students. Below are the 2016 – 2017 goals for our students.

Kindergarten: 85 % of the Kindergarten students will recognize all 56 Kindergarten sight words by June 2017 or show growth toward this goal.

1st grade: 90% of the 1st grade students will meet or exceed the standards for Fountas and Pinnell reading levels which is Level G-H for 1st grade.

2nd and 3rd grade: 80% of the 2nd and 3rd grade students will improve a full strand on the NWEA testing for the Vocabulary subtest.

2nd and 3rd grade Magnet: 80% or more of the 3rd grade students will score a 4 or higher on the Spring 2017 GPWA.

4th grade: 100% of the 4th grade students will score 95 or higher on the multiplication fact mastery test by June 2017.

5th grade: 80% of all 5th grade students will score a 4 or higher as on the Grosse Pointe Writing Assessment in May 2017.

4th and 5th grade Magnet: 85% of the students will accomplish through Course 3 on *Hour of Code* computer science programming.

Defer Reminders



Each month we will be sharing some *friendly* reminders about Defer procedures. Some you may know very well and other might be new to you.

- Parking is not allowed in the school parking lot when dropping students off in the morning or picking up at the end of the day.

The north side of Nottingham street is a drop-off/pick-up lane. Parents using this lane must remain in their car.

- Dogs or other pets are not allowed on the school property.
- We celebrate birthdays at Defer. Each child has their name announced on the PA system, they receive a birthday book from the PTO, a birthday pencil, and a book mark with their picture with Mrs. Sullivan.
- *Lost and Found* is located in the gym.
- Children arriving late for school should be brought to the office by their parent or guardian and signed in.
- Parents should not hold the school door open for others when they are buzzed into the building.
- Student may not share food items in the lunchroom.
- School newsletters are published the first Thursday of every month. The newsletter includes an update from the PTO each month.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support

The PBIS program continues to be a backbone of Defer. It is based on the premise that all students will benefit from well implemented, evidence-based practices for improving student behavior. School-wide PBIS provides a positive focus to encourage desirable student behaviors. A set of universal expectations for behavior, positively stated, are established for all students in all locations of the school. These expectations generally promote core values of **respect, responsibility, and safety**. Interventions and strategies are implemented to teach and reinforce these expectations. These include:

Periodic direct instruction in specific student behaviors that demonstrate respect, responsibility, and safety in various locations in the school.

Generous quantities of positive adult/teacher attention and other kinds of reinforcement to students for demonstrating positive behaviors, especially specific behavior expectations identified by the school.

Predictable consequences for behavior infractions that are delivered consistently by all staff in a professional manner throughout the entire school.

Each month Defer school celebrates the good behavior of our students. The October PBIS party was entitled: *Choose Your Own Adventure*. Teachers each offered a unique activity in their classrooms and students signed up for the one they were most interested in participating in as their Reward Party. Student choices included watching a movie, playing bingo, building with Legos, bring your own technology device and many more. Whatever the choice – a good time was had by all!

Leadership and the 7 Habits

Each month our Dragon Dens meet to focus on one of the 7 Habits. We see students demonstrate these habits on a daily basis at Defer and we want to recognize the students we are becoming. Across from the school office some of our teacher leaders have created a display recognizing these behaviors in students. The theme of the display is *Defer Spots Leaders* and examples of students using the Habits will be placed on 'spots' along with student pictures to recognize this good work.

In addition, we are adding a new dimension to our leadership work this year at Defer. We have kicked off our *Leadership Necklaces*. Every student will have a leadership necklace and during the year students will have the opportunity to add charms to their necklaces as they demonstrate different types of leadership. Last week any student that completed their Summer Work Packet earned the first charm on the their necklace. We will be recognizing this leadership each month at our Town Hall meetings. Congratulations to this first round of leaders!



Library News

The magnet classes were busy in the library this October. Mrs. Bergeron's students reviewed how to locate fiction and nonfiction in the library. We reasoned which resources are the best for our research. We tackled print encyclopedias (Coming soon: digital version!) and shared ways in which we show manners while using the Internet. Mrs. Mannino's students reviewed how to access the online card catalog to find materials we need (in 17 libraries!). We also reviewed how libraries organize fiction and nonfiction. Students compared online databases and used digital resources to find information.

