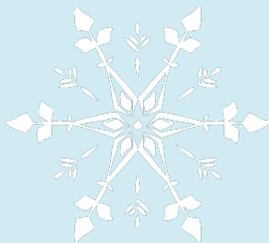


NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, February 8th at 6:30 pm via [Zoom](#)

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,

I hope you all had an enjoyable Winter Break! The new year is a time of reflection for me, and I have thought a lot about the families and staff at Van Hise School over the Winter Break. I have enjoyed being at VHE and feel welcomed and appreciated.

As an MMSD (state) retiree, I can only work so many hours without losing my state retirement. In order to extend my tenure at VHE, beginning January 24th I will be sharing the principal position with Mrs. Linda Kailin. Linda has subbed for Mary in the past so VHE staff know her and Linda knows the school. I will be here Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Linda will be here Thursdays and Fridays. Linda and I have worked together many times in the past. Linda is also a retired MMSD principal. I will continue to be the principal attending the PTO meetings, staff meetings, leadership meetings, etc. Both Linda and I want to keep the school moving forward educating your children in the VHE way. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Kathy Costello, Interim Principal

Events at a Glance | FEBRUARY

FEB 8

PTO MEETING via Zoom

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

FEB 10

FAMILY CONNECTIONS GROUP

Discussion group for families of students who are experiencing learning difficulties/struggles.
6:30 pm
Zoom link [HERE](#)

FEB17

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT GROUP

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

6:30 pm

Zoom link [HERE](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Hedgie Gear Store is Open!

- Use the QRS code (right) to get to the site. Alternatively, you can also find your way to the store on our PTO [website](#).

VHE Store
www.vhestore.com



Come play with the kids on the playground during lunch recess!

- We have a number of February shifts open!
- **Sign up** to help staff supervise recess.
- 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.

VHE Staff
www.ezshirtz.com/vhestaff
password: vhestaff



Leave a Kudoboard Message for Ms. Seidl

- Submit a message of support for Ms. Seidl and her family [here](#).



MMSD is preparing to welcome volunteers in school. As a result, there are changes in the training required, as well as the approval process.

To be considered an “approved volunteer” and provide support to a school or classroom, volunteers must complete these steps:

1. **Create an account** in Volunteer Tracker and complete your volunteer application. This will include a background check and, eventually (within the next week) COVID-19 vaccination verification. If you have created a Volunteer Tracker account in the past, we encourage you to log-in to ensure it is up to date.
2. **Required training** includes a 2 hour live training ([sign up here](#)), and 1.5 hrs of self-paced training on COVID-19 Health & Safety and Building Safety & Security. Access the online training by creating an account in MMSD's [Volunteer Training Center](#). *Be sure to use the same name and email address that you used for your Volunteer Tracker account.* You will be prompted to confirm your account by email. Once the trainings are completed, your status will be updated in the Volunteer Tracker. Contact pd@madison.k12.wi.us if you need technical support accessing the online trainings.

SEND IN YOUR FAMILY PHOTO!



Van Hise misses having our families in our building! To help our students remember the families who love and support them, please send one fabulous horizontal photo to us so we can display it on a screen in the school hallway! You can send the photo via this form: [google form to capture photos](#) OR send it to emileham+VHEphoto@madison.k12.wi.us. Please send us just one fairly large horizontal shot with all your family members included!
-VHE Equity Team



Send Kindness & Support to Ms. Seidl

As many of you know, Ms. Seidl's husband is battling cancer. She is currently on leave to be by his side during these difficult days. To support and uplift Ms. Seidl, we encourage you to share messages, photos, and videos on our group Kudoboard.

[Kudoboard](#)

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Our school community graciously asks "how can we help"? on a regular basis. We are so grateful! Our current needs are listed below. If you have any of these specific items to donate, please feel free to drop off during the school day in the front vestibule with Rachael Nachtwey's name on them.



-Ms. Nachtwey, VHE Social Worker
rnachtwey@madison.k12.wi.us

ITEMS

- Snow pants (size 8-14)
- Snow boots (size 3-6)
- Reusable water bottles
- One subject wide ruled notebooks
- Colored pencils
- Markers

FAMILY HELP

Also, 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 house after school) for those parents who are having problems finding after school care. Please reach out directly to Rachael if you'd like to volunteer to share your availability. Thank you!!

Kindness @ VHE

To accompany "No Name-Calling Week," Van Hise has posted banners near the Segoe driveway and near the Breezeway doors on the Waukesha side. Be sure to point them out to your child to start a conversation about how they can stay safe and keep others safe at school!

Words Matter!

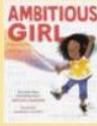
SafeToBe @ VHE

Celebrate Kindness

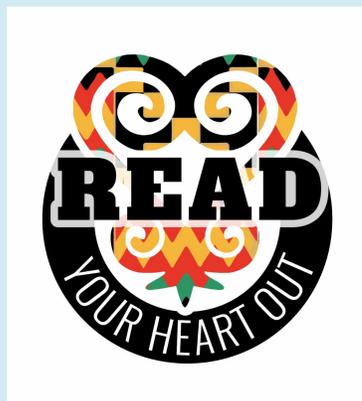
NO
NAME-
CALLING
WEEK

GLSEN

Also, stay tuned for the following kindness all-school reads at VHE during the remaining months of the school year:

