

# The Hedgehog Herald

Van Hise Elementary Monthly Newsletter

September 2024

**NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, September 10th at 6:30 pm. 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](http://www.VanHisePTO.org)



## Happy 2024-2025 School Year!

We are very excited to welcome new and returning faces to Van Hise this year. We can't wait to see you and your Hedgies grow and learn. Community is what brings us together and makes us stronger, and we are so grateful we get to be part of the Van Hise community. We look forward to discovering new strengths and opportunities that lie within our Van Hise family this year.

As a reminder - all staff and families are members of the PTO. We are 100% volunteer-run and rely upon your time, energy, and ideas to help this community organization to thrive. We are parents, caregivers, and staff - with other jobs and commitments as well - and we appreciate how when we come together, we can be a stronger Hedgie community. We hold meetings the second Tuesday of every month from September – May. Meetings are held in the Library Media Center (LMC), with an option to join virtually. Please note: this year, meetings will be facilitated and structured with a focus on those in the room; PTO members may livestream the meeting via Zoom.

-Van Hise PTO

### 2024-25 Daily Schedule

The VHE school day starts earlier this year.

Please take note of the new times.

#### Morning

**8:10 am** - Doors open

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

**8:25 am** - Tardy bell

#### Dismissal

**2:00 pm on Monday**

**3:20 pm on Tuesday - Friday**

# Drop-off and Pick-up Reminders

Please do not use the parking lot for morning drop-off or afternoon pick-ups. The parking lot is restricted to staff use. It can be used for drop-off and pick-up outside of normal hours (e.g., after 8.30am or before 3.20pm).

Please also be mindful of parking restrictions on Waukesha Street. It is important to avoid non-parking sections. We have also been made aware that homeowners have been unable to leave their homes because of blocked driveways. Driveways must be kept clear. The city has strictly enforced restrictions during drop-off and pick-up hours.

## Events at a Glance | SEPTEMBER

### SEPTEMBER 10

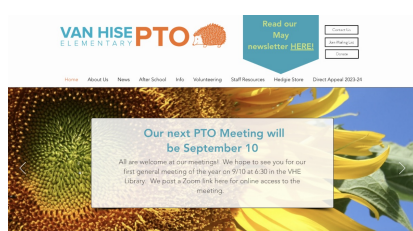
PTO MEETING  
6:30 in the Library  
Zoom Link [HERE](#)

### SEPTEMBER 17

Restaurant Night at Shake Shack in Hilldale

### SEPTEMBER 19

Back to School Open House + Ice Cream Social  
4:30 - 6:30 pm



## We Welcome YOU!

Our monthly PTO Meeting is coming up on Tuesday, September 10th.

This will be our first meeting of the new year, and we hope that you can make it to our general meeting. We will be approving the budget, and there are lots of activities to plan, so we'd appreciate your voice!

- Please send any questions to [prez@vanhisepto.org](mailto:prez@vanhisepto.org) by Sunday, September 8th.
- Let us know by September 8th if you may need child care at the meeting (PTO provides free of charge to families). Email [prez@vanhisepto.org](mailto:prez@vanhisepto.org).
- Read the meeting agenda [HERE](#).

As always, check out our website at [www.vanhisepto.org](http://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



We reached out this summer to gauge interest in parent/community empowerment groups as well as a joint Van Hise/Hamilton safety group. As we gear up to launch these groups, please let us know if you would like to join or follow along for more information.

These groups are driven by the needs and interests of the Van Hise community and not by the PTO directly. Please review and complete [this form](#) if you are interested in connecting.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 first restaurant night is coming up on September 17th! Head over to Shake Shack in Hilldale (558 N. Midvale Blvd.) all day. The PTO will receive 25% of all sales.

Use Code:  
**DONATESHAKE**



SHAKE  SHACK<sup>®</sup>

# DONATION DAY

**Tuesday, September 17th**  
**All Day**

Mention Donation Day at the register or use promo code **DONATESHAKE** on the Shack App, web, or kiosk at checkout and we'll donate **25%** of your total meal purchase to

**Van Hise Elementary**

HILLDALE CENTER  
558 N. Midvale Blvd | Madison, WI 53705



## Back to School Kick-off & Ice Cream Social

September 19  
4:30 - 6:30 pm

We are excited for this fun event that serves as a great kickoff to the new year.

PTO volunteers will be scooping ice cream and non-dairy treats. Classrooms will be open for Hedgies to show their adults and connect with staff.

Please sign-up [here](#) to help with the ice cream social.



## After School Classes

We are working with staff to develop the Fall class offerings for the after school program. We will email and post information to the website as it becomes available. Classes will not begin before September 23. More information about the PTO after school classes is available [here](#).



## 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.



## 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.



## Hedgie Spirit

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

If you are interested in additional Hedgie gear, please check out the school store.

[School Store](#)



## 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 and Lunch Volunteers



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

[Lunchroom Volunteer](#)

[Lunch Recess Volunteer](#)

# Mark Your Calendar

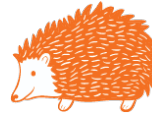
- **September 10: First PTO meeting - 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the library**
- **September 19: Back to School Open House + Ice Cream Social - 4:30 - 6:30 pm**
- **Save the Date - Fall Dance**

We hope to host TWO dances at Van Hise this year. The first is tentatively scheduled for October 18 from 6-8pm. We will share more information as it becomes available.



You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday, 9/10 at the PTO meeting! Check [www.vanhisepto.org](http://www.vanhisepto.org) for updates, and keep an eye out for another email as first day of school approaches!

**VAN HISE** PTO  
ELEMENTARY



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

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