

NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, February 13th at 6:30 pm. IN PERSON @ VHE in the library with Zoom option. Link [HERE](#).

This is a long email! Make sure to expand your email to view the whole message. You'll see a singing hedgehog at the end!



www.VanHisePTO.org



A Message from Principal Stein

Hugimals Joining Our Classrooms

Last year, Ms. Powell and our 3rd graders worked on bringing additional resources to our classrooms to support our students' social and emotional needs.

Through their collaborative work with Ms. Andrea Wiltzious, our classrooms have Hugimals. These weighted stuffed animals are used by students for comfort while processing big emotions. Our Student Service team will be introducing the Hugimals to our classrooms in the upcoming weeks. During our Good Character Assembly, Ms. Powell and our students showcased the Hugimals through information sharing and skits. Thank you to our the Neighborhood Association, Ms. Wiltzious, Ms. Powell, and students!

Spelling Bee a Success

We held our traditional spelling bee competition this past month for our 4th and 5th grade students. It was led by Ms. Katie Mahr. Students competed in a classroom, grade level, and cross grade level competitions, demonstrating their knowledge of spelling patterns, rules, and definitions. Congratulations to all students within 4th and 5th grade - we recognize that everyone had a role in the spelling bee event. We congratulate all that participated in the school event in the large group event, and we congratulate Leo (winner of the competition) and Allistair (runner up) who represent VHE at the MMSD Spelling Bee competition. Cheers to everyone for being brave!



Winter Play

Finding ways to support the important and critical for unstructured, free play for our scholars in a safe space is what our new schedule supports. We have added on time for every grade level to have wiggled and worked schedules to prioritize this time. There is endless learning to be done in play! During the winter months, we include sleds to be used on the hill! We



are always looking for used and new sleds and shovels to have at VHE!

“Field Trip” to Watch the Hamilton Play- *Shrek, The Musical*

We pride ourselves on giving students many opportunities within our community and school to enhance their experiences. This includes attending on-campus “field trips” such as the musical presented to our students and staff by the Hamilton cast!



Attendance Reminder

The staff at Van Hise Elementary are continuing to prioritize our efforts for increasing student engagement. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school - and themselves. Start building this habit in kindergarten so they learn right away that going to school on time and every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill

that will help them succeed in high school and college.

Partnership between VHE and our families:

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy, and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.
- Try to schedule non-Covid-19 related medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, Ms. Stein, and other staff for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning. We are here for you!
- If you are concerned that your child may have Covid-19, call your school for advice. Nurse Lauri and Nurse Dawn can assist in questions and concerns.
- If your child must stay home due to illness or quarantine, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

We are working to make our school environment a place where everyone can be safe, healthy, and able to learn. We will do our best to listen and partner with you so that our children have a successful year. Do not hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns.

Read Your Heart Out: February 14, 2024

Part of our learning in February will include celebrating African-American/Black History month. We are joining schools across our district to host Read Your Heart Out on Wednesday, February 14th. It is a day in celebration of National African American Parent Involvement Day. Founded by Joseph Dulin in 1995, Read Your Heart Out was inspired by the Million Man March. In our school community, Read Your Heart Out is a day that we welcome our African American parents, families, and community members of all heritages to come and share in building our children's love for reading

and our school's honoring of diversity in our community. This year we will also have our own scholars within Van Hise Elementary School read books to other classrooms!

Classroom newsletters will highlight this event and we will be reaching out to families as well. If you know someone or would like to sign-up, please call our Van Hise Office at 608.204.4800.

To learn more about Read Your Heart Out, [click here](#).

Upcoming Dates:

- FEBRUARY: Black History Month
- Feb. 10: Lunar New Year/Chinese New Year
- Feb. 14: Ash Wednesday (Roman Catholic)
- Feb. 20: World Day of Social Justice
- Feb. 22: School Bus Driver Appreciation Day
- Feb. 26 - March 1: National Public Schools Week

-Principal Stein

Events at a Glance | FEBRUARY

FEB 13

PTO MEETING
6:30 in the VHE Library
Zoom Link [HERE](#)

FEB 16

NO SCHOOL

FEB 20

SHAKE SHACK RESTAURANT NIGHT
11:00 am - 9:00 pm
Code: **DONATEFRY**

FEB 23

SCHOOL DANCE
6 - 8:00 pm



We Welcome YOU!

