

October 2011

Volume 1

# Quarterly Newsletter

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## Henry Defer Intermediate School

### Principal's Thoughts

Hello Parents and Guardians! Our school year has started off wonderfully and your children have been working hard and are growing everyday in many positive ways! You will find a lot of useful information in this newsletter. There are some new programs and friendly reminders that I think you will find helpful, and each grade level has shared what has been going on in their classes. We are always looking for input and please let us know if you have a suggestion about information we should include in future issues.

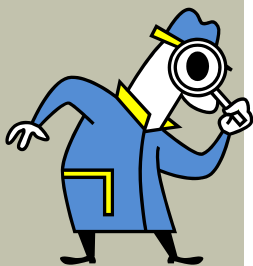
We are working hard to improve student learning and growth daily. The teachers are participating in professional development sessions and implementing their learning into their classrooms. It has had an impact on student success.

We are posting class assignments weekly on the teachers' websites to help students and parents keep current with

homework and dates of tests and quizzes. To access them, log on to our website, select Henry Defer Intermediate under Schools, on the menu bar, click on Teachers and select their name. Some teachers have their assignments under calendar.

There are many other ways you can support your child's learning and our school. A few ideas are to spend a few minutes every evening looking over handouts that come home, attend conferences, parent meetings and events, and send an email or call if you have questions. You can also let the teachers know from time to time that you appreciate their efforts!

Please remember as our weather keeps getting colder and snow (yikes!) falls, to send the **FOUR FOR FLURRIES** with your child everyday! Those are: Hats, Gloves, Coats, and Boots! Thank you.



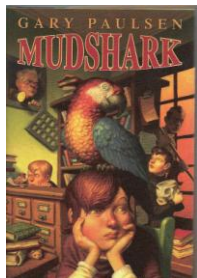
### Getting Caught Doing Something GOOD!!!

We, here at Defer, believe in rewarding the positive behaviors and actions displayed by our students. Right now we have a program, Rockets Reaching Higher, that recognizes students for doing one of the following things: Being Respectful, Being Responsible, Being Honest, Being Cooperative, Being Compassionate, Having a Great Work Ethic, Showing Self Control, and Going Above and Beyond. When the teachers and other staff members have "caught" a student doing one of the above categories the student is given two tickets, a red and a white. The white one, which lists all eight categories above, is marked and then placed in the

agenda to be taken home for parents and guardians to see. The red one is placed in the student's homeroom basket for a weekly drawing. Each homeroom has a weekly winner. The winner receives a sticker, a coupon to a local restaurant and two motivational pencils or a small pad of paper.

We would welcome your support if you spoke with your student(s) about the program, each of the eight categories, and what each means to you. We would appreciate your help as we teach the students to get recognized for doing the right thing and learning to make the better decisions.

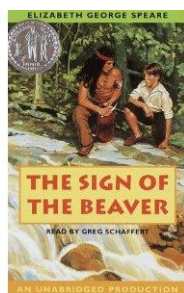
## Insight into the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teams



★ 4<sup>th</sup> graders are excited to be reading Mudshark by Gary Paulsen in the Language Arts classes. The students are reading and discussing the novel in small groups of 4-5 students and then the students complete a quick writing exercise as they reflect on what they have read. We are lucky to have Kent State Education Majors help us reading on Thursdays. Under the direction of their professor, Dr. Alexa Sandmann, the

university students do a fantastic job of reinforcing the academic content standards. Our students enjoy working with them in small groups reading this kid-friendly literature.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Information



★ Our fifth grade students are busy learning how the American Indians settled the continent and why different nations of Indians interacted with their environment in different ways. We are integrating these studies into our reading in language arts class with the novel, The Sign of the Beaver. In this book we will look closely at the relationship between the natives and the European settlers.

★ Students are learning about the transfer of energy with food chains and food webs in science class. An early dissection project of owl pellets will allow them to see first-hand the bones of the animals the owl has eaten.

## Setting Sights for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade

★ The 6<sup>th</sup> graders took their annual trip to Mohican. More information will come in the next newsletter. Some of the students will be speaking about their trip at the upcoming November Board Meeting.

## Inside Our School

Defer Juggling Club – Defer is pleased to announce that it is continuing with its juggling club. The club is made up of eight 5<sup>th</sup> graders and seventeen 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Nine of which are boys and the rest are girls.

The students needed to try-out to be a member of the Juggling Club. A student had to have a minimum of 73 continuous juggles which is 30 more than last year's minimum.

The students gave a preview to their May 18<sup>th</sup> show at the P.A.S.S. pancake breakfast. They did a wonderful job.

We cannot wait till the end of the year show to see what surprises they have in store for us.

Look for more information about the May 18<sup>th</sup> show in the Third Quarter Newsletter or contact Chris Skeels.

### Juggling Members:

- Eddie Rogowski
- Rachel Bolyard
- Madeline Rice
- Bailey Deevers
- Ciera Crawford
- Kelsie Flick
- Miranda Mordue
- Amanda Mucha
- Lauren Burks
- Krista Prasek
- Chloe Skladoni (Returning member)
- Haley Wells (Returning member)
- Shelby Gibson (Returning member)
- Sydney Miller (Returning member)
- Sierra Wirth (Returning member)
- Marie Kallay
- Braden Tucker
- Caiden Rodgers
- Kaelen Torrence
- Cody Cipra
- Ian Zitkewicz
- Ci Ci Tamburro
- Zach Brown
- Jessica Marason
- Jacob Vecchione

## Inside Our School cont.

### Defer Student Council

The Henry Defer Intermediate School Student Council is up and running under the direction of Mrs. Valenti. The purpose of Student Council is to promote democratic practices within our school. Two representatives are chosen from each classroom and from that group, four sixth graders were elected as officers. This year's officers are Kennedy McMillan (President), Shelby Gibson (Vice President), Dominic Carrone (Secretary) and Sierra Wirth (Treasurer). Collectively they help to promote school and community spirit. Each representative is responsible for reporting information to their class and for completing ten hours of community service outside of the school day. You can support our Student Council by participating in our annual Theme Basket Raffle. The baskets will be on display during our Parent/Teacher Conferences in November. Please consider purchasing a raffle ticket and

supporting the educational supplies and charitable donations decided upon by our Student Council.

