

**NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, June 8th at 6:30 pm viaZoom**

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



## Principal Spotlight

Our final PTO newsletter of the 2020-21 season is upon us. Over the weekend I reflected on this school year and how, despite challenges, we have grown stronger as a community. A few examples include:

- Starting the year virtually, we learned that “see saw” is not just a piece of playground equipment but a learning tool we used all year!
- We shared the experience of quarantine until spring, getting to know our classroom communities on Zoom, taking virtual field trips, and shouldering asynchronous learning.
- In March we welcomed some of our youngest learners back, and our older students joined them following Spring Break. In-person school included new protocols and procedures to ensure the safety of those returning. Whether virtual or in-person, we remained one community of learners through the end of our 2020-21 school year.
- In May, our families came together to share their appreciation for our staff. Since it was a year unlike any other, Staff Appreciation was extended to a whole month. Families helped to provide all educators with the support our hedgehogs need to thrive! Thank you for your generosity and kindness - it means a lot!
- As we end the year, we yearn for the consistency of traditional year-end celebrations (field day, fifth grade graduation, class picnics, etc.). However, with COVID still present in our community, the priority must be to end the year on a good note, respecting safety protocols. I appreciate your grace and patience as we continue to work through this together.



There are so many accomplishments to celebrate and these reflections capture only a part of the year. A consistent message is reflected, one that launched our school year and that held throughout the year: “Stronger Together.”

As we turn our thoughts to the summer, I want to remind you to seek compassion. During this “thaw” from the pandemic, I encourage you to avoid the impulse to “fix” or “solve” the historical events we experienced, but rather sit with them and find compassion for

your hedgeie. They accomplished so much during a year of great challenge! Below is some guidance shared by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) that you may find useful:

Stay calm, listen, offer reassurance - our hedgeies learn from role models. Monitor TV and social media involvement. We strive to teach our hedgeies how to be wise consumers of information. Call out and discuss misinformation when you encounter it. Take time to talk and connect. Create space and make time for questions. Be honest and accurate, but also mindful of your Hedgeie's developmental level and use age appropriate explanations.

Click here to read more about how to help your learner over the summer: [Link to complete NASP guidance document](#)

While I will be taking time to be with my family this summer, I will be monitoring my [email](#). If you have questions or concerns this summer, please feel free to reach out to me. Note that staff have varied contract days and are less available.

I look forward to the Fall of 2021 and continuing to build a strong community where all belong. Whatever our school year looks like, I know that our students will be best served by our community working together. As your principal, I will work to support staff and families in continuing to build practices that result in high quality, culturally-responsive instruction for all students. This year taught us many lessons, one of them being the need to be flexible and responsive. We are truly stronger when we are together.

Respectfully,  
Mary

## Events at a Glance | JUNE

### JUNE 7

#### VHE CAR PARADE

Faculty and staff will be driving through the Van Hise area.

10:00 - 12:00

MAP [HERE](#)

\*Note: The last turn onto Odana will be east instead of west.

### JUNE 8

#### PTO MEETING

6:30 - 7:30 pm

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Dial in: 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 869 5604 6342#

Passcode: 743140

## JUNE 10

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

VHE CAR PARADE 2021!

Make sure to check the map for the route and head outside on Monday, June 7th to see the VHE faculty and staff drive through the neighborhood. Fifth grade teachers will launch t-shirts to the 5th graders in celebration of their graduation from Van Hise. **Congrats, 5th graders!**

**FUN SUGGESTIONS: Wear Hedgie gear, decorate your yards/spaces, do a little dancin', and join in the celebration!**

\*Note: The last turn on the map will be east onto Odana instead of west.



### Parade MAP



### Hosts Needed for Kindergarten Playdates

We are looking for volunteers to host playdates for incoming kindergartners and their families. If you'd be willing to help show up to welcome new families and answer or direct their questions, **let us know** ASAP, as well as a date and time (1 to 1.5 hrs) you're available. We usually offer a variety of opportunities to accommodate different schedules. You're welcome to host on your own, sign up with someone else, or we can find someone to help you.

Email [prez@vanhisepto.org](mailto:prez@vanhisepto.org) if you're interested in helping out!



