

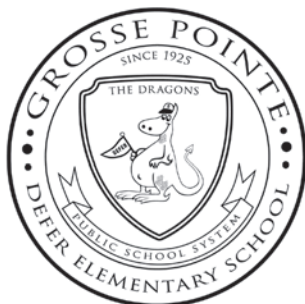
# DEFER DRAGON'S BURNING NEWS

NOVEMBER 7, 2013

Defer Elementary



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[www.gpschools.org/defer](http://www.gpschools.org/defer)

Dear Defer Families,

Each year, schools and districts review policies and practices to consider ways to improve and enhance student achievement. Defer Elementary School continually strives to be a better school on a daily basis. School Improvement is not a topic for the administrator, or a binder on a shelf – it is the way we do business at Defer. So what are we doing right now in the area of School Improvement? I thought you'd never ask!!! I'd like to share a specific action we are taking for School Improvement each month in my newsletter.

## RTI

**Response to Intervention ( Rti)** is a multi-tier approach to the early identification and support of students for their learning needs. The RTI process begins with high-quality instruction and universal screening of all children in the general education classroom. Students struggling on a topic are provided with interventions at increasing levels of intensity to accelerate their rate of learning. Throughout the RTI process, student progress is monitored frequently to examine student achievement and gauge the effectiveness of the intervention. Rti is not a special education intervention, but is a part of general education.



### So what does Rti look like at Defer?

Three times a week, for a minimum of 20 minutes in each session, students are grouped for Rti work in their grade. The focus of learning is based on the data from instruction in the classroom. Let me share two on-going examples of Rti during the month of November with you.

**In 2nd** grade after six weeks of reading instruction, data was used to group students for Rti. During Rti time four teachers come to-

*continued on the next page*

gether and work specifically with smaller groups on the reading skill areas needed. Two of the teachers are the Reading Specialists and they pull those students needing very intensive reading interventions. During that same time the two second grade teachers then regroup the remaining students into a decoding group and a comprehension group, based on the classroom data. At the end of six weeks of RtI, we will assess students on the specific skills taught during the RtI session to evaluate and plan for the next RtI session.

**In 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade**, their November RtI sessions are focused on Math. After teaching the entire math unit, they used the data from the math chapter test to group students for reteaching. During this RtI session, some students are in groups working on telling time because that is where they are struggling, while another group is doing enrichment work around factoring because the data reveals that they have mastered the basic understanding and would benefit from enrichment on the topic.



To put it simply, no longer does the student that did poorly on subtraction on the math test just move on to the next topic. They are given intensive interventions on that topic to help them master it.

So who is a part of our RtI teams? The answer is - everyone at Defer. For instance, Mrs. Raab and Mrs. Moses are a part of the 1st grade RtI team and it is scheduled in a way that they can work intensively with a small group or an individual student. For the month of November they are working on Fluency with 1st graders as a part of RtI. Kindergarten is including parents as a part of their team, and they are doing RtI at the end of the day when parents are available. Karen Labarge, Sheila Russo, and Stefan Harris, our Title 1 team, are a part of RtI teams at all grade levels. Clearly, we are in this together!

Will we make a difference, our assessments will tell us, and that information will keep driving where we go with each 6 week session of RtI this year.

**Have questions? Ask!!!**

The staff and I are anxious to share and so excited about the work we are doing!

Sincerely,  
*Karen Sullivan*

# NOVEMBER 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Daylight Savings Fall Back	4	5 NO SCHOOL for students	6 McDragon Night @ McDonalds 5 - 7 pm	7	8	9
10 GPPS Open House 2 - 4 pm	11	12 PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library Veteran's Day	13 Market Day Safety/Service @ TCBY	14	15	16
17	18	19 4th Grade Lansing Trip	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Records Day HALF DAY AM ONLY 11:35 Dismissal	27	28	29	30
Thanksgiving Break Classes Resume 12/2						

## 11/10 GPPS Open House

The Grosse Pointe Public School System welcomes you into every one of our school buildings from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, November 10. This is a wonderful time to explore our schools, meet staff and students, and invite others to get to know GPPSS

## 11/6 McDragon Night

**@ McDonalds on Mack  
5 - 7 pm**

Enjoy a fun meal served by your Defer teachers and PTO Board Members.

