

# The Hedgehog Herald

Van Hise Elementary Monthly Newsletter

October 2023

**NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, October 10th at 6:30 pm. IN PERSON @ VHE in the library with Zoom option. 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)



## We Love Our Families!

### A Message from Principal Stein

Thank you for making our Open House & PTO Social Event this past month a successful time to connect with new faces! We had a fantastic turnout from you that allowed our staff to highlight the important work that we are doing together!

Seeing students connect and reconnect with their peers after school was wonderful! Our PTO's organization with the ice cream & communication was very appreciated; I believe it was their great work to bring in the weather that allowed us to be outside too! Thank you for the warm welcome- Kyle and Malachi were so thankful for the kindness you have given to us not only at this event, but throughout the past months.



## Learning Targets Posted & Unpacked in Our Classrooms

As you come into our classrooms, you will see learning targets posted for subjects. Why? According to Robert J. Marzano, "Students who can identify what they are learning significantly outscore those who cannot." The act of posting the essential outcomes does not raise our students' achievement, it is the act of unpacking what they mean and referring to the goal several times within a lesson that is a high leverage practice. When students know what they are aiming for, they typically can hit any target!

## Fire/Safety Drills

Our monthly fire drill was a success. Thank you for your support in assisting our children with understanding why we complete these practices, and other ways that promote being safe at school, within our community, and homes. Please know that throughout the months we practice various drills that are not always announced. I will

send communications to you about the drills after they happen as well.

## **New Shoes!**

Van Hise Elementary school was chosen when an anonymous community member completed a recommendation for our school to receive new shoes through Tradehome Shoes. The many boxes of new shoes were delivered to us this past month and will be part of the many ways we all come together to support all families. Thank you on behalf of VHE!



## **It's All About Our Practices & Learning Together!**

As the year gets underway, your child will have me come to their classrooms to learn, observe, coach, and teach (besides being part of the lunchroom)! This is the best part of being a principal today- my role includes being the lead instructional leader. In the upcoming weeks I am thrilled to join Mr. Dyer's 4th Grade class as he has invited me in to teach alongside him!



## **Community Building at VHE: Assembly & Morning Meetings**

This year staff are continuing with ways that support having spaces that promote significance, belonging, and community! This includes having our schedule include time for having a Morning Meeting- most grade levels have 30 minutes at the onset of the school day this year.

Responsive Classrooms are so important to developing our social and emotional needs. During this time we also include lessons on Social & Emotional Learning and Health. This includes 1)Daily Greeting 2)Morning Message 3)Activity 4)Share. Also, I have planned for monthly Good Character Assemblies that will typically be during the last week of the month. On Monday we welcomed all scholars and staff with the message that we are part of an amazing community & chosen to be a Hedgehog! In the future our 5th Grade Leaders will plan and facilitate these whole group opportunities!

## **Cafeteria Hand Sanitizer Stations**

I have worked with our building service team to set up 2 stations at our cafeteria for students and staff to use to assist in preventing illness, spreading of germs, etc. We will continue to work through how we will fund the cost of the sanitizer itself as this is not something that MMSD provides to our schools.

## **Fridays are Van Hise Spirit Day and/or Inclusivity Wear**

On Fridays we welcome everyone to wear Hedgie and/or inclusive flair. This includes wearing our school colors- lime green & teal. We want to continue to support our diverse community within our school as well to show that we have a lot of pride in our school.

## **Thanksgiving Baskets**

It is that time of year to sign-up for Goodman Baskets for Thanksgiving! There is a separate link for MMSD Families ([MMSD form](#)).

To register for a 2023 Thanksgiving Basket from Goodman Community Center fill in all required fields. A bright orange postcard and email will be mailed to your mailing address the week of November 13 with pick up instructions. Pick up dates will be November 18 - 20, with specific times assigned.