Teacher	Rep	Rep
Mrs. Valenti	Trevor Pekarek	Cheyenne Head
Mrs. Thomson	Adam Hicks	Isabella (Izzy) Marlo
Mrs. Betley	Alex Antoncic	Natalie Rose
Mrs. Collins	Collin Hedgepeth	Nancy Lemus
Mrs. Cochran	Payton Sopko	Jessica Kline-Koester
Mrs. Gessford	Dominic Iacianci	Nikki Clark
Mrs. Ondash	Sam Miller	Sophia Grioni
Mrs. D'Amico	Matt Buckley	Ashley Garlitz
Mrs. Martin	Aidan Torrence	Holly Godnick
Mrs. Ekron	Matt Mitchell	Krista Prasek
Mrs. Sawicki	Hunter Schuller	Lily Basar
Miss Staib	Nathaniel Stone	Skylar Dotson
Miss Gotschall	Da'Mone Love	Mckenzie Wagner
Mrs. Amari	Alex Palermo	Shelby Gibson
Ms. Robitaille	Dominic Carrone	Erin Clark
Mrs. Reed	Iain Zitkewicz	Sierra Wirth
Ms. Stockton	Madelynne Hall	Kennedy McMillan
Mrs. Kravetz	Alex Miller	Kilee McLaughlin
Mrs. Anderson	Christian Lyles	Hailey Street

Please congratulate  
the student  
representatives!!!

## Meet Our Students!

Yaser and Bushra Othman are new 4th grade students, having moved here with their family from Saudi Arabia this past summer. They grew up speaking Arabic and reading from right to left. They are busy every day learning the alphabet, our number system, names of things, how to read and speak, how to solve new math problems, and then trying to understand what we are all saying all day. So, they're very busy. Just imagine! Can you figure this out? This text says:

Hello, students at Defer.

والطلاب مرحبا،  
تأجيل في

Someday we will learn more about them individually and about what their life was like before they moved here. For now, we enjoy their good natures and smiles, occasional questions, and try to communicate with gestures and pictures, with the words they know, and with an online translator. (Hurray for computers!) Thanks especially to Mrs. Gessford, Mrs. Valenti, Cochran, and all the kids in their classes for helping them and for making them feel welcome. We're glad they're here!!!



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Please visit us at  
[www.streetsboroschools.com](http://www.streetsboroschools.com)

Please check the website  
and the teacher's pages for  
upcoming events and up  
to date Homework  
Information!

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## How can we help to Stop Bullying!

What is Bullying? Bullying is when one person repeatedly keeps doing or saying things to exert power over another person. Streetsboro City Schools have a board-adopted policy against bullying and harassment. The definition of bullying implies first off that there is an imbalance of power (physical and/or psychological) and that there is a repeated pattern over time. We at Defer School take allegations of bullying very seriously and address concerns as soon as we are aware of them. Offenders are dealt with according to the expectations laid out in the Student Handbook. All students must feel safe when they are at school so that their learning experience

may be the best that is can be!

When anyone enters Defer School and walks around the building, they will notice a variety of signs everywhere in classrooms and hallways, declaring that this is a "No Bully Zone". Teachers remind their students that bullying is not acceptable and may tie this message in with discussion of a monthly character trait. For example, our trait October is "Responsibility"; students have responsibilities at home, at school and in the community. At school they are responsible for class participation, homework completion and following school rules, to name a few broad areas.

## Giving Back

Last year, all of Ms. Copthorne's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade art classes participated in an art project focused on giving back to the community using their artistic skills.

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders made water color cards with multiple pages in each of well wishes for the patients at Akron Children's Hospital.

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders created heartfelt personal sculptures that were small enough to fit in your palm, representing

animals. They were to remind us and those around us of the homeless animals in our area and all over that we can help. The sculptures were auctioned off at last years Juggling Show and \$250.00 was raised and donated to the Portage County APL.

We have received a letter from the Portage County APL thanking us for the donation. A copy will be in the main office at Defer if you would like to read it.

## *Just a reminder...*

**School Fees** – if you have not paid your school material fee, it is \$20. You can drop off the money at the main office. If you are not sure please call Mrs. Speck in the main office to check your balance.

Soon the fees will be able to be paid online.

**No School** – on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>

**Tardy Students** – if you drop of your child after 7:45 s/he is considered tardy. An adult needs to come into the office and sign-in the student.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences** – will be held November 9<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. by appointment ... please notify the teacher if you still need to schedule this.

**Fund raiser pick-up** – is November 16th from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Items MUST be picked up due to not having freezer space to store items.

**Scholastic Book Fair** - will begin November 7<sup>th</sup> and end November 11<sup>th</sup>. Students will have time to shop during their regular scheduled library time. Parents can also enjoy the book fair during the November 9th parent teacher conferences.

**Dress Code** – Jeans with slits and/or tears in them can only be worn if there is fabric behind each tear. Skin should not be able to be seen through the tears.