## 11/26 Records Day

**AM SCHOOL ONLY**

End on first marking period

## 11/27 - 12/1

Thanksgiving Break



# DECEMBER 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6 Defer Choir @ Neighborhood Club	7 PTO Craft Fair
12/2 - 12/6 Defer Book Fair 8:40 am - 3:40 pm						
8	9	10 Report Cards Distributed  PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library	11 Evening Conferences  Market Day	12 AM, PM & Evening Conferences  No school for students	13	14
15	16 Winter Vocal Music Concert 7:00 PM Grades 1, 3, 5, and Choir	17 Safety/Service @ Defer Gym	18	19	20 Holiday Sing Along 1:00 p.m.  Instrumental Concert	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Winter Break Classes Resume 1/6						
29	30	31				



# CLASSROOM NOTES

## DEFER'S UKULELE BAND JOINS THE SANTA PARADE IN GP

Defer's very own *Standing Ukulele Band* led by third grade teacher, Mrs. Nancy Eckert, will be a part of the Grosse Pointe Santa Parade held on Friday, November 29th. Mrs. Eckert began a Ukelele Band this Fall at Defer. The band is open to only third grade students, and over half of the 3rd graders have taken up 'strumming'. They began over a month ago meeting one lunch hour a week, with students forgoing recess to be a part of this music experience.



Mrs. Eckert has lots of plans for her young musicians this year, and the GP parade is a great way to celebrate their enthusiasm and joy in learning to be a part of this musical experience. We're hoping to see many of our Defer families along the parade route down Kercheval the day after Thanksgiving!

## MRS. LAPENSEE'S SECOND GRADE CHEFS

Each week parents and students head to the kitchen to prepare a special item for the class. Students practice measuring, counting, reading, and telling time along with a variety of other important skills during cooking group. The smell of apples baking filled the halls this week!



Cooking group of the week in Mrs. Lapensee's class.



# Digital Picks

*From your School Library  
Media Specialists*



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

**WEBSITE:** [Turtlediary.com](http://Turtlediary.com)

This website is loaded with educational games. Some categories to select from include: stories, science, language games, puzzles, biographies, experiments, jigsaw, math and arts & crafts. All are interactive and leveled by grade.

**APP:** Educreations

**Platforms:** iOS

**FREE**

Educreations is an all-purpose app that records both writing and voice. Students can write and explain their thinking with different math problems.

**APP:** Tellagami

**Platform:** iPad

**FREE**

This is a fun app for elementary age students to use to create narrated animations.

## Media Specialists

Jeanne Dolson **Poupard**

Sherry Martin **Ferry, Mason, Poupard**

Anne Maurer **Kerby, Mason, Richard**

Darby Paddock **Defer, Maire, Mason, Monteith, Trombly**

Cheryl Quinlan **Defer, Monteith**

Rachel Walpole **Mason, Richard, Trombly**



On **November 10th, from 2-4 p.m.**, the Grosse Pointe Public School System is hosting an Open House for the entire Grosse Pointe school community. The purpose is for all of our residents to learn and experience what the Grosse Pointe public schools have to offer. Our school system offers a world class education. Whether it is core curriculum, special activities, or support services, we have it all. From parents, supporting staff, administrators, and teachers, all the way to our surrounding businesses, there is always someone putting in the extra effort to make students' days full of learning and fun. We know many Grosse Pointe families see this daily, but we also realize some choose to go a different route in education and some have children that graduated from the system years ago.

Please consider being a GPPSS ambassador by reaching out to a neighbor who doesn't have a child currently attending our public schools. Bring them to the open house so they can see today's schools, schools we are proud to call our own.

On November 10th, parents, students, and staff will be available to help the public learn about the wonderful services and programs available in our district. All GPPSS schools will be open from 2-4 p.m.

In addition to new families, current Grosse Pointe students and their parents are encouraged to visit schools they will soon transition into. We'd love to see preschoolers and their parents and guardians at the elementary schools, fifth grade families at the middle schools, and eighth grade families at the high schools. The Board of Realtors will also be hosting Open Houses at dozens of homes that day. Together with the Chamber of Commerce, we'll show why we "live, learn and play" in Grosse Pointe.

Thank you for all you do for our school community.  
- Our Staff

## POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SYSTEM (PBS)

A positive behavior support system is a data-based effort that is implemented by collaborative, school-based teams. School-wide expectations for behavior are clearly stated, widely promoted, and frequently referenced. Both individual and school-wide behavior problems are assessed comprehensively. Students are offered a continuum of methods that help them learn and maintain appropriate behavior and discourage violation of codes of student conduct.

Our PBS program is central to Defer. Our leadership team meets monthly to analyze school behavior data coming out of each individual classroom. Behavior trends are recognized, the focus for reteaching are established based on those trends, and students are identified that may need further help with behavior issues. Interventions are put in place for these students so that they achieve success.



Each month Defer students and staff come together to celebrate our success as a PBS school. Our monthly Reward Parties are a way to recognize our students for respecting themselves and each other with behaviors that create a safe learning environment for all students.

