

# The Hedgehog Herald

Van Hise Elementary Monthly Newsletter

September 2025

**NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, September 9th 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](http://www.VanHisePTO.org)

## September Newsletter Items Include:

- PTO Meeting Tuesday, September 9
- We Need You!
- September Events
- MMSD News
- VHE Spiritwear
- Garden and Green Spaces
- After School Classes
- Upcoming Reminders: Shake Shack + Bucky Book



## We Welcome YOU!

**Our monthly PTO Meeting is coming up on  
Tuesday, September 9th.**

Join us for our first PTO meeting of the year! We will approve the **2025-2026 operating budget**.

The VHE PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) is a volunteer-run organization that works to engage our school community and enhance classroom learning by providing volunteer and monetary support to a broad range of events and projects that benefit students, teachers and families. All are members.

- Please send any questions to [pres@vanhisepto.org](mailto:pres@vanhisepto.org) by Monday, September 8th.
- PTO provides child care free of charge to families. Email [pres@vanhisepto.org](mailto:pres@vanhisepto.org) if you plan to bring a child(ren) so we can plan accordingly.
- NOTE: PTO will not have snacks at this meeting. You are welcome to bring your own.

# We Need You!

## CONSIDER BEING A PTO CLASS REP!



Class Reps streamline communication and create a sense of community between families and our amazing teachers and staff! Class Rep responsibilities:

- Help coordinate families to support teachers through volunteering
- Help communicate important info to parents from the PTO and teachers
- As a grade level, help organize one PTO event and one grade level playdate

Estimated time commitment: 1-3 hours of fun per month.

Grandparents and other adult family members are welcome!

**EMAIL [PREZ@VANHISEPTO.ORG](mailto:PREZ@VANHISEPTO.ORG) WITH QUESTIONS!**

We have lots of other volunteer opportunities! Come to our first PTO meeting of the year on September 9th to hear more or email [prez@vanhisepto.org](mailto:prez@vanhisepto.org).

[WWW.VANHISEPTO.ORG](http://WWW.VANHISEPTO.ORG)

If you have any feedback or thoughts about how to engage this year - please use the **Hedgie Feedback Form**.

MMSD requires volunteers at school-based events involving kids (including field trips) to be approved. Please work through the **MMSD volunteer page** to get approved or check your current status.

NOTE: the school is not accepting lunchtime or recess volunteers this year.

## Events at a Glance | SEPTEMBER

### September 9

September PTO Meeting  
6.30PM in VHE Library  
or **ZOOM**

### September 16

Shake Shack Fundraiser (11 AM - 9 PM) - code: DONATE

### September 25

VHE Open House (4-6 PM)

In response to recommendations and requests from families, we have created a **public PTO calendar (click to subscribe)**. Please let us know what you'd like to see included.

We're excited to explore opportunities to partner more with the West-feeding elementary schools this year. We anticipate some of the PTO-led work to support parent and family empowerment groups and meetings last year will transition to be more school- and MMSD-led.

The district is beginning to explore changes to **school attendance areas**. There is a **survey** currently open for feedback and input from parents and caregivers - please share your thoughts with MMSD.

Each year, MMSD school board members are assigned to schools. Nichelle Nichols, MMSD School Board President (and former Hedgie parent), is assigned to VHE this year.

## Van Hise Spiritwear

The **Hedgie Gear store** will open September 9 for fall orders. We will send an announcement when it is open. Orders will be delivered to school October 1.

The PTO is pleased to continue to support the tradition of providing a student-designed shirt for all students and staff. We anticipate shirts will arrive in the next few weeks.

Are you interested in helping design spiritwear for VHE? If so, please let [communications@vanhisepto.org](mailto:communications@vanhisepto.org) know.



## Garden and Green Spaces Team Updates

At the VHE Open House you can explore the work of the PTO-supported Rooted Program and VHE Gardens and Green Spaces team. Both indoor and outdoor learning spaces will be available and "open" and staffed for family visitors to explore!

### SAVE THE DATE

Fall Garden Cleanup- Saturday October 25, 2025 from 10:00AM - 1:00PM

VHE PTO Garden and Green Spaces Team Meetings - All are welcome - meet in the VHE library.

- Wednesday, October 8th from 5:00PM - 6PM
- Wednesday, December 3rd from 5:00PM - 6:00PM
- Wednesday, February 4th from 5:00PM - 6:00PM

- Wednesday, April 8th from 5:00PM - 6:00PM

Check out the **Garden and Green Spaces Team Newsletter** for more information.



## After School Classes

We know many of you are eager to get our after school classes started. We are working with staff to identify after school classes for this Fall. We will send both email and print copies of class offerings prior to registration opening. Registration will likely be open mid-September with classes beginning late-September or early-October.

Please email [prez@vanhisepto.org](mailto:prez@vanhisepto.org) or [afterschoolclasses@vanhisepto.org](mailto:afterschoolclasses@vanhisepto.org) with questions.

**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.





SHAKE  SHACK®

# DONATION DAY

**Tuesday, September 16th**  
**11am - 9pm**

Mention Donation Day at the register  
or use promo code **DONATE**  
on the Shack App, web, or kiosk at checkout and  
we'll donate **25%** of your total meal purchase to

**Van Hise Elementary PTO**

HILLDALE CENTER  
558 N. Midvale Blvd. | Madison, WI 53705



## Bucky Books

We are excited to partner with Bucky Books again this year. The PTO receives \$10 for every book purchased. **Click here** to purchase your book today!



You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday, 9/9 at the PTO meeting! Check [www.vanhisepto.org](http://www.vanhisepto.org) for updates.



Van Hise Elementary | 246 South Segoe Road | Madison, WI 53705 US

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