### VHE Library/Tech End of Year Announcements:

#### Library Book Return:

For students, all books are due 5/27. I will come around to classrooms to collect books on 5/26. There will also be a box in the Van Hise front hallway for returns beginning 5/26. There are no fines on lost library books, but it would be helpful to get as many back as possible from spring 2020 - spring 2021.

#### Chromebook Return:

**K-3 students** will take Chromebooks home for the summer and bring them back to stay at school in the fall.

**4th grade students** (with the exception of students enrolled in summer school) will return Chromebooks and chargers. Chromebooks will be collected at VHE on 6/10 and 6/11 (both Roomies and Zoomies). There will be a cart for Zoomie Chrome book and charger return in the front hallway on 6/10 and 6/11. Incoming 5th graders will receive new Chromebooks when they return to school in the fall.

**5th grade students** will take Chromebooks home for summer and bring them to 6th grade in the fall.

## **Info on Tech Support Over The Summer 2021**

### **- Dana Prager**

Library Media Technology Specialist

MMSD

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

Technical Services Helpline for FAMILIES: (608) 204-5678.

Technical Services Helpline for STAFF: (608) 663-5853.

**MMSD Virtual Learning Resources**



## **Order Next Year's Supplies Today!**

Van Hise Elementary is partnering with **1st Day School Supplies** to offer school supply kits for the

2021/22 school year. In just a few clicks you can cross school supplies off your list for next year and avoid the aggravation of shopping during back to school season! Order for the grade your child will enter in the fall. The deadline to order is **July 1, 2021**.

This is an optional, convenient, and affordable option. If you prefer to purchase supplies yourself, classroom supply lists will be available at area stores and sent out by the school. You may also choose to order grade level and Specials Class Wish List kits or purchase an extra school supply kit for a student in need.

[\*\*Order Supplies\*\*](#)

**See below for some Summer reading recommendation! Click on the image for a printable version!**

# Van Hise School

## Summer Reading 2021

Looking for a great new book? Check out these resources!

	Resource	Information
	<b>Sora</b> <a href="#">Sora</a> is an app that lets you find books in Overdrive's digital library.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Find Sora on the <a href="#">Sora</a> ebooks Van Hise Library Portal page</li><li>❑ Sign in with your school user id and chromebook password.</li><li>❑ Search for a special book or explore and find a new favorite book.</li><li>❑ Check out books and audiobooks.</li></ul>
	<b>Library Portal</b> <a href="#">Home - Van Hise Library!</a> can help you find fun books, ebooks, and audiobooks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Look at the <a href="#">eBooks - Van Hise Library!</a> page to find TumbleBooks, BookFlix, PebbleGo, and more!</li><li>❑ Go to the <a href="#">Reading Resources - Van Hise Library!</a> section to find websites with great ebooks.</li></ul>
	<b>Madison Public Library</b> The public library has books to check out and electronic resources to use. They are offering a summer reading program!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ Check out the resources on the <a href="#">kid's page</a> of the public library website.</li><li>❑ The Madison Public Library's summer reading program is called <a href="#">WE READ</a>.</li></ul>
	<b>Book Lists</b> There are lots of lists of books that kids might like to read. Use them to make your own list of books that you want to check out this summer!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❑ ALSC summer reading lists (<a href="#">k-2</a>, <a href="#">3-5</a>, <a href="#">6-8</a>)</li><li>❑ <i>The Horn Book</i> Summer Reading Recommendations (<a href="#">Picture Books</a>, <a href="#">Easy Readers and Primary Grades</a>, <a href="#">Intermediate</a>)</li><li>❑ Madison Public Library: <a href="#">Racial Equity Resources</a></li></ul>



## Thank You for Participating in Staff Appreciation Month

Thank you to all who chalked up the school walkways with cheerful and encouraging messages, sent thoughtful notes, emails, pictures and flowers, and/or contributed to the Staff Appreciation Fund. Your heartfelt messages and generous spirits have helped buoy spirits at the end of this long year.

There is still time to **send a shout out** to staff or post one on the **VHE PTO facebook page** before the end of the year!



## Opportunity to Donate Books!

Spring cleaning and looking to donate unused books? School social worker, Rachael Nachtwey is collecting books in very good condition (no scribbles or missing pages please) for K-5 students before **June 8th**.