Last month 95% of our students earned the right to attend the Great Egg Drop Reward Party, and what a party we had!!! Students worked in collaborative teams to design a 'nest' for their raw egg that would survive a drop from an elevated height. Once nests were designed each grade reported to their designated location outside the 'drops' began. Teachers were assigned to ladders, tops of slides, and even the fire escape to launch the nests. Teachers were forced to climb higher and higher as an amazing number of eggs survived multiple drops.

Were their winners in each grade? Sure there were, but what really took place, was a school full of winners. Our students knew how to work cooperatively. Our students knew how to handle defeat when their egg broke, and they knew how to celebrate the successes of others. At the end of the day what we had was a school full of students who were already planning a better nest for next year. As the principal of Defer, I couldn't have been prouder of the Defer Dragons.

Outside of the gym we feature a bulletin board devoted to PBS. Check it out. You'll get a sense from the pictures of what it means to be a PBS school!.



## STUDENT COUNCIL

Congratulations to the following student council members who were elected to officer positions on 10/22/13. Each brave candidate gave a speech before the entire school sharing why they should be elected to serve Defer School. I'm so proud of every child who put themselves out there to run for office. Way to go! - Mrs. Halpin

President- Jack Michaud  
Vice President- Emma Riley  
Treasurer- Emma Stricker  
Secretary- Meredith Kramer

## SAFETY/SERVICE

This year we have 45 Safety/Service members. They are the highly visible helpers in their fluorescent yellow belts in and around the school.

The position of Safety/Service is a respected one, whose roots trace back to approximately 1920. Helping children to cross the street safely, become safe pedestrians and to become leaders and good citizens are some of the aims of the Safety/Service at Defer.

To reward their hard work and dedication, Defer School and its PTO sponsor several fun events throughout the year. In September our members will be sworn in by the Honorable Judge Carl Jarboe at the Grosse Pointe Park Municipal Court.

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

Thank you,  
*Helen Srebernak*  
Safety/Service Coordinator



### SAFETY TIMES

MORNING POST	8:10 - 8:25 am
Mondays	8:50 - 9:05 am
AFTER SCHOOL POST	3:34 - 3:45 pm

### SERVICE TIMES

MORNING POST	8:25 - 8:25 am
Mondays	8:55 - 9:05 am
LUNCH POST	12:25 - 12:35 pm
Mondays	12:43 - 12:53 pm
AFTER SCHOOL POST	3:34 - 3:45 pm



## ARTSONIA

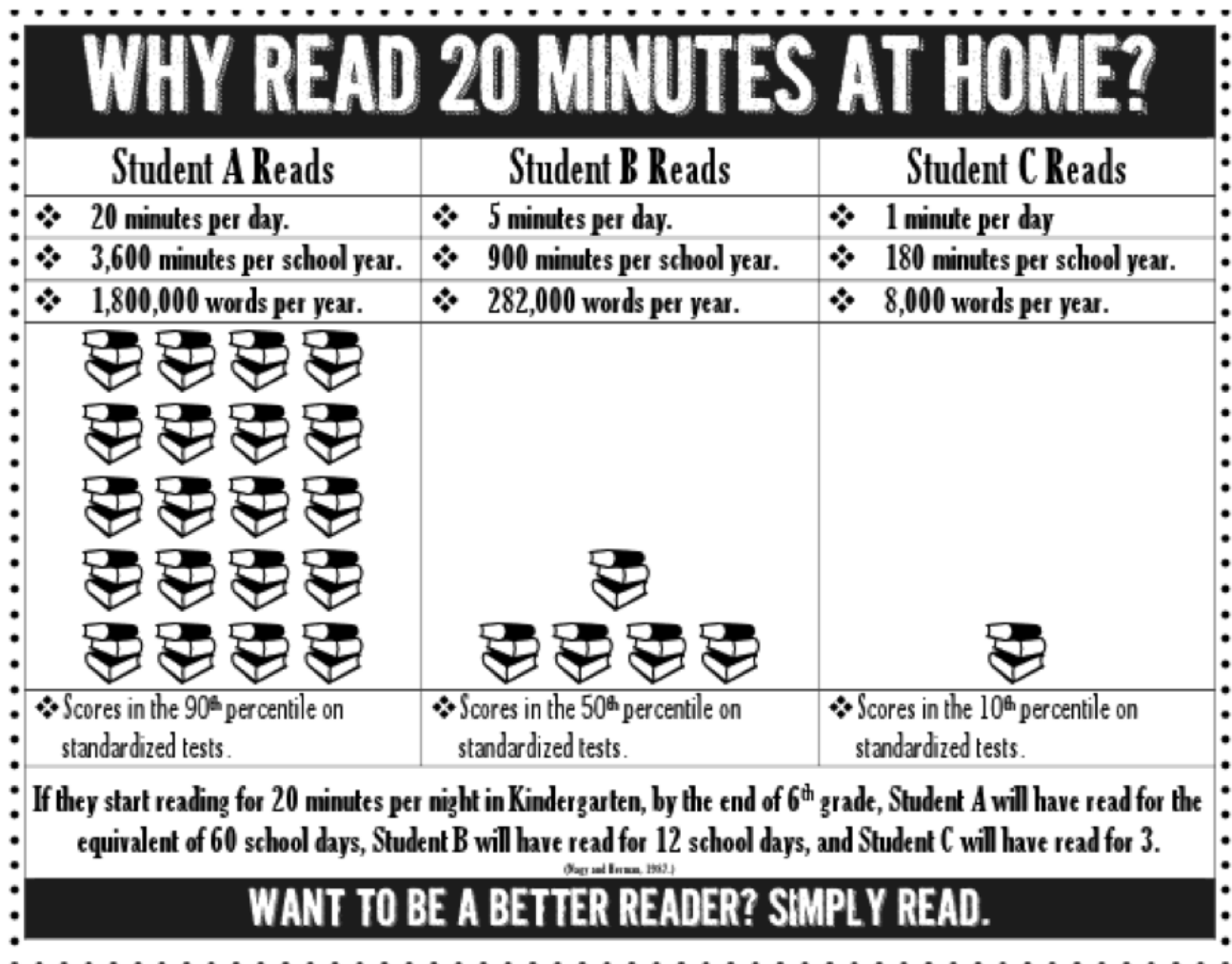
Check out Defer's online student art gallery:  
<http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=40783>

