

NEXT PTO VIRTUAL MEETING: Tuesday, June 2nd at 6:30

If one suffers
we all suffer.
Togetherness is
strength.
Courage.

- Jean-Bertrand Aristide

Principal Seidl's Spotlight

Our final PTO newsletter of the 2019-20 season is upon us. Over the weekend I reflected on this school year and how, despite many challenges, we have examples of our coming together as a community to strengthen us and to help us find courage. A few examples include:

Starting the year with my own personal challenge of losing my dad. The loss of a parent is immeasurable, but the love and support of our district and the VHE community - staff, families and students - coming together provided me with strength beyond measure.

Late Fall, we gathered to celebrate our National Blue Ribbon - complete with a drone and plenty of hot chocolate! A highlight of coming together. [Link to Youtube of our celebration](#)

Throughout the year we came together to share a theme of "Say Something!" using the text by Peter H. Reynolds. Using this at our academic success nights, February family event, and with Governor Evers at his March visit unified our school K-5 - Governor Evers liked it so much he read it to children state-wide in April! [Link to Governor giving VHE a shout out and reading Say Something](#)

In March, staff across the school and district worked together WITH our families to roll out materials for virtual learning. From getting devices into the hands of each student and securing the internet to supporting the use of Google Classroom and resources to link learning for our students, we strengthened our shared vision for learning while staying safe. We continue to face this challenge together with courage.

Supporting connections and showing gratitude in the time of a pandemic is challenging. Our staff have done this with not only classroom Zooms, but also with fun approaches, including musical shares, a virtual field day, and a soon-to-be virtual gallery tour! We began this connection early in quarantine with daily morning announcements and nightly story sharing on Facebook live. Most morning posts continue to get between 200 and 400 views daily! This connection gives us a sense of togetherness and builds our shared strength.

Similarly, our families came together to share their appreciation for our staff during teacher appreciation in ways unlike any other year. Families helped to provide all educators that support our hedgehogs with yard signs and notes of appreciation while respecting the Safe at Home order. We miss you all. Know that this connection was needed and appreciated!

Together we are supporting families that may be experiencing loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our families and school community have worked with our social worker, Rachael Nacthwey, to provide those in need with everything from gift cards for basic supply needs to meal delivery. We are coming together to care for each other when it is really needed.



These reflections capture only a part of the year but within each one I read the strength that we each gather from a sense of connection - "togetherness is strength."

As we begin to turn our thoughts to the summer and the current challenges we are facing as a country and community, my parting message for this time away is to seek compassion. Begin by [listening deeply](#) as suggested in the Susan Verde text read today, "I Am Love." Seek to not always "fix" or "solve" the historical events we are facing, rather sit with them and find compassion. Take time to reflect and educate yourself - there are a host of excellent sources linked here including [Seeing White podcast](#), [Stamped from the Beginning](#), a text by Ibram Kendi, and [Elementary Lessons on Race, Racism and Discrimination](#), a resource by AMAZEworks to guide conversations with your child(ren).

In closing, I invite you to join me in continuing our work in building a sense of togetherness as we look forward to the Fall of 2020. Whatever our school will look like at that time, I know that we will be best served working together. As your principal, I will work to support staff in continuing to build practices that result in high quality, culturally-responsive instruction for all students. We know that "if one suffers, we all suffer." We are truly stronger when we are together.

Respectfully,
Mary



Events at a Glance | JUNE

JUNE 2

PTO Meeting via Zoom

Zoom link [HERE](#).

6:30

JUNE 3

**Van Hise Museum of
Quarantine Art**

View art made by our amazing students during this time of quarantine.

JUNE 6

Deadline to order year books.

JUNE 8

MATERIALS PICK-UP

Link to order [HERE](#).

Procedure reminder [HERE](#).

12 - 6:00 PM

JUNE 9

MATERIALS PICK-UP

Procedure reminder [HERE](#).