Public links will open on October 16th. All forms will close on October 27th. If you have questions or need assistance, reach out to Van Hise's school social worker,

## Events at a Glance | OCTOBER

**OCT 10**

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

**OCT 13**

**PICTURE DAY**

**Mid - OCT**

**Annual Direct Appeal Fundraiser  
Begins**

**OCT 20**

**NO SCHOOL**

**OCT 24**

**SHAKE SHACK @ HILLDALE**  
Fundraiser Night  
**CODE: DONATE25**

**OCT 31**

**NO SCHOOL**  
Early Release at 11:30 am



## We Welcome YOU!

Our monthly meeting is coming up on Tuesday, October 10th at 6:30 in the VHE Library. The meeting will stream on Zoom from 6.30-7.

- If you need child care to make it in-person, please contact [prez@vanhisepto.org](mailto:prez@vanhisepto.org) by 5pm on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- If you have any questions or topics for discussion, please submit to [prez@vanhisepto.org](mailto:prez@vanhisepto.org) by 5pm on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- There will be an interactive session in the room from 7-7.30 to plan for the rest of the school year.

### A Couple of PTO business items:

We are looking to fill the Treasurer Board position. The person who takes on this role will be mentored by our current Treasurer. This is a great way to be involved! Please email [prez@vanhisepto.org](mailto:prez@vanhisepto.org) if you are interested or have any questions.

We work to keep the PTO website updated and a source of good info to help you navigate your Van Hise experience. Don't forget to check it out and keep it bookmarked! [www.vanhisepto.org](http://www.vanhisepto.org)

## October Restaurant Night



Our monthly Shake Shack Restaurant Night is coming up on **October 24th**.

Head over to 558 N. Midvale Blvd. (in Hilldale Mall) for a chance to skip cooking and to raise money for the PTO. We earn 25% of all sales using the donation **code: DONATE25**. You can use the code and place orders for delivery, carry out, or dine-in from 11am – 9pm.

## Donation Request from the Office

Van Hise is in need of both disposable and reusable water bottles; please bring donations to the office. As we prepare for cooler weather, we are also preparing to accept donations of new and gently used winter gear (hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, coats).

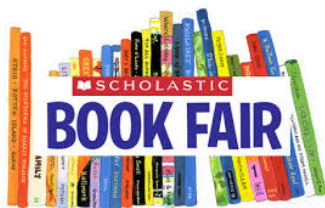


## Picture Day Volunteers Needed

Help students have a great photo taken on Picture Day! Provide support for the two photographers, keep kids moving, get kids ready for their photos and assist teachers with kids once their photos are finished.

Volunteers will check in at the office. \*\*All volunteers must have completed the [MMSD volunteer training](#) prior to October 13.

[Sign Up to Volunteer Here](#)



## Book Fair is Coming Soon

The annual Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon. This is a fun event, that happens during Fall Conferences on November 2nd and 3rd.

The PTO helps coordinate volunteers to help put this wonderful event in the library on. Consider signing up!

Please reach out to [prez@vanhisepto.org](mailto:prez@vanhisepto.org) if you are interested in playing a larger role in coordination and are available the week of October 30th.

For volunteer shifts, [sign up HERE!](#)





The Van Hise Elementary PTO has a tradition of organizing potluck meals for staff around Fall and Spring conferences. Treating staff to a meal is one way we can show our appreciation for the long days of work they put in preparing for and holding conferences.

Conferences are scheduled on both Thursday, November 2 and Friday, November 3 so we'd like to offer a variety of foods that staff can grab throughout each day as their schedules allow.

We need your help! Please consider contributing a dish, disposables/other supplies and/or helping with setup or clean up. Sign up below to indicate how you can help. Contact [prez@vanhisepto.org](mailto:prez@vanhisepto.org) with any questions.

Thank you for helping to sustain our wonderful staff who work hard to support our kids and maintain connections with our families.

**Sign Up to Help**



**Annual  
Direct Appeal  
Coming Soon**

Our Annual Direct Appeal Fundraising campaign will be opening in the middle of October. This fundraiser is responsible for the bulk of the funds the PTO is able to use to support teachers, staff, students, the building and grounds, and families. Keep an eye out for more information coming to you soon!



## **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. Volunteers check in at the office and receive a vest. Remember: to volunteer, you must have completed the MMSD steps to become an "Approved Volunteer" ([\*see the MMSD volunteer page for information\*](#)).