[www.deferart.com](http://www.deferart.com)

## PARENT CORNER

### Reading: Why is Reading Outside of School so Important to Our Children?

With everyone's busy schedule why are teacher's requiring students to read every night at home. Does this time really make a difference in a child's education? The answer is a resounding yes, these minutes are precious. Let's do the math -



As a parent, you are your child's first - and most important - teacher. Here are some ways you can encourage reading and can help your child become a better reader.

- 1. Read yourself.** Your actions really do speak louder than your words. When your kids see you reading the newspaper or curling up with a book, they will want to follow your example.
- 2. Make sure your children read every day.** Reading - like shooting baskets and playing the piano - is a skill. Like other skills, it gets better with practice. Researchers have found that children who read every day - whether they read books, newspapers, or magazines - develop the skills to be better readers at school.
- 3. Get the library habit.** Make sure everyone in your family has a library card. Schedule regular trips to the library and while you are there, check out a book yourself!

4. **Read aloud to the children.** In *The Read Aloud Handbook*, Jim Trelease reports on research showing that this is the most important thing parents can do to help their children become better readers. Here are some tips from the book:

- Start reading to your children when they are young. It is never too early to begin reading to your children, according to Trelease.
- Don't stop reading to your children as they grow older. You will both enjoy the chance to do something together.
- Set aside some time each day for reading aloud. Even 10 minutes a day can have a big impact.
- Read books you enjoy. Your kids will know if you are faking it.

5. **Give books as gifts.** Then find a special place for your children to keep their own library.

6. **If you are not a good reader, you can still encourage your children.** As your children learn to read, ask them to read to you. Talk about the books your children have read. Ask a friend or relative to read aloud to your children.

## A FACELIFT FOR DEFER'S WEBPAGE

In an effort to make Defer's homepage as user friendly as possible for both students and parents the Defer staff is in process of making some changes. Leading this work is are the staff Technology and the Connections committees. This will be an on-going process this year, but two changes you can expect to see at this point include:



- A button on the homepage for each grade level as well as Specials and Support Services. When selecting one of the buttons, you will automatically be linked to resources at that grade level. No longer will you need to search the menu of teachers and follow those links to find out what resources are available at a particular grade or read the most recent newsletter.

- As a part of each grade level's resources, our teachers were videotaped teaching one of the ED Math algorithms relevant to that grade. So, as you are working on lattice method for multiplication you can link to a video of Mrs. Gout teaching her 4th grade students how it works.

We'll keep you posted as more changes and updates are incorporated. Our goal is for our website to be a useful tool. Let us know if you have any suggestions!



November 2013

Dear Families:

The Grosse Pointe Public School System is beginning our identification of students for learning opportunities where they are most appropriately challenged. These learning opportunities include: differentiation in a general education classroom, cluster groups of students working collaboratively with identifiable and shared strengths in math and/or language arts, and our Magnet program focusing of the specific needs of academically gifted children.