Our monthly PTO Meeting is coming up on Tuesday, February 13th.

We will continue our process of having updates from the PTO and Principal Stein in the first 30 minutes, with a Zoom option. We will then move to in-person only discussion.

- Please send any questions by Monday, February 12th.
- Let us know by Friday, February 9th if you may need child care at the meeting (PTO provides free of charge to families).
- Check our the agenda [HERE](#).

As always, check out our website at www.vanhisepto.org for up to date news.

We Need YOU:

We are currently looking to fill some important volunteer roles. In addition to putting together committees to help with the planning and implementation of events like the school dance and carnival, we are also putting together a nominating committee to do the important work of recruiting new officers for our PTO board. We have positions that are vacant or soon to be vacant. Please consider filling this important committee role! You can either express interest at our general meeting on February 13th or email prez@vanhisepto.org.

Remember to head to the Volunteering page on our website for a list of volunteer opportunities and links to sign up.

<https://www.vanhisepto.org/volunteering>



JUST Coffee Thank You

Our first ever fundraiser with Just Coffee was a success! We hope that you are enjoying your Hedgie brew coffee or hot cocoa! Thanks to all who ordered.

Proceeds from this PTO fundraiser will support future staff appreciation events.



Shake Shack Restaurant Night

Our monthly restaurant night at Shake Shack is coming up on **February 20th**. Head over to Shake Shack at 558 N. Midvale in Hilldale Mall for dine-in or carry out between 11:00 am and 9:00 pm. 25% of proceeds go directly to the PTO!

Use Code: **DONATEFRY**



Carnival Committee Volunteers Needed

The VHE Carnival is BACK! We are so excited to have this much loved event taking place. The 2024 Carnival will be **Friday, April 26** from 4:30pm - 7:30pm. This is such a fun and wonderful event, but it takes a lot of volunteers to make it happen. We are currently looking for volunteers to lead our various carnival committees.

[Sign Up to Volunteer](#)

For questions please contact
Adam Gratch
at events@vanhisepto.org.

**Food, Prizes, Games, Facility
Maintenance/Floaters, Raffle**

Get Ready to Dance



There is a school wide a dance coming up on **February 23rd from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.**

If you have glow sticks and tattoos at home that you're willing to donate to the event, please bring them to the PTO meeting on February 13th and/or in the school office.

Keep an eye out for more details and opportunities to volunteer!



Girls on the Run

This coming April will be the 3rd year Van Hise has been a site host for the Girls on the Run program for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade girls. We started this program in Spring of 2022, and since then, we have hosted both a Fall and Spring session to help support our girls and inspire them to be joyful, healthy and confident using the GOTR curriculum which creatively integrates running and other

physical activities for teaching life skills and promoting holistic health outcomes for kids.

The lottery registration opens March 1-6th and it is a first come, first serve registration process. The season begins the week of April 1st, with practices held twice a week at VHE on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5. The season ends with a 5K race on June 1st in Verona.

[Check out the Flyer](#)

Needs in the Health & Social Work Offices

The health office always appreciates donations. The health office has identified the following needs:

- Snacks

Our social worker has identified the following needs:

- Winter boots (sizes 4 and up)

Items may be dropped off in the VHE office. Thanks to all who have donated in the past!



VHE's Annual Kindergarten-Ran Post Office is back!



For the entire month of February the kindergarten students will be running our VHE Post Office. All students, K-5, are encouraged to write a **kind** letter to a friend, sibling, or neighbor at VHE. It will be collected, stamped, sorted, and delivered by our amazing VHE Kindergarten Students. In order to make sure your special note gets delivered, address it with the recipient's name and their homeroom room number. Simply pop it in your homeroom teacher's outgoing mailbox and wait for it to get delivered. We always use lots of fun stationary this month so if you are willing to send some in for your child's classroom to use, we would appreciate it!



