

The Hedgehog Herald

Van Hise Elementary Monthly Newsletter

October 2024

NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, October 8th at 6:30pm. IN PERSON @ VHE in the library. Zoom 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



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended the back to school ice cream social and open house! It is always fun to gather and reconnect each fall and we could not have done it without our wonderful donations, scoopers and set-up and clean-up support.

If you have any feedback on the event (good, bad, or otherwise), please share it [here](#).

We are grateful for our generous community that helps us ensure ice cream socials and other events remain free for all. If you would like to contribute to the PTO, you may do so [here](#).

-Van Hise PTO

2024-25 Daily Schedule

The VHE school day starts earlier this year.
Please take note of the new times.

Morning

8:10am - Doors open

8:10 - 8:25am - Breakfast is available

8:25am - Tardy bell

Dismissal

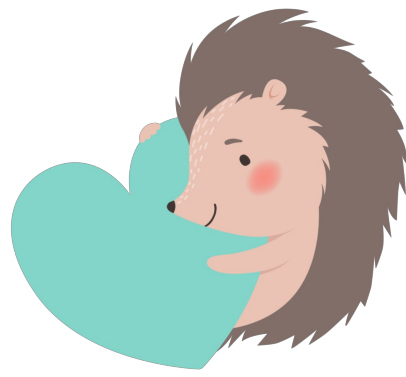
2:00pm on Monday

3:20pm on Tuesday - Friday

A Note from The Health Office

This is a reminder to periodically check your student's head and hair for lice and

nits. The beginning of the year and after breaks there is often an uptick. And, this year is no exception! Listed below are some common questions:



- How do I check my child for nits and lice? See **recommendations from the CDC website** for diagnosing head lice.
- What do I do if I find nits and lice? If you find lice or nits (the small eggs which lice lay on hair) reach out to the health office (608)204-4632. We do not share your child's name with other children or families. It's also important to inform close contacts outside of school.
- Here is **information about treatment? Here it is in Spanish**. Call your school health office, call your healthcare provider or go to the **CDC website and see treatment for head lice** if you have questions..
- How do we prevent the spread of head lice? Although nothing can ensure that your child will not be exposed to head lice, there are a few things that can reduce your child's chances of getting head lice. Your child should:
 - Avoid head-to-head (hair to hair) contact during play and other activities at home, school and elsewhere (sports activities, playground, slumber parties, or camp)
 - Not share items such as hats, scarves, coats, hair ribbons, combs, brushes or towels.
- Who can I go to in the school for advice about head lice? School nurses are expert at identifying and treating head lice and would welcome any questions.

Events at a Glance | OCTOBER

OCTOBER 8

PTO MEETING

6:30 in the Library

Zoom Link [HERE](#); Passcode hedgie25

OCTOBER 11

School Picture Day

OCTOBER 15

Restaurant Night at Shake Shack in Hilldale

OCTOBER 18

All School Dance

6:00 - 8:00 pm



We Welcome YOU!

Our monthly PTO Meeting is coming up on Tuesday, October 8th.

There are lots of activities to plan, and we'd appreciate your voice!

- Please send any questions to prez@vanhisepto.org by Monday, October 7th.
- PTO provides child care free of charge to families). Email prez@vanhisepto.org if you plan to bring a child(ren) so we can plan accordingly.
- Our meeting agenda is available [here](#).

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



Bucky Books

We are excited to partner with Bucky Books this year.



The PTO receives \$10 for every book purchased. Click on the link below or follow the QR code, and purchase your book today!

<https://www.buckybook.com/van-hise-pto-0>

Parent and Community Groups

Based on feedback from the community, we are working to (re)launch the following groups:

- Parents and Caregivers of Kids of Color
- Parents and Caregivers of Kids with Learning Differences
- A is for Antiracism
- Safety and Community (*with Hamilton Middle School*)
- New to Van Hise

The PTO is reserving meeting space for these groups. Please review and complete [this form](#) if you are interested in participating.

We also continue to look for ways to connect and build community around shared interests among our Van Hise families (reading, running, language learning, knitting, etc.). Email prez@vanhisepto.org if you are interested in connecting with other parents and caregivers. We've learned of some interest in walking, slow running, and knitting - let us know if you are interested in these or other activities to do alongside other members of the Van Hise community.