Students in grades first through fourth may be nominated by parents and/or their teachers. All nominations will be reviewed by our Child Study Committee consisting of teachers and principals. This committee will review all nomination information as well as student testing data. As a committee we will make recommendations to parents and the nominated student's elementary school.

If your child's academic needs are being currently met, there is no need to nominate your child. If you would like your child considered for cluster grouping, or the Magnet program, please complete the nomination form. All nomination forms will be submitted directly to the Administration Building, 389 St. Clair, second floor c/o Patty Divirgil or Sue Vogel **on or before Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 2013.**

The Child Study recommendations will be finalized by mid-May. After that time, families will be notified of your child's recommendation.

If you have questions and/or need further information regarding the nomination process, please contact your child's teacher.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Maureen Bur and Ms. Ann Passino  
Office of Curriculum and Instruction GPPS  
389 St. Clair Avenue  
[ann.passino@gpschools.org](mailto:ann.passino@gpschools.org)  
313.432.5584

## Differentiation Instructional Philosophy

Differentiated instruction is the philosophy of the Grosse Pointe School District. This means children have the right to learn material at a rate, format, and depth that maximizes their learning. Differentiation is just one of many teaching practices used in our district. It can be subtle or very visible – that often depends on the needs of the individual learners and the goals for the group. All students experience some degree of differentiation in their classroom. It is not an accelerated program or a remediation of material – it is a constantly changing blend of the two based on the professionalism of the educator and the individual needs of the student.

The Grosse Pointe Public School District believes that providing differentiated learning opportunities to all students is a critical component of our educational system. It is a teaching strategy and one tool that all of our teaching professionals use daily with students to guarantee their personal and academic growth. It is challenging and informal; it is flexible and makes learning fun.

### **How will I know when Differentiated Instruction is happening in my child's classroom?**

Differentiation provides all students formal and informal opportunities to stretch and learn. This philosophy stresses teachers focus on individuals - we guide their individual learning and celebrate their individual success. By focusing on student strengths, we bring forth their best. Differentiated learning opportunities may be clear when the child discusses how they worked in a small group on a different learning task while other students in the classroom worked on their different learning task. Differentiation learning opportunities may be less obvious through a teacher's questioning technique, or by having different expectations for a student's writing progress. Differentiation could also occur in math instruction through learning opportunities to explore a topic further or the need for additional support and practice. Our teachers make thoughtful and meaningful decisions for all of their students using differentiated instruction throughout their teaching day.

**If you have further questions regarding differentiated instruction, please consult your child's teacher.**

## Cluster Grouping in Math, Language Arts or Both

Cluster grouping is a formalized process for guaranteeing differentiation for our most capable learners. The Grosse Pointe Schools offer formal cluster grouping for grades 2-5 in Math and Language Arts. Cluster grouping will look different in each teacher's classroom. Typically a clustered student is ready to move at a more rapid pace once they have the base knowledge of the concept(s) being taught. Teachers may use different instructional strategies to meet the needs of these students within their homeroom. Clustering could be a small group of learners who already have mastered a concept accepting a more challenging problem to solve collectively, with a learning partner, or alone. Cluster grouping is not increasing the quantity of the work produced or changing the grade level of the curriculum being explored. It impacts the complexity of their grade level assignments and their curriculum. Cluster groupings yield deeper, richer experiences that challenge all students at their individual learning level.

### **Is Cluster Grouping always formal?**

No, Cluster Grouping can occur as the product of formal and informal identification. A student may be nominated by parents, teachers and/or the Child Study Committee and that process will be influenced by a combination of observation, work product and formal /informal assessment. Cluster groups may be based on ability, interest, learning styles, etc. Our teaching professionals are adept at identifying the individual needs of our learners and will cluster them appropriately so that each and every child shows growth.

**If you have further questions regarding cluster grouping, please consult your child's teacher.**

# Grosse Pointe Public Schools Parent Nomination

## Clustering in Language Arts, Math or Gifted Services

- Return this form to Patty Divirgil or Sue Vogel at Grosse Pointe School's Central Office  
389 St. Clair Avenue 2<sup>nd</sup> floor **on or before Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Birth Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2013

1. Child's Age at Kindergarten Entry: \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months

2. Did your child repeat Kindergarten?  
Yes                      No

3. Did your child participate in a Young 5's Program?  
Yes                      No

At which school?

At which school?

### Cluster Nomination or Gifted Services/Magnet Nomination

4. I am nominating my child for  
Academic Clustering:

- Math Clustering
- Language Arts Clustering
- Both Math and Language Arts

5. I am nominating my child for the Magnet Program:

- 2/3 Magnet    Defer or Ferry
- 4/5 Magnet    Defer or Ferry

### Clustering Nomination

6. We believe cluster grouping would help to meet my child's educational needs because:

### Gifted Services/Magnet Nomination

7. We believe Magnet grouping would help to meet my child's educational needs because:

8. What additional information would you like the Child Study Committee to consider when reviewing your child's nomination for Clustering and/or Magnet services?

