

March 2022

NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, March 8th at 6:30 pm via [Zoom](#)

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!



A Message from Interim Principal Costello

Dear Families,

When my interim days are over, I will still have Van Hise in my future. My daughter and her husband just purchased a home in the Van Hise neighborhood and their first baby is due May 1st. I have regaled her with all the great things happening at Van Hise and the wonderful and supportive families whose children attend Van Hise School.

Linda Kailin and I have been busy planning for next school year while working to keep Van Hise moving forward this spring. There are many fun things happening at school! The Kindergarteners celebrated National Pig Day this week! Meanwhile, the 4th and 5th graders are getting ready for the Book Bowl next week.

This is also assessment time of year for our 3rd, 4th & 5th graders with the State Forward Exam. If you remember, this past fall we received the results of last year's exam results. VHE's score was 96%! Teachers will be sending out the exam information and test dates. Please ensure your students get a good night's sleep and have a good breakfast those mornings.

Your students have been working hard! Today we received congratulations from the school district for our students averaging over 5 lessons per week in the month of February on Dream Box and 100% of our students using DreamBox in the month of February.

It has been a pleasure observing our students take on leadership roles. Fifth grade patrols support our younger students by helping them with winter clothing at arrival time and ensuring they are safe during arrival and dismissal. Third graders take the empty lunch cart back to the cafeteria each day after they have had lunch. These opportunities help our students feel that they belong at VHE and that VHE is their school.

The PTO has provided the staff with special treats and self-care items in our lounge during the school year and the availability to write grants for things/activities that are creative and helpful for both staff and students. Several of the items we have gotten include new playground equipment, diverse books for our classroom libraries, and

assessment and literacy materials.

We are looking forward for our continual partnership in the coming months. Thank you for your support and the honor of working with your students.

Sincerely,
Kathy Costello, Interim Principal

Events at a Glance | MARCH

MARCH 8

PTO MEETING via Zoom

6:30 pm
Zoom link [HERE](#)

MARCH 9

4TH GRADE
BOOK BOWL

Zoom Link [HERE](#)

MARCH 10

FAMILY CONNECTIONS
GROUP

Discussion group for families of students
who are experiencing learning
difficulties/struggles.

6:30 pm
Zoom link [HERE](#)

MARCH 11

5th GRADE
BOOK BOWL

Zoom Link [HERE](#)

MARCH 17

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT
GROUP

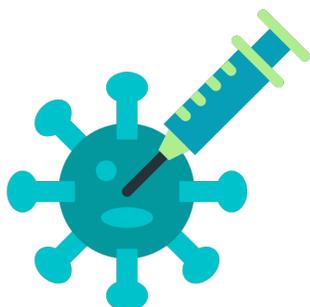
Discussion group for families of Black and
Brown children to help lift these voices.

6:30 pm
Zoom link [HERE](#)

MARCH 18

NO SCHOOL

MARCH 28 - APRIL 1
SPRING BREAK



COVID NEWS

Van Hise Testing Closed

The Van Hise school-based testing site has closed, along with other school sites. Because of this change, we wanted to be sure families had a resource for the public testing sites. You can schedule a public site test [HERE](#). The school nurse has rapid tests available, but

only enough for those who cannot access tests elsewhere. Please contact Nurse Lauri Ysen for information (608-204-4632).

COVID-19 Pfizer Vaccine Clinics Pediatric, Adolescents, and Adults

MMSD is partnering with SSM Health to host COVID vaccine clinics for students, staff, and family members who are 5 years old and older. Register for an appointment by visiting our [website](#) where you will find sign ups for each clinic organized by age group. Contact VHE Nurse, Lauri Ysen (608-204-4632) if you have questions about the COVID vaccine or any of the vaccine clinics.

-Dawn Sebranek, Health Services

Van Hise Welcomes New Nursing Assistant

Dawn Lawler will begin her work next week in the nursing office at Van Hise as a nursing assistant. We are excited to have a new member of the Health team!



Sign Up to be a Lunch Recess Volunteer

Lunch Recess Volunteer shifts are now posted through the end of the school year. There are lots of unfilled shifts in March!

Consider treating your child to a surprise shift on the playground. It's a blast to hang out, talk and play with our fun-loving hedgies!

Sign up to help staff supervise recess.

If you have not already, you will need to create an account in [MMSD's Volunteer Tracker](#) (or update your profile if you have not already done so this school year) before volunteering.

Thanks to the many hearty volunteers who filled shifts through the coldest months!. It will get better from here on out! The staff are so grateful for the support.