Playground and Lunch Volunteers

The PTO helps out with extra eyes and hands on the playground and in the lunch room. Consider volunteering for a time slot or two. Volunteers check in at the office and receive a vest. Remember: to volunteer, you must have completed the MMSD steps to become an "Approved Volunteer" ([see the MMSD volunteer page for information](#)).

Head to the Volunteering page on our website to find the sign up links!

[PTO Volunteer Page](#)

News From the Gym

Coming up 2/5 - 2/23

Students will be rollerblading in PE! Students are encouraged to bring their own bike style helmet. If they



do not have their own helmet we have extras for them to wear. Please note that certain hairstyles are hard to properly wear a bike helmet so keep that in mind. In the next couple weeks I would love for you to help your child know what size shoe they wear to ensure they get their correct size rollerblade. Students must be wearing socks to prevent blisters and to keep our rollerblades more sanitary. If you have filled out the parent volunteer forms


please consider helping with our K-1 students so they have time to skate [K-1 Rollerblade help](#)

What Happened in January: 1/8 - 1/26

Our students just had the opportunity to explore our movement education equipment. We looked at different olympians competing in different gymnastic events and we explored what we were capable of. We focused on balance beam, rings, vault and floor events. Students learned about balance, weight transfer, strength and flexibility throughout this unit.



Rollerblading in PE



2/5/24 - 2/23/24

VHE Families

- Students are encouraged to bring their own bike style helmet
If they do not own their own helmet one will be provided
- Please tell your child their shoe size so they know what size rollerblade to wear
- Students should be wearing socks so they don't get blisters and to keep our rollerblades sanitary

Kindergarten and first grade families if you have filled out the parent volunteer paperwork I'd love to have you help out.
These are the times I'm looking for

Monday: Kindergarten 10:50 - 11:20 First grade- 1:30-2:00
Tuesday: Kindergarten 10:50 - 11:50 First 1:30 - 3:00
Wednesday: Kindergarten 10:50 - 11:50 First 1:30 - 2:00
Thursday: Kindergarten 10:50-11:20 First 1:30 - 2:30
Friday: Kindergarten 10:50 - 11:50 First 1:30 - 2:30

Email Ms. Sorensen at snsorensen@madison.k12.wi.us



Scenes from the Art Room

The artists of Van Hise are at it again with projects galore! 3rd and 5th grade have finished up some very cool landscapes. 3rd grade has been focusing on surrealism and 5th grade the works of artist Jen Aranyi (from whom we received a virtual shout out after she spotted some work on the the VHE Art Page!)

The 4th graders have finished this year's agamographs which are now on display in the library, swing by if you get the chance. 2nd grade is letting their imagination run wild with a mixable monster project that flexes both their creativity as well as their coloring skills.

Both Kindergarten and first graders are experimenting with cardboard as a building material as they are the first to dip into our sculpture unit. All grades have been hard at work preparing audience props for an upcoming rendition of *Beauty and the Beast*, put on by the very talented **Opera For the Young** troupe (feb 8th). Keep your eyes out for pictures of a flock of tropical birds.



Next week we will be transitioning from the land of two dimensions into the world of three, as we embark on our next medium....CLAY!

Coming Up..

Just to get you ready, here are some important things coming in March and beyond. We will send details as we get closer to the events.

- Spring Break: March 25 - 29
- April 8: Early release at 11:30 am
- April 12: No School
- April 15: No School
- Carnival: April 26



You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday, 2/13 at the PTO meeting! Check www.vanhisepto.org for updates.



Van Hise Elementary | 246 South Segoe Road, Madison, WI 53705

[Unsubscribe vanhise@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:vanhise@madison.k12.wi.us)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by communications@vanhisepto.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!