# Parent Evaluation of Academic Talent Traits

Please evaluate your child based on the following descriptions of academic talent.

1 = Seldom  
2 = Sometimes  
3 = Often  
4 = Always

1. **Motivation** - Evidence of desire to learn.

*Initiates learning and is an enthusiastic learner.*

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

2. **Interests** - Intense and sometimes unusual interests. Advanced interests in topics or activities.

*Pursues activity beyond other children their age.*

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

3. **Communication skills** - Highly expressive with words, numbers or symbols.

*Unusual ability to communicate (verbally, nonverbally, physically, artistically, symbolically)*

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

4. **Problem-solving Ability** - Effective, often inventive, strategies for recognizing and solving problems.

*Uses a system to solve problems; invents and creates new ways to approach a task.*

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

5. **Memory** - Large storehouse of information on school or non-school topics.

*Exceptional ability to retain and retrieve information. Masters information in one or two repetitions.*

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

6. **Inquiry/Curiosity** - Questions, experiments, explores.

*Asks unusual questions and is curious about their environment.*

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

7. **Insight** - Quickly grasps new concepts; sees connections; senses deeper meaning.

*Sees relationships and is keenly observant. Sudden discovery of correct solutions.*

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

8. **Reasoning** - Logical approaches to figuring out solutions.

*Thinks things through in a logical manner. Is a critical thinker.*

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

9. **Imagination/Creativity** - Produces many ideas; highly original.

*Shows exceptional ingenuity and has unusual ideas.*

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

10. **Humor** - Conveys and picks up humor well.

*Keen sense of humor.*

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

11. **Intensity** - Strength of reaction, responses and behaviors.

*Very strong, even extreme, responses socially and emotionally.*

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

12. **Sensitivity** - Strong emotions to emotional stimuli.

*Strong sense of compassion, justice, empathy and is often self-critical.*

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

THE GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM  
Department of Support Services  
389 St. Clair  
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

To: Parents or Guardians of Students in Defer Elementary School

From: Christian A. Fenton, Deputy Superintendent For Business and Operations

Re: Asbestos Activity Summary –2012-2013

We are pleased to inform you that building administration has continued to respond to the asbestos in buildings issue in a cautious and proactive manner.

Building administration will continue with its ongoing asbestos operations and maintenance program, including periodic surveillance inspections which are conducted on a semi-annual basis. Identified below are asbestos abatement activities that were completed.

**Response Actions Completed:** None

**Response Actions Scheduled:** Operations and maintenance.

In addition, as required by Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (EPA), reinspections are conducted by accredited inspectors every three years since the implementation of our management plan.

Please rest assured that building administration's ongoing efforts related to the management and control of asbestos-containing materials are focused on providing a safe and healthy environment for our building occupants and employees.

If you would like to review the management plan, it is available in your school office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (313) 432-3081.



# PTO DRAGON SPEAK

11/04/13



Hello Defer Families,

I very much hope you are enjoying the sunny (and not so sunny) fall days. Half of the leaves are down and the clocks have been turned back making the mornings nice and bright; although it is a challenge to finish homework before it is dark outside!

A busy October has come and gone including several fun and successful PTO events. **The Defer Pumpkin Patch** enjoyed sunny skies and warm temperatures as everyone had the chance to find just the right pumpkins, corn shocks and straw bales. There were lots of happy faces with powdered sugar donut smiles! A big thank you is due to Renee Palazzolo, Renee Borowicz and all volunteers who helped to make this event possible and fun.

If you were one of the many families who paid a visit to Mr. William's Haunted Garage not only did you enjoy a seriously frightful Halloween outing, you also helped to support your Defer PTO. Mr. Williams donates a generous portion of the evenings earnings back to the Defer PTO; what a ghoulish reward! Thanks very much to our volunteers who staffed this event with their donated time.

This year's **Halloween Parade** was a big hit despite our lucky weather streak running out. The kids paraded indoors filling Defer's hallways with every imaginable costume. I hope the kids know someday that this event is as much fun for us parents as it is for them!

The kids were then treated to a fast paced aerial frisbee show featuring the **Flying Aces** at the Halloween assembly. In case you didn't know, your participation in Defer PTO membership and fundraising events pays for all school assemblies...so THANK YOU!

Of course, Halloween at Defer would not be complete without class **Halloween Parties!** The kids and teachers are very grateful to all the parents who coordinated the parties and to those who donated goodies and their time to make sure the kids had memorable fun without climbing the walls to much!

