

**NEXT PTO MEETING: Tuesday, October 11th at 6:30 pm. [Zoom link HERE.](#)**

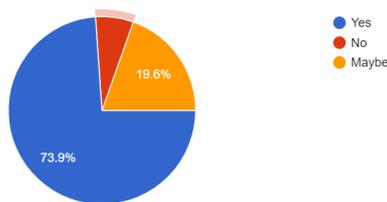
**This is a long email!** Make sure to expand your email to view the whole message. You'll see a singing hedgehog at the end!



## Gratitude for a wonderful launch to 2022-23!

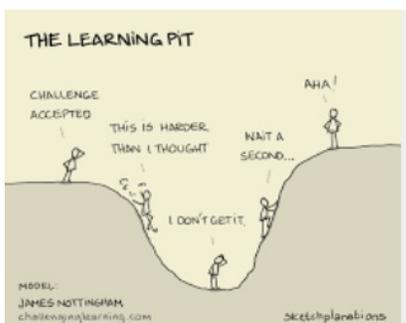
Thank you to everyone who joined us for the September kick off with Root Beer Floats after school! It was well attended, and, of the 92 families that responded to our survey, 83% reported that the event met the goal of

supporting our equity vision at Van Hise (reminder our equity vision is that at Van Hise We ALL Belong). The following chart shows responses to the question - should we continue to hold the event:



Lastly, 84% of families reported that they felt this was a good event for staff to attend. Thank you to the volunteers and PTO for sponsoring such an incredible launch to this school year!

Our school year launched with a focus on teaching all students HOW we do school at Van Hise - from classroom expectations to device contracts and recess rules, all of our hedgies worked to gain a common knowledge of the way to be a hedgie! We also shared the learning pit in September - this is a conceptual model of how learning takes place.



We all enter the pit to take on new learning, sometimes hitting a wall when we are deep in the pit, but then working to get over that wall to be successful and gain new skills. This tool provides us with common language and sets us up to talk about our learning for the year ahead!

This year, as teachers, we are all jumping into the learning pit as well! We are tackling learning using a new district literacy curriculum, Open Up, in addition to a new science curriculum, Amplify. They each provide a wealth of materials for our teachers to use and will support the continued growth of students this year.

In closing, a reminder for the year ahead! As we welcome the season of bundling up with coats in the morning and then leaving them on the playground at lunch recess, please remember to check our lost and found - it is now located in the front entry of the school. We will donate any items left there on the 15th of each month.

Thank you for the honor of serving your school community this school year as Principal. It is my fifth year, and, as I work to define my new role as a widow after my husband's passing in April, it is good to rely on the smiling faces of your children to fill my cup each and every day!

Grateful to be a hedgehog,  
Mary

## Events at a Glance | OCTOBER

**OCTOBER 10**

**PICTURE DAY**

**OCTOBER 11**

**PTO MEETING**

6:30 PM via **Zoom**

**OCTOBER 14**

**NO SCHOOL**

**OCTOBER 31**

**EARLY RELEASE**

11:25 am



### Picture Day Monday, October 10th

We wanted to send a friendly reminder that Picture Day is coming up on Monday, October 10th! Thank you to those who filled the volunteer spots. We are all set for a smooth (and stylish) day.



**Direct Appeal  
Coming Soon!**

Our annual Direct Appeal Fundraising Campaign is coming soon! Keep an eye out for

an email, messages on our Facebook page, and on our website ([www.vanhisepto.org](http://www.vanhisepto.org)) for details.



## Playground Volunteers

We still have open spots on our playground volunteer Sign-Up List. Volunteers are needed from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM to supervise students on the playground for 30 minute shifts. Anyone helping out must complete the MMSD steps to become an "Approved Volunteer" ([see the MMSD volunteer page for information](#)).

Playground Sign Up



## After School Class Update

Thanks to everyone who has shown interest in helping with after school classes. **Stay tuned for more information about classes, which we hope to get up and running soon.**

Last week, we had an informational meeting for those interested in volunteering to help make after school classes happen. If you are interested but weren't able to attend, you can watch the meeting [HERE](#).

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

## A Request for Clothes Donations

Our school Social Worker, Rachael Nachtwey, works to support families in our school community. We encourage you to be in touch with her if your family needs support.

**She has identified current donations needs.**

- Underwear for K-2 students
- Gender neutral pants in sizes 6-10 (particularly slim size 8-10 if possible).

If you would like to make a donation, please contact Ms. Nachtwey at [rnachtwey@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:rnachtwey@madison.k12.wi.us). Items can be marked with "Rachael Nachtwey DONATION" and left in the front vestibule.



