

The Hedgehog Herald

Van Hise Elementary Monthly Newsletter

November 2024

NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, November 12th 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



As we enter into a season of reflection, and are surrounded by messages of both hope and hate, we remain grateful for our VHE community. We are stronger together.

We continue to work to build and support our community. We continue to work to find ways to be a more inclusive and equitable space to learn and thrive.

We value your voice. We value your presence. We value the part you play in supporting our kids.

If you have any feedback about the work we're doing to support the community (good, bad, or otherwise), please share it [here](#).

-Van Hise PTO

2024-25 Daily Schedule

Morning

8:10am - Doors open

8:10 - 8:25am - Breakfast is available

8:25am - Tardy bell

Dismissal

2:00pm on Monday

3:20pm on Tuesday - Friday

A Note from The Health Office

The Health Office is in need of the following items (fitting kinder through fifth grade):

- socks

- sweatpants, joggers, and leggings (NOT jeans)

Any donations are appreciated and can be dropped in the office.



Events at a Glance | NOVEMBER

November 9

VHE Open Gym - Day of Giving ([sign-up here](#))
1 - 3PM in Gym and Cafeteria

November 10

VHE Fall Garden Clean-up ([sign-up here](#))
10AM - 1PM

November 12

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

November 13

School Picture Retake Day

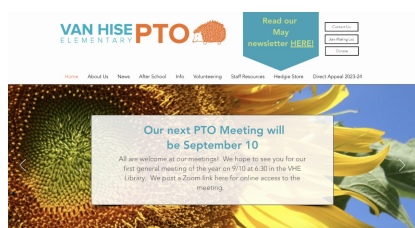
MMSD Advanced Learning Family Information Night
5:30PM at Holtzman Learning Center

November 14

Parents and Caregivers with Kids with Learning Differences
6PM in VHE Library
or **ZOOM**

November 19

Evening with MMSD Board Member Savion Castro
6.30PM in VHE Library



We Welcome YOU!

Our monthly PTO Meeting is coming up on **Tuesday, November 12th.**

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

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

November 11th.

- 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.
- Our meeting agenda is available [here](#).

As always, check out our website at www.vanhisepto.org for up to date news.



Mr. Lynch's Art Room Update

- Kindergarten: Students are exploring painting styles using pumpkins and apples, learning about texture and color.
- 1st Grade: We're focusing on mindfulness and control through dot walk drawings, encouraging calm and intentional movement.
- 2nd Grade: Students are embracing chance by creating "Roll-a-Dice Monsters," letting randomness guide their creativity.
- 3rd Grade: We've started our cityscape project using point perspective, diving into the basics of creating depth in artwork.
- 4th Grade: Practice makes perfect as we work on value through our "Spooky Moon" paintings, just in time for fall.
- 5th Grade: The finishing touches are being added to our Lego self-portraits, showcasing personal creativity and character!

Stay tuned for more creative updates!

Families and Community Engagement

The Van Hise PTO is excited to relaunch Families and Community Engagement (FACE), which includes a series of teams, empowerment groups, open gyms and weekend events, adult clubs and classes, grade-level meet-ups, trainings and speakers. Thank you to everyone who has joined the first few meetings and we look forward to continuing to grow these groups and opportunities.

If you are interested in any of these empowerment groups or forming additional

groups, **please let us know**. The PTO is pleased to lead the (re)launch of these family- and community-initiated groups.

What to expect from the empowerment groups?

- The initial meetings are open to anyone who might be interested.
- The meetings will be in the Library at Van Hise.
- Children are welcome and child care will be available.
- Families and caregivers should come with ideas about what they hope to get from the group(s) - connections, resources, sub-groups, trainings, guest speakers, etc.

We are also looking for community support for these efforts.

- Do you or someone you know want to help with translation or interpretation?
- Do you or someone you know want to help provide child care support during meetings and meet-ups?
- Do you or someone you know have connections to free or discounted food (e.g., pizza) to serve at meetings or sell at events to raise funds?