Kindness All-School Read Alouds				
Sept/Oct - Latinx Heritage Month Oct 4-8 	November - Native Am. Heritage Mo. Nov. 8-12 	December - Intl. Day of People w/ Disab. Nov. 29-Dec. 3 	January - No Name-Calling Jan 18-20 	
February - Black History Month Feb. 14-18 	March - Women's History Month March 7-11 	April - Arab American Heritage April 4-10 	May - Asian Am. / Pacif. Islander May 9-13 	June - Pride Month May 30 - June 3 

Some of these reads may be subject to change. - The VHE Equity Team



Read Your Heart Out

Van Hise is excited to hold Read Your Heart Out this year on Friday, February 25th. The event, which is inspired by National African American Parent Involvement Day, foregrounds a love of literacy through the lenses of black/African American identities. Teachers are looking forward to welcoming virtual readers--including Hamilton middle schoolers, our VHE families, and other black/African American members of our community--to enjoy stories, poetry, and more! Teachers will be reaching out soon to sign

up interested families. If you have a connection with community members (extended family, colleagues, community leaders, etc) who identify as black / African American and who would want to be virtual readers, please share their contact info with Edie Mileham emileham@madison.k12.wi.us and/or Becka Robbins rrrobbins@madison.k12.wi.us of VHE's Equity Team. If you would be willing to help with coordinating the event, please reach out as well! Thank you Van Hise community!



PE with Ms. Sorensen

Hello Families,

In PE we are learning about our heart and how to keep our bodies healthy. We are also partnering with the American Heart Association to help families who have children with heart conditions.

We are getting ready to take a "road trip" with the Kids Heart Challenge Explorers and we welcome you to jump on board! We will be celebrating by participating in a

jump rope unit during class, At home you can learn other important health related activities, too.

Mark Your Calendars:

January 31 – Feb 11, 2022

Kids Heart Challenge is here!

Captain KHC will lead you through:

- Finn's Mission to learn – Hands-Only CPR and Signs of a Stroke
- Family "Move More" challenges
- Virtual reality field trips
- And so much more...

It's as EASY as 1... 2... 3...

Click on our VHE link below to get involved and help raise money for a good cause:

<http://www2.heart.org/goto/VanHise>

***BONUS*: The top fundraiser will get to Name the Gym!!**

The top fundraiser will get to name the gym ANYTHING they want for the rest of the year. The banner will hang in the gym for everyone to see.

-and-

Any students who raise \$200 will receive our limited edition Captain KHC!

-and-

EXTRA CREDIT: ALL who complete Finn's Mission will receive their very own Finn's Lifesaver Award!

More information to come in the upcoming weeks. See our flyer *HERE*.



Van Hise musicians of all ages have been studying Hindustani style music of northern India by the artist, Falu. This style of music involves a lot of ornamentation--or the decorating of the melody by adding and changing some notes. Of course, you don't have to look far to find ornaments in music! Jazz, pop, classical, R&B, gospel--lots of

styles of music involve making little changes to the melody by adding notes.

In fact, the world is full of ornaments! Even the music classroom. Things that are not structural or functional, but have been added to create interest, personality or beauty are in the world all around us. We all might decorate (ornament) a little differently and that is what makes our own space unique. Musicians also might ornament differently. Beyonce doesn't sound just like Mariah Carey. They could both sing the National Anthem, but choose different ornaments, which gives the performance a certain individual style.

To listen to a Falu piece that we have been studying for the ornaments that are added, listen to this concert performance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHFRmGx2W8M>

For fun, you can take any piece that you know and add ornaments. We tried two very different pieces-- We Shall Overcome and Twinkle Twinkle--and decided to add notes going up, down or both on various words.

I am hopeful that looking up close at this one aspect of music helps our students

become expert noticers of all the wonderful details and choices all around us that add interest, style and beauty to the world!

-Ms. Jenks, Music Teacher



MEET OUR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

Hi Everyone! I am Tara Salzwedel, the school psychologist at Van Hise. I am at Van Hise on Monday afternoons, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Since I am not in a classroom, I'd love to take this opportunity to share more about my role as a school psychologist as well as share some background information so everyone can get to know me a bit better! I grew up in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin with my dad, mom, and younger sister. I then moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin to get my Psychology degree at UW-LaCrosse. I knew I always wanted to work with children and my internship and volunteer experiences in La Crosse helped me realize that I wanted to work with children to support their mental health and well-being. Schools are great venues to support students in all capacities, so that is why I chose to become a school psychologist! I then moved to Madison and commuted to UW-Whitewater to earn my graduate degree in School Psychology. School psychologists have several roles in schools: we support interventions to help students develop academic and social-emotional skills, support school-wide practices to promote learning, support preventative and responsive services related to mental health to promote learning, and support family and school collaboration. I realize that can sound like a lot of jargon so I often tell kids I am a helper in the school! I began working for MMSD in 2012 and came to Van Hise in 2015. I enjoy working at VHE because I love the variety of students I get to work with! All the students come from such diverse backgrounds, and I feel lucky to be able to learn from them each and every day!

To share a little bit more about myself, I live in Madison with my husband and two sons (Trey who is two and a half and Carter who is nine months). In terms of hobbies, I like to be outside and go on hikes or walks. I also enjoy being active and doing activities such as running, playing tennis, and working out. We moved to a new house last March, so I've also really enjoyed working on the landscaping and the interior design of our new house. I also enjoy reading self-improvement books and doing art related activities. In my spare time (which I can't say I have much of these days with two little ones), I like to get manicures and read!

You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday, 2/8 at the PTO meeting! Check www.vanhisepto.org for updates.



VAN HISE PTO 
ELEMENTARY