Please be sure to visit McDonald's for **McDragon Night** on 11-6-13 from 5 to 7pm for a fun meal served by your Defer teachers and PTO Board Members! Your kids will not want to miss this chance to be served by their favorites.

It is never too late to get involved with your PTO. Upcoming opportunities include the Holly Jolly Holiday Event (craft fair), Christmas classroom parties, Book Fair, Lunchtime Enrichment and many others.

Remember all PTO meetings are open; you are invited. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month in the Defer library beginning at 7pm. Come and check us out! If you fear being 'stuck' for too long, just let me know ahead of time if you have something to address and you will be put on the agenda near the beginning of the meeting. How easy is that?

I look forward to seeing you at Defer!

*Matt Hodges*

# PUMPKIN PATCH PIX



# DEFER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2013-2014

NOVEMBER:  
Volume 10, Issue 3

# P.T.O. DRAGON TAILS



## UPCOMING PTO EVENTS:

GPPSS Open House All schools 2-4pm	Nov. 10
PTO Meeting @ 7pm Defer Library. ALL ARE WELCOME.	Nov. 12
Half Day (AM only)	Nov. 26
HAPPY THANKSGIVING	Nov. 27-29
Holiday Craft Fair 9am-1pm. Please register.	Dec. 7
Scholastic BOOK FAIR	Dec. 7-12

Give thanks  
for unknown  
blessings  
already on  
their way.

~Native  
American  
saying

## DRAGON SPEAK:

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I very much hope you are enjoying the sunny (and not so sunny) fall days. Half of the leaves are down and the clocks have been turned back making the mornings nice and bright; although it is a challenge to finish homework before it is dark outside!

A busy October has come and gone including several fun and successful PTO events. The **Defer Pumpkin Patch** enjoyed sunny skies and warm temperatures as everyone had the chance to find just the right pumpkins, corn stalks and straw bales. There were lots of happy faces with powdered sugar donut smiles! A big thank you is due to Renee Palazzolo, Renee Borowicz and all volunteers who helped to make this event possible and fun.

If you were one of the many families who paid a visit to Mr. William's **Haunted Garage** not only did you enjoy a seriously frightful Halloween outing, you also helped to support your Defer PTO. Mr. Williams do-

nates a generous portion of the evenings earnings back to the Defer PTO; what a ghoulish reward! Thanks very much to our volunteers who staffed this event with their donated time.

This year's **Halloween Parade** was a big hit despite our lucky weather streak running out. The kids paraded indoors filling Defer's hallways with every imaginable costume. I hope the kids know someday that this event is as much fun for us parents as it is for them! The kids were then treated to a fast paced aerial frisbee show featuring the **Flying Aces** at the Halloween assembly. In case you didn't know, your participation in Defer PTO membership and fundraising events pays for all school assemblies... so THANK YOU!

Of course, Halloween at Defer would not be complete without class **Halloween Parties!** The kids and teachers are very grateful to all the parents who coordinated the parties and to those who donated goodies and their time to make sure the kids had memorable fun

without climbing the walls to much!

It is never too late to get involved with your PTO. Upcoming opportunities include the Holly Jolly Holiday Event (craft fair), Christmas classroom parties, Book Fair, Lunchtime Enrichment and many others. Remember **all PTO meetings are open**; you are invited. Meeting are held the second Tuesday of each month in the Defer library beginning at 7pm. Come and check us out! If you fear being 'stuck' for too long, just let me know ahead of time if you have something to address and you will be put on the agenda near the beginning of the meeting. How easy is that? I look forward to seeing you at Defer!

Matt Hodges





# VOLUNTEER VIBE

## IMMEDIATE NEED:

### **Gardening Opportunity:**

**Work with Mrs. Sullivan and Mr. Alan to keep Defer looking GREEN!**

**Defer's Gardening Group currently has 4 eager volunteers.**

**We are looking for someone to **LEAD** these green thumbs!!**

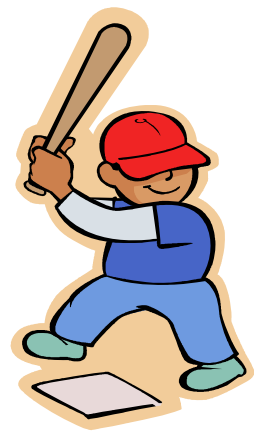
**For more information, please contact Melony Johnson @ [lenmel@comcast.net](mailto:lenmel@comcast.net)**

## **STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE.....**

**A HUGE Thank you to Defer's New Chairperson(s):**

**Don Kuhnlein - Market Day**

**Vikas Rellin - Defer Wear**



## Lunchtime Enrichment

One of the best kept secrets about Defer is our Lunchtime Enrichment program.