Our first 'adult club' - a walking group - is ready to kick off Tuesday and Thursday mornings after drop-off. Anyone interested can plan to meet at the Little Free Library on the playground to depart for a neighborhood walk at 8.30am. **Please let us know** if you would like us to add additional days and/or times. We are also exploring forming groups for knitting & crocheting, book clubs, running, and language learners/speakers. **Please let us know** if you're interested in any of these or have additional ideas, and also if there are preferred days and times to meet.



Van Hise Gardens and Green Spaces

The PTO is supporting a partnership with the Rooted Program. Last month kicked off a six-session series of classes. Thanks to teacher input, the Kindergarten Amplified Science curriculum has been embedded into an outdoor learning journey.

From our Rooted Partner -

In our fall garden experiences, I am integrating hands-on science exploration of the six edible parts of plants with how plant growth and food production are impacted by the weather. Essentially blending components of botanical, food, and weather science through the application of basic scientific methods on a kindergarten level (using our five senses to observe the natural world and pull the information together/make connections, identify patterns, and to ask "wonderment" questions). I am also modifying and expanding this experience for an hour-long afternoon class of mixed grade levels, taught with a co-educator. These experiences have been met with great enthusiasm by scholars and educators alike.

Garden Clean-up

The VHE Garden and Green Spaces committee **needs your help!**

As fall begins to wrap up, one of the major tasks of the committee is to "put the gardens to bed" for the winter. This year we're hoping to recruit more volunteers to help. Beautifying the gardens cannot happen without

significant community support.

Feel free to come and volunteer for as long as you wish. Family members & children are more than welcome to help. Putting the gardens to bed involves many tasks, including:

- 1) Put garden beds to bed for the winter
- 2) Prune perennial flowers
- 3) Weed the prairie and prepare it for a pollinator garden
- 4) Support the work of the Garden Classes
- 6) Build garden signs

The PTO will have warm drinks and snacks available to volunteers. Meet at the garden shed on the Waukesha St. side of the school near the LMC.

Email Elyse Ford at emford@madison.k12.wi.us with any questions.

NOTE: The rain date for this event is November 17.

[Sign Up Here to Help](#)

Shake Shack

Our third restaurant night is coming up on **November 19!**

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

USE Code: DONATECHICKEN

Thanks to your generosity, we've raised over \$400 from Shake Shack Donation Days so far this year.



Open Gym and Day of Giving

Join the Van Hise Community for Open Gym and Day of Giving

When: 1-3 PM

Where: Van Hise Gym and Cafeteria

All students (and siblings) must be accompanied by an adult.

Celebration Kits (cafeteria) - Ms. Amy, our school social worker, is starting a resource room for Van Hise families. Our goal is to assemble 50 celebration bags to donate to the resource room. Kids can decorate a bag and fill it with all of the fun needed for a birthday party or

celebration.

If your family is in need of a bag, please reach out to [Ms. Amy!](#)

Thank You Messages, Pictures, and Notes (cafeteria)

There will be card making supplies for students and families to write a message to members of the VHE community to let them know how much they mean to you.

Open Gym (elementary school gym)

There will be activities in the gym for students to burn off some energy.

Snacks/Refreshments (cafeteria)

Snacks and refreshments will be available for purchase in the cafeteria. All sales will go to the PTO to support the cost of supplies and future free community events.

Please consider donating to the PTO to support the celebration kits and ongoing community events and resources.

[Sign Up Here to Help](#)



After School Classes

Thank you to everyone who has supported the PTO After School Classes this year. We will share information about 2025 classes and registration next month.

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.



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.



Hedgie Store

The **Van Hise spirit wear store** is now open.

Van Hise PTO Spiritwear Shop

Check out the Hedgie Shop at the link above, or scan the QR code to be whisked right to the Hedgie Shop. Make sure to consider buying Hedgie Gear for Christmas Gifts. If you have any problems navigating the site, please call or text us at: 8232198233.