The Book Bowl (aka Battle of the Books) RETURNS!

4th and 5th grade students who choose to participate in the Book Bowl read books from a provided list and work with their team to answer questions about those books. This year, due to COVID restrictions, family/friends are invited to view the event live over zoom!

4th Grade: March 9th, 9:30 - 10:30
Zoom link [HERE](#)

5th Grade: March 11, 9:30 - 10:30
Zoom link [HERE](#)

All teams receive the same questions and may have the titles and authors in front of them. The winning team/s will share a traveling trophy. All players will receive certificates. Good luck to all participating students!



Join the VHE Girls on the Run team!

Twice a week for 8 weeks, participants will have fun, make friends, develop new skills and find joy in movement! In Girls on the Run, trained and caring volunteer coaches lead 3rd – 5th graders through our research-based curriculum which strengthens physical, emotional and social health. Call GOTR at 608-831-4687 with questions.

Practice Schedule:

Tuesdays & Thursdays, April 12 - June 2

3:30-5:00 pm, Outdoors @ VHE

5K Celebration, June 4th, 9 AM

Registration now open!

GOTR Registration & Additional Info

Financial Assistance is Available

Click **HERE** for a flyer in English and Spanish.



THANK YOU!

I want to thank everyone for helping make the kids' heart challenge such a success! **As a school we raised \$18,000 for the American Heart Association.** Claire Anderson from Ms. Kraemer's kindergarten class was our top donor and got to

name our gym for the rest of the year. The new name of our gym is "Claire's Hedge Gym".

During the Kids' Heart Challenge, students were working on jumping and jumping rope. Jumping rope is excellent cardiovascular training, because it involves the whole body. It can also help raise your heart rate two to three times faster than other exercises. As we were learning about heart health students were practicing getting their hearts stronger.

During our jumping rope unit students were working towards their ninja belts. Each grade level had their own number of jumps to get to complete their ninja belt training. Students worked their way from a white belt all the way to black belts!



- Ms. Sorensen





A Message from our Social Worker

There continues to be a shortage of after school care options in the city of Madison. Therefore, we are looking to build a list of parents/guardians who are willing to walk another student home (or allow them to spend time at their home after school) for those caregivers who are having problems finding after school care. Please reach out directly to school social worker, **Rachael Nachtwey**, if you'd like to volunteer your availability. Thank you!

Ongoing Needs (gender neutral preferred)

Sweat pants - sizes 6-7
Snow Boots - sizes 3 to 7
Snow pants - sizes 8-14

Although we appreciate the willingness of our community to donate more items in other sizes, we are currently accepting only the above due to space constraints. Items may be dropped off in the vestibule with Rachael's name on it. Thank you!

Rachael Nachtwey (pronounced *Nahk-way*)
rnachtwey@madison.k12.wi.us

Madison West Dance Team Winter Clinic

There is a Dance Clinic coming up on March 12th at West High School. This is an awesome opportunity for future Regent dancers grades K-8 to learn about the West High School Dance Team. K-5 dancers will learn one routine, 6th-8th graders another - both will be performed at the year end showcase on March 16th. Dancers will also work on dance skills, body control & form, and play some fun dance related games. All participants receive Poms and a Madison West Dance Team t-shirt.

Sign Up Deadline: March 10th, 2022

Date/Time: Saturday, March 12th, 9am - Noon

Location: Madison West High School, Stevens Gym-entrance on Regent

Cost: \$45 per student, Sibling Discount - \$5 per registration

What to Wear/Bring: Clothes to comfortably dance/move in, face mask (all dancers will be masked at all times), tennis shoes, water bottle, a small snack and a big smile!!

[SIGN UP & MORE INFO](#)



Tri4Schools Training Program @ Rennebohm

This year, the Tri4Schools training program will be organized as a community training team and will meet at Rennebohm Park rather than Van Hise. Children Age 8-12 are eligible to register. Practices will be

held on Mondays (3:30-4:30 PM) beginning April 4. Wednesday practices will be added beginning May 4 (4-5 PM), when biking practice starts. There will be no swimming practice for this training team. The team will train for the Madison Bike+Run event on June 11 at Warner Park (view additional events on the Tri4Schools site). Registration includes race entry. The registration fee is donated back to the child's school to support health and wellness activities.

Over the years, hundreds of Van Hise students have participated in Tri4Schools training and races. Check out the webpage below to register and find additional info about training and other race opportunities

[Tri4Schools Website](#)



You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday, 3/8 at the PTO meeting! Check www.vanhisepto.org for updates.

