

February 2021

NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30 pm via [Zoom](#)

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 Seidl's Spotlight Stronger Together in 2020-21

We welcomed our second semester last week and report cards are making their way to you very soon. Our teachers worked together to provide you with a narrative update on your child's progress. These reports will provide you with an update on the work that we are seeing virtually this year. Report cards will not include assessment scores this year; however, our teachers are using these tools along with other measures including work samples, to reflect on student progress to inform our instructional moves to accelerate learning for all learners in the coming semester. We want to honor that our students are still learning how to take these tests and we are also learning how to use these tools appropriately. We look forward to sharing more information with you at our Spring conferences on your students' performance. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

As we launch our second semester, we also greet February, Black History Month! In the words of our Superintendent, Dr. Carlton Jenkins, "We know that teaching about and celebrating the history of Black people in America isn't just for our Black students and staff, it is for *all* students and staff."

At Van Hise we are committed to supporting a sense of belonging for all of our students and families. To honor this work, we will be launching a week of action on Friday, February 12th. Each classroom will be joining together to read the text, "All are Welcome" by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman.



UMOJA
Umoja - Unity

To strive for and maintain
unity in the family, community,
nation, and race

Following the reading of this text school-wide, we will use our morning meeting time the week of February 15 through February 19 to share core principles and texts to honor our value of Umoja, or a sense of unity that strives to bring together our families, communities, nation, and race.



In addition to our work to build a sense of belonging for all of our learners at Van Hise, we continue to work on our plans for re-entry. Our team is continuing to meet regularly and we will host an administrative team from central office that will tour our facility and provide us with resources that support our safe return. Our custodians have been working hard to prepare our

classrooms and building for our return. We continue to monitor the incidence of COVID-19, and, when it is safe to return, we will be ready!

In closing, our parent empowerment groups both met in January and will continue to meet in February. Our group for families of black and brown students welcomed our new Superintendent, Dr. Carlton Jenkins, to our group last month. We discussed ways that we can support and lift the voice of our students in honor of Black History month. We will again welcome him to our parent empowerment groups along with Dr. McGregory - his Chief of Schools.

Kindly,
Mary

Events at a Glance | FEBRUARY

ALL YEAR

Please reach out if your family needs assistance.

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

FEBRUARY 9

PTO MEETING via Zoom

6:30 - 7:30 pm
Zoom link [HERE](#)

FEBRUARY 11

PARENT EMPOWERMENT GROUP: Families with children who experience learning challenges

6:30 - 7:30 pm
Zoom link [HERE](#)

FEBRUARY 17

GRADES 1-5 MATERIALS PICKUP

11-1:00 pm & 4-6:00 pm
VHE Parking Lot

FEBRUARY 17

SCRATCH CLASS BEGINS

Open to 4th & 5th graders
See below for info!

FEBRUARY 18

PARENT EMPOWERMENT GROUP: Families with black and/or brown children

6:30 - 7:30 pm
Zoom link [HERE](#)



Share Those Smiling Faces!
SUBMIT YOUR STUDENT'S PORTRAIT PHOTO FOR THE YEARBOOK

Photo Submission Deadline is March 25

The pandemic has put a wrench in many of our school activities this year but it is no

match for our determined Yearbook Committee! The yearbook will go on, but only with YOUR help.

Portrait Photos: Without official school photos you will serve as the photographer. No fancy cameras necessary; your smartphone, tablet or digital camera will do the job.

Tips and FAQs for uploading portrait photos:

- Use even, natural lighting
- Take the photo against a solid background
- Fill the frame with the student's full head and shoulders
- Do NOT use props or filters
- Submit a high resolution color photo
- Save and submit as jpeg

Use the form [HERE](#) to upload a student portrait photo of each of your students and submit your student's name, grade and teacher. Select the left green button to submit.

See additional portrait submission guidelines [HERE](#).

Portrait photos must be submitted by March 25 to be included in the yearbook!

CANDID PHOTOS:

We'd love to fill the book with candid photos showing our Hedgies during virtual learning, virtual playdates and more! Candid photos can be submitted using the [same form](#), using the green button on the right ("upload general photos").

ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK!

Once you've uploaded your photo(s), place your yearbook order [HERE](#).

Deadline to order your yearbook is April 15!

Need assistance paying for your yearbook?

Contact School Social Worker [Rachael Nachtwey](#) if you need assistance paying for the yearbook.

[Upload Photos](#)

[Submission Guidelines](#)

[Order Yearbook](#)



Scratch Programming: Creating & Sharing Interactive Media

Create your own animations, games, stories, and interactive art using Scratch, a highly visual programming language developed for beginning programmers. Scratch helps young programmers learn how to think creatively, work collaboratively, and reason systematically. Returning students welcome!

Open to 4th & 5th Graders only.

*Taught by UW Computer Science students, supervised by Mrs. Drenk.
Scholarships available!