PTO Class Reps Needed

We are still looking for class reps. If you're interested in serving as a representative for a specific grade(s), please let

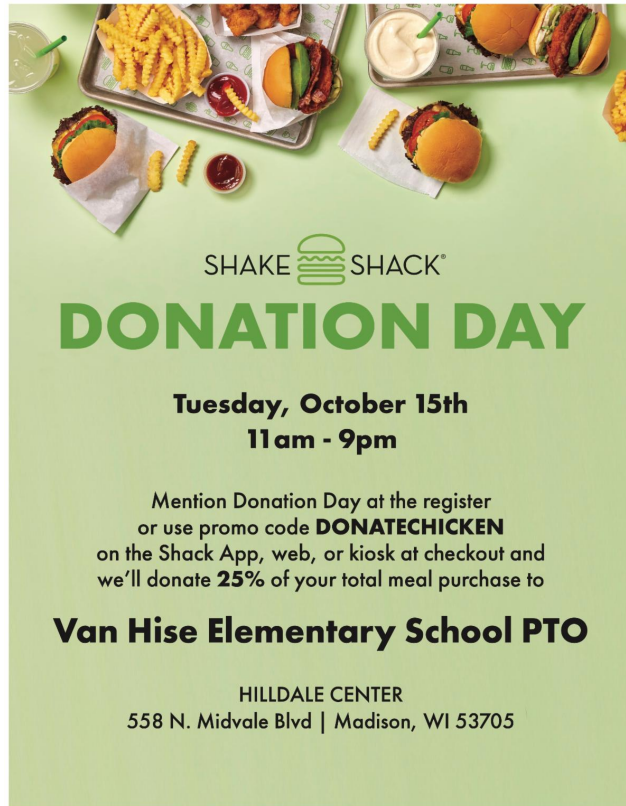


us know which grade(s) via prez@vanhisepto.org.

What is a Class Rep?

A group of representatives will work together to support a classroom and grade level teaching team or specials team - this includes navigating wish list and need items within the classrooms, coordinating teacher and staff gifts, and helping be a link between families and classrooms and the greater Van Hise community.

This is a great way to get to know our fantastic VHE community!



Shake Shack

Our second restaurant night is coming up on **October 15th!** Head over to Shake Shack in Hilldale (558 N. Midvale Blvd.) all day. The PTO will receive 25% of all sales.

USE Code:
DONATECHICKEN

All School Dance

October 18
6:00 - 8:00pm



All Van Hise families are invited to a fun and FREE dance sponsored by the PTO.

Please volunteer and/or sign up to bring water [here](#).

An adult needs to stay and supervise during the event. This is not a drop-off event.

The dance will be in the gym. Coat drop-off, water, and a few quiet activities will be in the cafeteria. For the safety of dancers, running and playing tag is not allowed in the gym.

Feel free to wear your favorite Hedgie gear or the school colors.



AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

After School Classes

Thank you to After School Classes Coordinator and PTO Board Member Joseph Clark and staff for getting the PTO After School Classes up and running this Fall. Please share your feedback [here](#) so that we can continue to build upon what works and find ways to improve and make the program even better.

We are also looking for additional support! Please email prez@vanhisepto.org if you have capacity and interest to help with after school classes - including with communications related to the program.



Ollie's Labels

We want to reduce the items in Lost and Found this year and ensure your student's items make it back to them. Consider getting name labels from Ollie's Labels and VHE PTO receives 20% of every sale. This fundraiser is ongoing, and we will send reminders throughout the year.

[Order Labels](#)



Volunteering

If you haven't already, don't forget to verify that **your volunteer status is current**. The initial screening process includes some web-based training that takes time. Once approved, you need to renew your status each year. You must be approved by MMSD to volunteer in classrooms and to chaperone field trips, among other things.

There is a **new process for signing in at the office** this year. If you have a government issued ID, you must bring it with you the first time you sign-in via the new system.

Picture Day Volunteers Needed

Help students have a great photo taken on Picture Day! Provide support for the two photographers, keep kids moving, get kids ready for their photos and assist teachers with kids once their photos are finished. **Sign up to volunteer here.**



Volunteers will check in at the office.
All volunteers must have completed the **MMSD volunteer training prior to October 11.

Hedgie Spirit



The PTO is again offering a free Van Hise shirt for all students and staff, designed by a current fifth grade student!



Donations

Throughout the year, we will make requests of the community for donations toward snacks, clothing, and other items.

Please consider donating high protein snacks like string cheese and meat sticks, as well as dried seaweed. They can be dropped off in the office.

Playground Volunteers

The PTO helps out with extra eyes and hands over the lunch period. Consider volunteering for a 30-minute time slot. Volunteers check in at the office to receive a vest and volunteer badge.



Lunch Recess Volunteer

Mark Your Calendar

- **October 8: PTO meeting - 6:30 - 7:30pm in the library**
- **October 11: Picture Day**
- **October 18: All School Dance - 6 - 8pm**
- **November 1: Mid-day Release**
- **November 4: No School - Fall Conferences**
- **November 5: No School & Election Day**
- **November 10: Garden Clean-up Day**
- **November 27-29: No School - Fall Break**

Coming Soon

- ***Annual Direct Appeal***
- ***Volunteer and Community Surveys***



You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday, 10/8 at the PTO meeting! Check www.vanhisepto.org for updates.



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