Please get in touch with Rachael at [rlnachtwey@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:rlnachtwey@madison.k12.wi.us) if you'd like to

make a donation.

**Thank you!**

**-Ms. Nachtwey**



## Farewell to Friends

Declining enrollment leads to the need to surplus (release to be reassigned) some staff. Teachers may opt to be voluntarily surplus and/or they may be surplus based on building needs. There are also staff who will not be returning for personal reasons. We wish the following individuals well in their next chapter:

**Miriam Navin**, Instructional Coach. Miriam stepped in as Instructional Coach after being a classroom teacher and has decided that her passion is with teaching. She will return to the classroom as a third grade teacher at Randall Elementary. We thank Miriam for her hard work and dedication to Van Hise this year and wish her the very best. Our district is fortunate to have her expertise!

**Kelly Cates**, Second Grade Teacher. Kelly joined our VHE team a few years ago and like many teachers, increased her capacity to use technology in her teaching this year. Kelly voluntarily surplus her position to explore middle school opportunities. We wish her the very best!

**Shari Nelson**, Kindergarten Teacher. Shari has worked at VHE as both instructional coach and kindergarten teacher. Due to our decrease in student enrollment for 2021-22, Ms. Shari was unfortunately surplus. She will be placed in another school and/or within the central office. She has contributed a great deal to our hedgehog culture and we are grateful to Ms. Shari for sharing her gifts with us. Her expertise will continue to lift learners in our district.

**Amy Raymond**, Administrative Assistant. Amy took on a big challenge of a new position during virtual instruction - not an easy role. Amy was a stable presence as she supported the transition to in-person instruction, ordering materials day and night! Her family is relocating out of state, and she will be missed.

**Brenna Jimenez**, Cross Categorical Teacher. Brenna has been with Van Hise for the last three years, as a PE teacher and Cross Categorical Teacher. During this time, Ms. Jimenez decided that she would like to pursue a career combining her passion for physical activity with supporting students with special education needs. She will be pursuing her degree as an Occupational Therapy Assistant! We hope that she will join us in some capacity in the future - once a hedgehog, always a hedgehog!

**Larien Johnson**, Program Support Teacher. Larien had supported our special education staff and students for the past few years but has been assigned to another MMSD school for 2021-22. We wish him the very best in this new assignment. He has gone above and beyond for our school and will be greatly missed!

**Jim Radwill**, Physical Education Teacher. Jim has decided to retire and while he has only been at Van Hise for one year, he has worked in MMSD for a number of years. We wish him the very best in his next chapter of life.

**Libby Bjornstad, Mireyong Hong, and Alexis Davis.** These three special education support staff members have retired or been surplus due to declining enrollment. We appreciate their support and would welcome them back if the opportunity presents itself.

## MUSIC NOTES

Students in Ms Jenks' music classes have been working on ensemble skills using several pieces of repertoire involving recorder (3rd-5th grade) as well as rhythms from Ghana and other West African countries (2-



5). Over zoom, we could not really play ALL together. Now that some students are back, they can practice listening and responding to each other in a musical ensemble and our Zoomie friends benefit by hearing multiple parts, harmony and having lots of people to play along with--which we did not have prior to our return. We are so grateful to the PTO for providing funds for recorders and for the weather that has allowed us to have music outside every single day (except 1) for the last 5 weeks!

If you are looking for summer music opportunities, please check out Children's Theater of Madison (CTM) or Madison Youth Choirs (MYC). They are now operating out of a brand new building--the Madison Youth



Arts Center (MY Arts) right by Lapham school. Tuition assistance (up to full coverage) is available for the classes and choirs. Mr. Olson and Ms. Jenks are teachers with MYC as well and are happy to give you more information. For lessons, Monroe Fine Arts, Madison Music Foundry and UW Lesson program are good places to check out!



**You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday 6/8 at the PTO meeting! Check [www.vanhisepto.org](http://www.vanhisepto.org) for updates.**

**Van Hise Elementary School**  
Madison, Wisconsin

**VAN HISE** PTO  
ELEMENTARY



**VHE SCHOOL WEBSITE \* VHE PTO WEBSITE**