Contact afterschoolclasses@vanhisepto.org for information.

\$37 Class Fee

<http://paypal.me/vanhisepto> (indicate "Scratch" in the note)

Wednesdays, 3:30-4:15 PM

Feb 17, 24; Mar 3, 10, 17, 24 (no class 31); Apr 7, 14, 21, 28 (No class Mar 31!)

Register for Scratch



Outdoor Classroom & Gardens

The Outdoor Classroom and Gardens are in need of a new coordinator/s. If you are interested please contact garden@vanhisepto.org. The current garden coordinator, Trina Muich's VHE student will be graduating this year and moving on to Hamilton Middle School. She would like to work with the new garden coordinator during this upcoming spring and summer seasons to pass on all the needed information.

All that is required is a willing spirit and a tiny bit of gardening experience. The duties of the garden coordinator are as follows: work with Mrs. Seidl regarding

larger projects, work with teachers and Oakhill Correctional Facility's Kids Garden Network to order and pick-up plants in the spring, organize planting schedule with teachers and students. oversee care of the plants in the spring, organize summer gardening sign-up genius and communicate with family volunteers, work with the PTO on the purchase of any plants, seeds, supplies needed, create or source curriculum or ideas for the gardens.

Report Card Information

Report cards can be viewed by parents in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal starting **Monday morning, February 8th**. All parents with guardian rights have access to an *electronic* copy of their child's report card in the Parent Portal. *Paper* report cards will be sent out to parents that requested one on the online enrollment form. *Paper* Report cards will be sent out the week of Feb 8.

Need assistance with accessing the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus?

<https://kb.infinitecampus.com/help/campus-parent-portal>

For any additional questions, please reach out to Amy Raymond, administrative assistant at Van Hise: amraymond@madison.k12.wi.us



Materials Pick Up

We have identified dates for our materials pick up for February and March. These dates are for **grades 1 through 5**, kindergarten has a separate schedule. Obviously this may change for various grade levels depending on the status of our return, but please mark your calendars just in case. **Pickup is in the VHE parking lot off Segoe.**

GRADES 1-5 PICKUP DATES:
February 17th



Parent Empowerment Group Meetings

FAMILY CONNECTIONS: Our group for families of struggling learners meets the second Thursday of the month. In February, we will meet on February 11th at 6:30 ([Join Zoom Meeting](#))

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT: Our group for families of black and brown learners meets the third Thursday of the month. In February, we will meet on February 18th at 6:30 ([Join Zoom Meeting](#))



ART @ VHE A Message from Mr. Lynch: "Hey Students and Families!"

First of all, I would like to congratulate the artists of Van Hise for creating *such* amazing artworks this year. With the beginning of the new semester, I thought it was about time we celebrate this year's artistic success with some MODELING PROJECTS! And so, it is with great excitement that I announce to you that VHE will be having its first-ever *Virtual Clay Unit* ! Please be sure to attend the next material pick-up date - **Wed. Feb, 17th**. There you will find either *Model-Magic air-dry clay* (K-1) or *Non-drying modeling clay* (2-5) in your bags.



Please wait for project instructions from me before experimenting too far. Happy Sculpting!

Artistically Yours,
Mr. Lynch



"A is for Anti-Racism" Group Celebrates Local Artist Lilada Gee and Her Connection to VHE

The "A is for Anti-racism" Little Library located at the Van Hise playground was just brought to a whole new level. The local artist Lilada Gee, who was chosen to paint the awesome addition to the playground, received the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Humanitarian award by the city of Madison. Lilada, with help of her Hedgie alum son, was among several artists that turned boarded up storefronts in the downtown Madison area into beautifully poignant artwork that left no room for doubt, which is how we discovered her.

<https://bravamagazine.com/shelia-stubbs-lilada-gee-2021-mlk/>

Lilada Gee, mother of a Hedgie graduate, dedicates her life as a leader in the community #defendingBlackgirlhood by offering a safe space for healing, mentoring and advocacy. We are proud of her and all her work.

This little library is 100% funded and maintained by parents of Van Hise group called "A is for Anti-racism." If you would like to donate books to this library they can be placed directly in the library or they can be sent directly to Van Hise Elementary School in c/o Principal Mary Seidl. This parent group welcomes monetary donations to keep the library stocked. A very special parent, Sara Gilbertson Ley, has had t-shirts, stickers, and bookmarks with the "A is for Anti-racism" Logo on it for Hedgies who want one. They make great gifts and we only ask for a small donation or that a book be placed in the library in return. Please email us to place your orders or for more information or comments. aisforantiracism@gmail.com

-A is for Anti-Racism Parent Group



You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday 2/9 at the PTO meeting! Check www.vanhisepto.org for updates.

Van Hise Elementary School
Madison, Wisconsin

VAN HISE PTO
ELEMENTARY 

VHE SCHOOL WEBSITE * VHE PTO WEBSITE