Amy Hermon

Library Media Specialist

Maire, Monteith, Defer and Richard

Grosse Pointe Public Schools System

<http://mrshermonslibrary.weebly.com/>



Students in K and 1 have been finding facts on apples and pumpkins. We have also been learning how to find the "just right book". 2nd graders have been doing dictionary work and writing a book review. Grade 4 learned about the Dewey Decimal System and had a scavenger hunt to find special nonfiction books. Grade 3 just completed their Big 6 animal research project, and Grade 5 created a Glog (a digital bulletin board) using their Columbus research facts. On November 14 Spanish will begin for grades 3-5.

Mrs. Quinlan, Library Media Specialist

Winter Coats Available

For the fourth year in a row the Jaycees have generously given us brand new winter coats for students at Defer. Please call the school office at 432-4000 and let us know if your child is in need of a coat.



Safety/Service

In October the teams competed between themselves in Gatorball. We enjoyed a snack and drink, thanks to the Defer PTO.

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

Thank you,

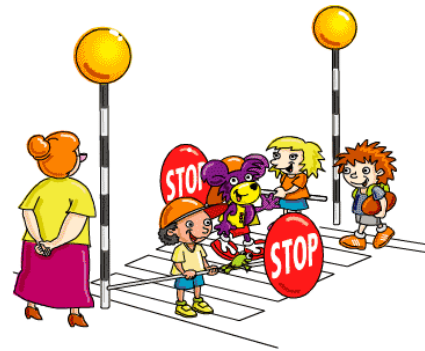
Helen Srebernak

Safety/Service Coordinator

Safety/Service Members of the Month-October

Safety: Ella J.

Service: Natalie L.



Winter is Coming!

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 snowpants to play on the field once the snow is on the ground— otherwise they must stay on the blacktop 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 coats.



November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 PTO Meeting 7 PM	2	3 Picture retake day. 9:00 AM	4	5
6	7 Student Council Elec- tion Assembly 10:45	8 No School Staff Professional Development Day	9	10	11	12
13 District Open House 1:00-3:00	14	15	16 Parent teacher conf. 5:00-8:00 pm	17 No school Parent/teacher Conf. AM/PM/Eve	18	19
20	21	22 AM school only	23 Thanksgiving Break	24 Thanksgiving Break	25 Thanksgiving Break	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2016

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

Halloween Fun



Digital Picks

*From your School Library
Media Specialists*



Please enjoy this month's educational, informational, and entertaining websites and apps—"digital picks" suggested by your Elementary School Media Specialists. We hope you find our reviews helpful, and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Stack the States

\$2.99

iPhone, iPad, iTouch

Your child answers questions about state flags, capitals, nicknames, abbreviations, and geography-related facts. When she gets one right, a ring of stars appears and she can move and drop the animated version of the state anywhere onscreen. Once she stacks up enough states to reach the checkered line, she can unlock new levels.



Brain POP Jr. Movie of the Week

FREE

iPhone and iPad

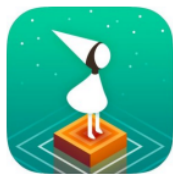
This app, an offshoot of the popular subscription video series, offers one three-minute video every week at no charge. Recent ones covered the solar system and the Lewis and Clark expedition. "My son watched the movie on Abraham Lincoln over and over," says Everett. "Then we took out books from the library so he could learn even more." □

Faces iMake - Right Brain Creativity

\$2.99

iPad

Parents need to know that *Faces iMake - Right Brain Creativity* encourages kids to be creative by creating faces using collage materials. It also provides opportunities for kids to share their creativity via email and social media as well as with other app users worldwide in a special gallery called FaceWorld. **2012 Parents' Choice Silver Award!**



Monument Valley

\$3.99

iPhone, iPad, iTouch

Monument Valley is a puzzle game developed and published by indie studio Ustwo. The player leads the princess Ida through mazes of optical illusions and impossible objects while manipulating the world around her to reach various platforms. **Apple Game of the 2014!**

Media Specialists

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



DEFER PTO

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

November 2016

2016 Defer Fun Run Final Stats

- 🔥 Total Funds Raised — \$23,813.16!
- 🔥 Teams Who Met Classroom Goals — 100%
- 🔥 Student Body Participation — 82%
- 🔥 Students Who Met Individual Goal — 55%

Students/Families Who Won Prizes

- 🔥 Sweetie's gift cards — 171
- 🔥 Breakfasts at Cornwall Bakery — 4
- 🔥 Gym Teacher for the Day — 4
- 🔥 Robot Garage Memberships — 4
- 🔥 Park Grill gift cards — 4
- 🔥 Haunted Garage set of 4 passes — 2
- 🔥 MAC Athletic Complex Batting Cage time — 1
- 🔥 Pizza party lunches — EVERY STUDENT at DEFER!!