This is a program between December and February break where students get to chose to participate once a week from many offered indoor 'classes' during the cold winter weeks.

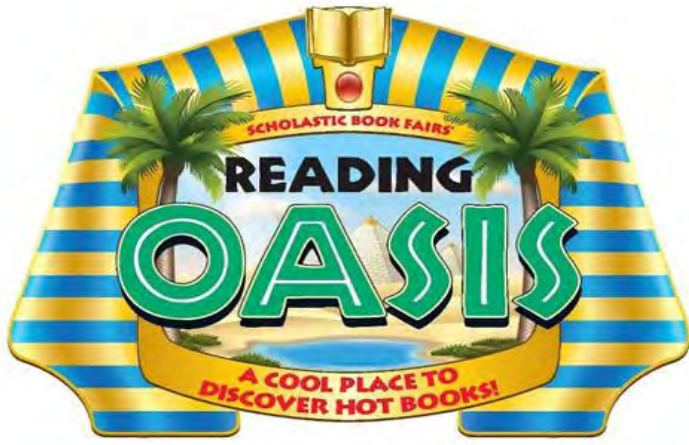
Last year, over 300 students participated.

This program can only continue if we get enough adult volunteers. The fantastic staff at Defer have been known to volunteer their lunch period, as well as grandmas and grampas!! The fun part is that the ADULT gets to decide the talent or interest they'd like to share. AND they get to pick the day that is most convenient for them.

The possibilities are endless. Past classes have included: decoupage, beading, drawing, yoga, chess, origami, Greenhouse, drama, stop-motion animation, reading, music, science experiments, legos, boardgames, knitting, etc.

If you think you could spare a small amount of time & have a great time doing it,  
Contact Elizabeth Tengler ([b-beth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:b-beth@sbcglobal.net))





Looking for an escape from the cold weather?

Come to the Scholastic Book Fair and pick up a book to take you away!!

December 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th 12th  
We will be open during the Holiday  
Craft Fair,  
during conferences,  
and regularly scheduled library  
classes.

Volunteers are needed.

If you are interested, please email:  
Becca Ozar: [beccaozar@hotmail.com](mailto:beccaozar@hotmail.com)  
Mary Beth Coffey: [mbcoffey@att.net](mailto:mbcoffey@att.net)

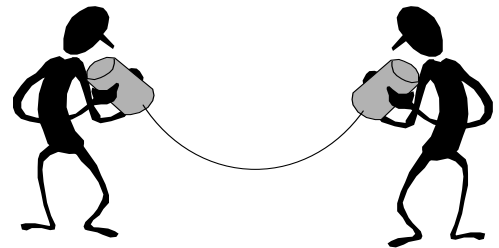
The book fair is also available online. It will begin Nov. 19th.  
Follow the link to reach our Defer Book Fair homepage:  
<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/deferelementaryschool1>



**A huge Thank You  
goes out to**

**THE GREAT  
FRAME UP  
20655 Mack  
Grosse Pointe Woods**

**assisting the  
Beautification Committee  
in reframing Defer historic  
photos and plaques.  
Look for these near the office soon.**



"LIKE" Defer Elementary PTO



DeferElementaryPTO



YAHOO email Blasts

The Defer PTO will continue its PTO email distribution list to make it easier for parents to stay connected with what's happening at school. It is strictly used for announcements of school events, requests for volunteers at school events, and other important school-related information. If you have not signed up and wish to do so or need to change your email information, send an email request to:  
[deferpto-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:deferpto-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

If you were a member of the group last year, you do not need to sign up again.

If you need help or have any questions about how to subscribe, you can contact

Christina Michaud  
[tcnichaud@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tcnichaud@sbcglobal.net)

Ryan Coffey  
[rkcoffey@att.net](mailto:rkcoffey@att.net)

050-409-300

## HOLLY JOLLY HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

A WONDERFUL DEFER FAMILY TRADITION!!  
DEFER STUDENTS AND SIBLINGS ( WITH AN ADULT)  
CAN MAKE UP TO 3 CRAFTS IN OUR HOLIDAY WORKSHOP (GYM)

PICK YOUR FAVORITE CRAFT(S) FROM THE SHOWCASE ON THE 2ND FLOOR  
(OR LOOK ON THE DEFER PTO FACEBOOK PAGE),  
FILL OUT THE YELLOW REGISTRATION AND RETURN TO OFFICE  
WITH PAYMENT BY NOVEMBER 4TH.

COME ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 FOR A WONDERFUL  
MORNING FILLED WITH ELVES & HOLIDAY SPIRIT.