12 - 6:00 PM

JUNE 10

**LAST DAY,
5th GRADE CAR PARADE,
MATERIALS PICK-UP**

PICK UP HOURS: 12 - 6:00 PM

JUNE 30

**LAST DAY to ORDER SCHOOL
SUPPLIES**

Order [HERE](#).

ALL SUMMER

**Please reach out if your family
needs assistance.**

Rachael Nachtwey, Social Worker
rlnachtwey@madison.k12.wi.us

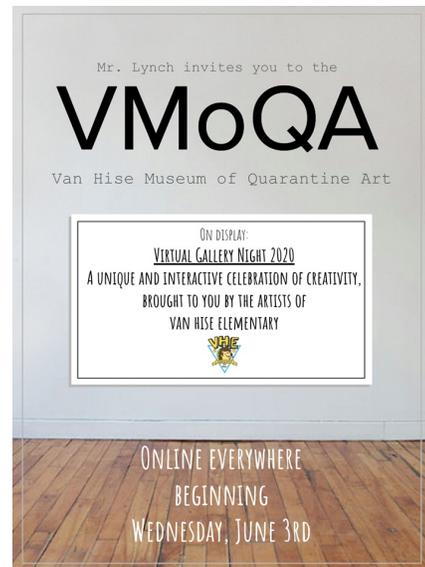
Mary Seidl, Principal
mseidl@madison.k12.wi.us

VAN HISE MUSEUM OF QUARANTINE ART

This Wednesday, **June 3**, we hope that you'll take some time to visit our Virtual Gallery Night 2020, which will be a unique and interactive celebration of creativity brought to you by our student artists.

Visit the gallery via your child's Google Classroom or the Van Hise Facebook page!

***Click on the image to open a larger version of the image!**



CONGRATS, 5th GRADERS! We Celebrate YOU

The school year is not simply coming to a close for our 5th graders. It also ends their chapter at Van Hise Elementary as they look forward to Middle School. We would like to wish our 5th grade class a hearty congratulations for reaching such a big milestone and good wishes as they move forward on their journey. We hope that you'll take a moment to celebrate the growth and

accomplishments of this special group in the slideshow that has been put together in their honor.

View the 5th grade slideshow [HERE!](#)

Van Hise staff will also be honoring 5th graders with a car parade on June 10th (rain date June 9th). If you live near the route, come out and wave, making sure to abide by appropriate social distancing.

June 10th parade map [HERE!](#)

A message to 5th graders from Principal Seidl:

Dear Class of 2027,
Congratulations on your graduation from Van Hise Elementary! Thank you for your hard work and stay-with-it attitude as we close this year virtually. While I would have loved to join you and your families to celebrate this occasion, I am grateful that we are working together to keep everyone safe and healthy, respecting the Safer at Home order.

Long before your time in school, way back in 2003, a movie entitled "Finding Nemo" was released. Fast forward to your first grade year, 2016, a sequel to that movie came out, "Finding Dory." In these movies, Dory is a character that has a very limited memory and often forgets almost immediately what she is told. While this presents many challenges for Dory and those around her, she also has a saying that she uses throughout the movie: "Just keep swimming!" This phrase helps her when she is feeling sad about making mistakes and it also helps her to encourage others who are feeling stuck by fear, anxiety or sadness throughout the movies.

As you move forward in your education, there will be times when you feel afraid, worried or down. There will be challenges and, like virtual learning, you will need to face those challenges head on to move forward. Like Dory, I want you to remember for yourself and for your friends, Just keep swimming!

Now think back to when you learned how to swim. No one starts out with perfect form and, in fact, many fear the water. However, there are people around you to help you learn and grow in swimming. This instruction combined with your practice led you to get better and eventually make it through the water, enjoying it and not fearing it in the end. So too with education - you did not begin your school experience with perfection, but rather navigated your way through the learning pit to adapt and grow. You faced challenges head on and kept moving forward, learning that there are people around you to help you and, with practice, you moved forward. You just kept swimming!