Teachers Who Won Prizes

- 🔥 Grosse Pointe Windsurfing Club lessons — 1
- 🔥 Detroit Outpost kayak trip for 4 — 2
- 🔥 MAC Athletic Center personal training session — 1

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

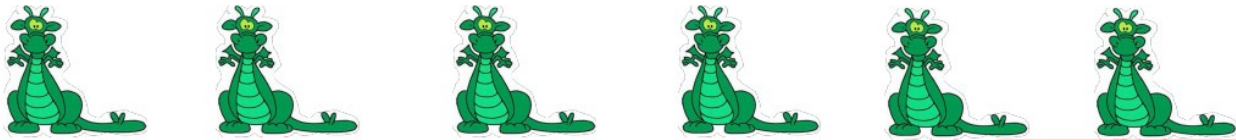
Volunteers
Brooke Macuga

Faculty
Representative
Janette High

Defer Wear
Megan Bejin

Past President
Renee Palazzolo

See the next page for ways in which the Fun Run money is being used to help our students!



Fun Run Monies are already being used!

PTO approved the following purchases for Defer during the October 2016 Meeting based on a wish list compiled by teachers, staff and administration.

- > financing for Homework Club
- > purchase of Storia app for grades 3-5 (already have it for K-2)
- > purchase of Think Through Math app
- > purchase of Defer t-shirts for the Young 5s students
- > additional funds designated to purchase & install 2 new pieces of playground equipment geared toward youngest students

PTO will address additional wish list items during the November meeting. Meetings are at 7 p.m. in the library! Everyone is invited!

Defer PTO is overwhelmed by the generosity of families, friends & staff who supported this fundraiser! Thank you!



The online directory is operational and the print directories will be coming in late November. Stay tuned for additional information. Questions? Contact Lindy Holloway(313) 719-1179 or lindyh51178@gmail.com



Green Squad News

We're excited to welcome 54 students to the 2016-2017 Defer Green Squad. They're off to a great start.

In October, representatives from DTE visited Defer and taught students ways to reduce energy use at home. Below are a few useful tips.

Replace regular bulbs with LED bulbs.

Reduce Phantom charging. That means unplug your power cords when they are not charging something. They still use energy!

Turning your thermostat down just one degree will make a big difference in your electricity bills.

For more tips, ask your kids! They're a wealth of green information.



Order Your Defer Dragon Spirit Wear!



Defer Spirit Wear Fall 2016



Circle your color, design and size

Hoodies:	Hunter	Gray	Logo: D	Dragons	Vintage	
Adult	S	M	L	XL	2XL	A\$30
Youth	S	M	L	XL		\$35 2XL
<hr/>						
Long Sleeve Tshirt:			Logo: D	Dragons	Vintage	
	Hunter	Gray				A\$23
Men's	S	M	L	XL	2XL	2XL \$25
Ladies	S	M	L	XL		
Youth	S	M	L	XL		
<hr/>						
Short Sleeve Tshirt:			Logo: D	Dragons	Vintage	
	Hunter	Gray				A\$18
Men's	S	M	L	XL	2XL	
Ladies	S	M	L	XL		
Youth	S	M	L	XL		
<hr/>						
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						
<hr/>						
Baseball Hat:	Hunter	Gray	Logo: D	Dragons	GPPS Seal	\$15
Adult						
Youth						Logo will be embroidered
<hr/>						
Winter Pom Hat:			Logo: D	Dragons		\$18
Winter Skull Cap:			Logo: D	Dragons		\$15
<hr/>						
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

To receive up-to-date information about Defer happenings:

Join the PTO Yahoo email blast group

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

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

Follow Defer Elementary PTO on Facebook:

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

Mark Your Calendars!



Save the Date!
Defer Holiday Craft Fair

Saturday, December 3, 2016, 9am – 1pm

This year's craft selections are in the display case on the 1st floor at Defer. In addition to classics like the board project (this year it's Santa!) and the gingerbread house, check out our new, free craft sponsored by the Defer Fun Run and many others!

As always, your child can pick three of our crafts to make themselves the day of the fair. They make great holiday gifts and keepsakes. Watch for the sign-up sheet in your child's backpack this week. Fill it out and return it with your payment by November 14 to reserve your crafts.



Craft Fair volunteer opportunities coming soon!

Box Tops matter!
So far this year, Defer families have
clipped 3,992 box tops.
That is \$399.20 for future programs
to benefit students at Defer.
Thank you for clipping!
Keep turning those Box Tops in!