You can now purchase your items online in 3 easy steps:

1. Scan the QR code or go online to <https://vhstore.com/>
2. Choose your items and add them to your cart
3. Securely checkout with your credit card

Online Store Deadline: Monday December 9th, 2024 (11:59am CST)

<p>Part & Company Youth Core Cotton Tee</p> <p>11 Colors View Item</p> <p>An indispensable t-shirt in our classic silhouette—with a very friendly price \$4.99/ounce, 100%...</p>	<p>Ladies Core Cotton Tee</p> <p>11 Colors View Item</p> <p>An indispensable t-shirt in our classic silhouette—with a very friendly price \$4.99/ounce, 100%...</p>	<p>Part & Company Core Cotton Tee</p> <p>11 Colors View Item</p> <p>An indispensable t-shirt in our classic silhouette—with a very friendly price \$4.99/ounce, 100%...</p>	<p>Long Sleeve Core Cotton Tee</p> <p>A no-fills t-shirt in our classic silhouette—with a very friendly price \$5.49/ounce, 100% cotton/92...</p>	<p>Youth Crystal Tie-Dye Tee</p> <p>11 Colors View Item</p> <p>Individually hand dyed, each tee is as unique as the one wearing it \$5.49/ounce, 100% cotton/92... link...</p>	<p>Crystal Tie-Dye Tee</p> <p>11 Colors View Item</p> <p>Individually hand dyed, each tee is as unique as the one wearing it \$5.49/ounce, 100% cotton/92...</p>
<p>Deepest Youth Very Soft Tee</p> <p>11 Colors View Item</p> <p>A comfortable tee that delivers style \$3.99/ounce, 100% combined ring spun cotton... 34 singles/60/40...</p>	<p>Deepest Very Soft Tee</p> <p>11 Colors View Item</p> <p>Crafted from ring spun cotton for ultimate comfort \$3.99/ounce, 100% combined ring spun cotton... 34...</p>	<p>Deepest Womens Very Soft Tee</p> <p>11 Colors View Item</p> <p>It's important to feel comfortable and this soft tee delivers \$3.99/ounce, 100% ring spun combed...</p>	<p>Youth Core Fleece Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt</p> <p>11 Colors View Item</p> <p>Cozy sweats in our core weight 7.8-ounce, 50/50 cotton/poly fleece/jet yarn for softnessho...</p>	<p>Part & Company Ladies Core Fleece Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt</p> <p>11 Colors View Item</p> <p>Cozy sweats in our core weight 7.8-ounce, 50/50 cotton/poly fleece/jet yarn for...</p>	<p>Part & Company Fleece Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt</p> <p>11 Colors View Item</p> <p>Cozy sweats in our core weight 7.8-ounce, 50/50 cotton/poly fleece/jet yarn for...</p>

This store is estimating to ship products by November 25th, 2024

Questions? John Roth 823-210-5233 john@ezshirts.com <https://ezshirts.com>



Donations

Throughout the year, we will make requests of the community for donations toward snacks, clothing, and other items.

Please consider donating high protein snacks like string cheese and meat sticks, as well as dried seaweed. They can be dropped off in the office.

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.



Lunch Cafeteria Volunteer

Lunch Recess Volunteer

Mark Your Calendar

- **November 9: Open Gym and Day of Giving**
- **November 10: Garden Clean-up Day**
- **November 12: PTO Meeting**
- **November 13: School Picture Retake Day**
- **November 14: Parents and Caregivers of Kids with Learning Differences**
- **November 19: Evening with MMSD Board Member Savion Castro**
- **November 27-29: No School - Fall Break**

Coming Soon

- *Annual Direct Appeal*



You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday, 11/12 at the PTO meeting! Check www.vanhisepto.org for updates.

VAN HISE PTO
ELEMENTARY 



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

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