

The Hedgehog Herald

Van Hise Elementary Monthly Newsletter

January 2025

**NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, January 14th 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

**REMINDER: The Van Hise Glow Dance is
Tonight!**

January 10th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm

All Van Hise families are invited to a fun and FREE dance sponsored by the PTO. The event is tonight from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at Van Hise. Both the gym and cafeteria will be open.



An adult needs to stay with children on-site during the event. This is not a drop-off event.

We hope to see you there! Email prez@vanhisepto.org with questions.

-Van Hise PTO



Thank you to everyone who has donated to our annual direct appeal. We've raised approximately \$7,000 - or just about one-third of our total goal.

**PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL
OF RAISING
\$50 PER STUDENT**

Though we welcome donations throughout the year (and our links remain active), we hope to reach our fundraising goal of \$20,000.

Shorewood Elementary School set the same goal ... and exceeded it! Let's take inspiration from the Sharks and do the same. Any donation helps us

support our school community and allows us to give back throughout the year.

Online: [DONATE HERE](#)

Checks: Make payable to “Van Hise PTO”

Checks may be mailed to VHE: 246 S Segoe Rd, 53705 OR sent in a backpack (with a note or an envelope labeled PTO)

Your contribution is 100% tax-deductible & eligible for company matching programs.

Thank you for your support and for the many ways you contribute to ensuring our children can continue safely learning together!

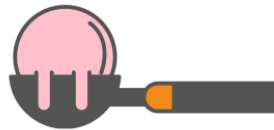
-Van Hise PTO

5 ways your donation helps the **Van Hise Community** ensures everyone can engage!

1

**Free Yearbooks
& T-shirts for
Every Student**

Value: \$10-15/student



2

**Free Ice Cream
Socials for Every
Student**

2 per year. Value: \$5/student

3

**Free Open Gyms
& Weekend Fun**

One event per month this
school year, including 2 dances



4

**Free Childcare at
PTO &
Empowerment
Meetings**

5

**Teacher & Staff
Grants**

Supporting grade-level learning
resources and enrichment

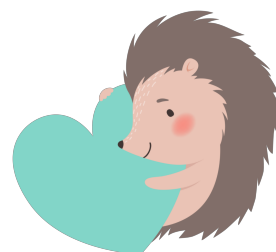


Donate at www.vanhisepto.org/direct-appeal-2024-25



A Note from The School Social Worker

RESOURCE ROOM: The resource room is a new addition to our school and was created to help our community alleviate any financial stressors that they are facing. We want all of our students to have access to some basic needs so they can



engage in academic, social and play activities at school. This is available to the entire VHE community.

Families can put in one request per month using **this** form. Requests will be accepted until the school year ends or supplies run out. This program is made possible by the generosity of our community. Please request only what you need so we can help as many families as possible. There are no requirements or questions asked to access the resource room. Once you have completed the form, please allow one week to receive the supplies.

Information is confidential and not shared. School Social Worker, Amy Robel, manages the requests and the resource room.

Events at a Glance | JANUARY

January 10

Glow Dance (6-8pm)

[Sign up to Volunteer Here](#)

January 14

January PTO Meeting

6.30PM in VHE Library

or [ZOOM](#)

January 15

Quarter 2 Pulse Survey Opens

January 20

NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr Day

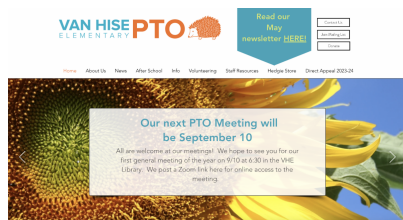
January 21

An Evening with MMSD School Board Member Savion Castro

6.30PM in VHE Library

January 27

NO SCHOOL



We Welcome YOU!

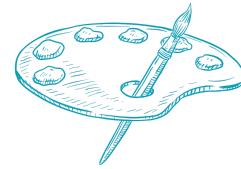
Our monthly PTO Meeting is coming up on Tuesday, January 14th.

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

- Please send any questions to prez@vanhisepto.org by Monday, January 13th.
- 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

Mr. Lynch's Art Room Update

Kindergarten: Students are diving into the world of primary colors by creating artwork inspired by Piet Mondrian's geometric designs.



First Grade: Inspired by artist Mary Blair, first graders are crafting vibrant painted paper castles, showcasing their creativity and imagination.

Second Grade: The focus is on detail and precision as second graders design stunning paper mosaics using a variety of shapes and colors.

Third & Fifth Grades: Both grades are beginning an exciting sculpture unit by making kinetic paper creations, exploring movement and three-dimensional design.

Fourth Grade: Fourth graders are entering the dynamic world of animation, learning about its history and trying out different techniques to bring their ideas to life!

Stay tuned for more artistic adventures!



Donate Stationery and Letter Writing Supplies!

Students can bring to the office or the kindergarten classrooms.

VHE's Annual Kindergarten-Ran Post Office is back!



For the entire month of February the kindergarten students will be running our VHE Post Office. All students, K-5, are encouraged to write a **kind** letter to a friend, sibling, or neighbor at VHE. It will be collected, stamped, sorted, and delivered by our amazing VHE Kindergarten Students. In order to make sure your special note gets delivered, address it with the recipient's name and their homeroom room number. Simply pop it in your homeroom teacher's outgoing mailbox and wait for it to get delivered. We always use lots of fun stationery this month so if you are willing to send some in for your child's classroom to use, we would appreciate it!

Families and Community Engagement

The Van Hise PTO hosted several meetings with the Families and Community Engagement (FACE) groups last year. This includes a series of teams, empowerment groups, open gyms and weekend events, adult clubs and classes, grade-level meet-ups, trainings and speakers.

If you are interested in any of these empowerment groups or forming additional groups, **please let us know**. The groups will begin meeting again in the next few weeks.



Our fourth restaurant night is coming up on **January 21!**

Head over to Shake Shack in Hilldale (558 N. Midvale Blvd.) all day. The PTO will receive 25% of all sales.

USE Code: DONATE

Thanks to your generosity, we've raised over \$600 from Shake Shack Donation Days so far this year.



Read Your Heart Out

Part of the learning in February will include celebrating Black History Month.

Van Hise will host a Read Your Heart Out (RYHO) event held in celebration of National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID). VHE's RYHO event will be held on Friday, Feb 14th, 2025.

Family members, community members and volunteers who identify as African American/Black read books, recite poetry or connect with students through visual or oral storytelling in the classroom. [Please sign up using this link](#) or the QR code above.

Read Your Heart out is an event that has been held in MMSD for 21 years.



After School Classes

REMINDER: If your student is attending after school classes, please send them with a snack.

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 folks with legal or communications experience.

Spring class offerings and registration will be announced in March.



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.

Do you have friends or family in the neighborhood who might have extra time to give to the school? Encourage them to work through the volunteer process and **check our website** for opportunities to support Van Hise.

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.

Due to schedule changes this year, the lunch room volunteers are especially needed to help ease transition into and out of the lunch room - even just one shift makes a huge difference!

Find Volunteer Opportunities for Lunch, Recess, and Other Events Here



You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday, 1/14 at the PTO meeting! Check www.vanhisepto.org for updates.

VAN HISE PTO
ELEMENTARY





Try email marketing for free today!