**Playground Volunteer Sign  
Up**

**Lunch Volunteer**



## AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

### After School Classes Updates

Classes currently in session are no longer accepting students. If you have questions about enrollment contact:

[afterschoolclasses@vanhisepto.org](mailto:afterschoolclasses@vanhisepto.org).

If you are interested in a scholarship, please contact our school social worker, Molly McNett at [mmmcnett@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:mmmcnett@madison.k12.wi.us)).

Winter classes, which begin in January 2024, will be announced in December. Stay tuned for more information, including when registration will open and close.



### MMSD Superintendent Search

MMSD is looking for family input as it conducts its search for the next superintendent. Click [here](#) to learn more about how you can share your thoughts.



### News From Around the Building

**We're excited to share some of the wonderful things happening in classrooms around VHE!**



#### From Ms. Nelson's Third Grade:

Have you ever solved a Rubik's Cube? Well, Sully from Ms. Nelson's third grade class, demonstrated his skills when sharing from his "All About Me" bag. Sully skillfully solved the cube right in front of his class! Impressive!



#### From Mr. Lynch's Art Room:

It's a brand new year and the artists of VHE are off to a FABULOUS start! We began our art adventure with every student designing their own "cube" and adding it to this year's collaborative hallway display. This project was based on the mesmerizing wall works of Los Angeles street artist, ThankYouX. The result is a massive smattering of cubic forms that really gives off the feeling of 3-dimensions! Seeing all of our work displayed together as one cohesive

piece reminds us that it takes every one of us to build a strong VHE community.

In other art news, each grade has now ventured off into their own projects. Kindergarten and first graders are discovering the power of lines, shapes and colors with some awesome abstract art. 2nd grade is carefully crafting crayon sculptures while learning what makes a structure strong (parents, ask your 2nd grader about **armatures**). 3rd and 5th graders are both taking on portrait projects, although the results could not be more different. And lastly we've got the 4th graders embarking on an optical illusion adventure with a VHE classic, *Moon Roots*!



Stay tuned for more awesome art happenings or follow us on instagram [@vhe\\_art\\_room](https://www.instagram.com/vhe_art_room) for weekly art posts!

Artfully Yours,  
Mr. Lynch



## From Van Hise Physical Education:

In this first month of school we have been practicing how to move our bodies safely around the gym. We have learned about locomotor movements. Locomotor movements take us from one place to another (skipping, galloping, jumping, walking, running...). We have also learned some recess games to play outside.

Many of you may have heard your kiddos talking about GAGA ball. Gaga ball is a striking game that is fast paced and gets students moving. Make sure you ask your child more about gaga ball!

A friendly reminder to send your child to school with an extra pair of gym shoes. I'm seeing many sandals/boots/clogs in the gym. I want all students to be able to move safely and good athletic shoes are the best in the gym. If you are unable to have an extra pair of shoes at school please reach out and we will get them some.



Looking ahead, this year our Kids Heart Challenge will be in November. The Kids Heart Challenge is in partnership with the American Heart Association. We will be learning all about heart health by jumping rope in the gym. We then ask students to help raise money for other families statewide that are affected by cardiovascular challenges. Each year the prizes that can be earned change. Look at November's newsletter for more information.



## Spirit Wear for All

The PTO is excited to distribute spirit wear to all students, staff, and teachers this year so that we can show our Hedgie pride together!

Teachers will be sending home a flyer so that your family can choose the size that would best fit your child(ren). Please send it back by October 10th so that we can place our order.

\* T-shirts will be free of charge and will feature our very own Hugo Hedgehog!

## Coming in November...

Just to get you ready, here are some important things coming in November. We will send details as we get closer to the events.

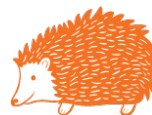


- November 2: Evening Conferences, Staff Potluck, and Book Fair
- November 3: No School - Conferences, Staff Potluck, and Book Fair
- November 14: PTO Meeting
- November 15: Picture Re-take Day
- November 21: Shake Shack Restaurant Night (Code: DONATE25)
- November 22 - 24: Fall Break



You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday, 10/10 at the PTO meeting! Check [www.vanhisepto.org](http://www.vanhisepto.org) for updates.

**VAN HISE** PTO  
ELEMENTARY



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