My fifth grade friends, please know that there are people around you who care deeply for you and are there to help you when needed. Know that you have within you the capacity to navigate the water and enjoy it, not fear it. Friends, just keep swimming because there is so much to enjoy!



School Schedule from Principal Seidl

This week students will not be receiving any new assignments in Google Classroom; however we are still expecting our students to complete their work online using apps (for



example, Lexia, Xtramath, Freckle, etc.). We also want them to participate in at least one Zoom meeting this week. A reminder that next week you may pick up/drop off student materials at the following times: June 8, 9, and 10th from noon to 6:00 pm. Please see my earlier email or email me at mseidl@madison.k12.wi.us if you need further information. See pick-up procedures [HERE](#).



Help Us Keep the Garden Growing

We have a garden! WooHoo! All of the plants from Oakhill Correctional Facility Kids Garden Network are in. Now we need to get families to sign up for a week to weed, water and pick. When you sign-up I will email you and we can go from

there. Each week will be different with weather - you may not need to water or may need to water a few times! Weeds will probably be present every week! If there is produce* that is ripe, feel free to pick and enjoy - the only caveat is the last week before school, we will want to leave for the kids (assuming they will be back). *Produce to pick ; kale, basil, chives, any other herbs, cherry tomatoes. Please cut zinnias too as the more they are cut, the more they will grow. More to come... The restrictions we've worked out that are different from other years are as follows. Please bring your own tools. There will be directions about how to use the water key safely.

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!
Thank you!

Trina - trinamuich@gmail.com

SIGN UP HERE!



ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK!

The yearbook ordering site is up and active for families to place online orders. The deadline to order is **JUNE 6th**, so make sure to get to the link soon!

Order your yearbook [HERE](#).

Farewell

Next Fall we will be joined by a few new staff members as we have had three retirements. Here is a review of those we wish well in their next chapter:

Kathy Kowalik, Occupational Therapist. Kathy has been with the district for 35 years, 31 of those serving Van Hise and Hamilton.



Diane Romary, Nursing Assistant. Diane has worked for 30.5 years and also supported students across both schools.

“Ms. Ann” aka Ann Jesse Schwabe, Administrative Assistant. Ann has been a stable presence at Van Hise Elementary - she truly holds the place together. She will be missed beyond measure!

Heather Laurila, our 5th grade strings teacher, will also be leaving us this Fall. Heather had an opportunity to shift the number of buildings she serves in next year so while this is good news for her not to travel across the city multiple times per week, it means that she is leaving our school to join another. We wish her the very best and will miss her expertise dearly!



LET US KNOW IF WE CAN HELP

During this unprecedented time, we know some families in our community have urgent needs. We are available with resources to help. Please reach out to let us know what your family might need during these difficult times. Over the summer, our school Social Worker, Rachael Nachtwey, has very limited hours. We don't want to miss any requests, so if the need is urgent, please be in touch both with Ms. Nachtwey and with Principal Seidl over the summer months.



Rachael Nachtwey, Social Worker
rlnachtwey@madison.k12.wi.us

Mary Seidl, Principal
mseidl@madison.k12.wi.us



UPDATE ON SEGOE-RICHLAND INTERSECTION

Traffic Engineering will be updating this intersection, with a rapid flashing beacon light, as part of the City's Pedestrian Bicycle Enhancement Program.

Gretchen Aviles Pineiro will be managing this project, and you can email her (gavilespineiro@cityofmadison.com) with any specific questions.

Thank you to Andrea Wiltzius for her efforts on organizing around this issue, and to all the folks who sent requests to Traffic Engineering to get this studied and ultimately approved!

<https://www.cityofmadison.com/trafficEngineering/PdBkEnhCurrentProj.cfm>

Van Hise Elementary School

Madison, Wisconsin

VHE SCHOOL WEBSITE * VHE PTO WEBSITE