## Board Elections

At the October general PTO Meeting, we will be voting to fill three vacant PTO Board positions. Below, you can read about the candidates.

### Becky Brausen

My name is Becky Brausen, and I have been a VHE parent many years. I currently have a 5th grader and my son attended VHE but graduated HS last year.

I absolutely love this school and our wonderful community and enjoy helping with events and

anything that is needed to help our school.

### Ena Lee

My name is Ena Lee (pronounced Eh-nah) and I'm running for the PTO's At Large position. Although my family is new to the VHE community (my son, Alex, started Kindergarten this year), I believe that my leadership experience at Preschool of the Arts has prepared me to serve effectively on the PTO. Most notably, I served as Board of Director for 2 years and Room Parent for 4 years, procured donations and sponsorships from local businesses for events like National Teacher Appreciation Week and the Spring Gala for the Fundraising Committee, and led a task force on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Additionally, I founded the school's roving library, a collection of carefully curated books that focus on diversity/inclusion, in an attempt to allow the students to see themselves reflected in their environment as well as to gain an accurate understanding of others' realities. When I'm not working as a dentist, I enjoy traveling with my family, running, and exploring everything Madison has to offer.

### Jason Ankenbrand

Hi, my name is Jason Ankenbrand. My family and I relocated to Madison in June in a long overdue return to the Midwest. We have three daughters, Sydney (20) a Sophomore at Northern Illinois, Brooke (9) a fourth grader and Paige (7) a second grader both at Van Hise. My professional background includes Management Consulting, Accounting and Finance roles. If elected, I hope to leverage my professional experience to help grow the Van Hise PTO to create new opportunities for all the students.



## A few more Classroom Reps Needed

Are you looking for a way to help out our amazing VHE teachers and your child's class? We need 2 Reps for EACH class to:

- Help coordinate families for teacher/staff appreciation and other support activities (e.g., group gifts)
- Help with parent communication (send occasional emails)
- Facilitate social opportunities/virtual community for students and classroom families (if interested)
- Attend PTO meetings and share important info with classroom families (as able)

Classroom Reps are the glue that helps our classroom communities stick together. It's a great way to get to know your teachers and the other families in the class. There is flexibility to do what works best for you and we give you support to make it easy and rewarding. Plus it's always more fun with a partner! You can support our teachers and our Hedgie community by *signing up* to be a Classroom Rep. Estimated time commitment: 1-3 hours per month. Grandparents and other adult family members welcome!

Thanks,  
Andrea Olson ([andrea@lordolson.us](mailto:andrea@lordolson.us))  
VHE Classroom Rep Coordinator

[Class Rep Sign Up](#)



## Get Your Hedgie Gear

Head to the online store to pick out some spirit wear for your student and family! You can find the link [HERE](#) or on our [PTO webpage](#) under Hedgie Store. Notice that at the bottom of the store page, you can choose to donate to the Hedgie fund to help those in need purchase gear. Please be in touch with [prez@vanhisepto.org](mailto:prez@vanhisepto.org) with any questions.



## CREATIVE CORNER

### Mr. Lynch's Art Room

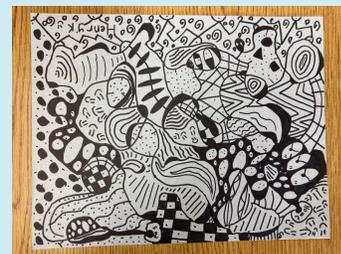
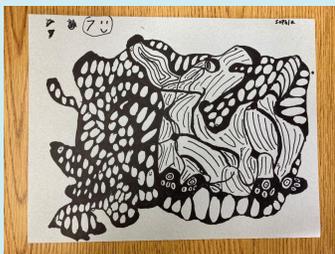
The Van Hise artists are at it again! As of last week, we have our first collaborative installation up in the hall, and it looks SO COOL! This year, each student designed their own unique piece of "dotwork" in celebration of international Dot Day (Sept 15th...ish). We examined closely the power that an artwork has alone, compared to when it's displayed with others. The result is a mesmerizing collection of dots that has students wiggling with excitement, especially when they spot theirs! This work gives students an idea of the power we have as a school community, and what great things can happen when we come together.



Several grades have continued into the new year with a focus on control. We've asked ourselves, when do we *have* or *not have* control in art? 2nd-4th grade families, ask your kiddos to teach you the "dot walk" game with a pencil, paper, and coin! This abstract exercise has resulted in some really strong compositions. Just look at these 4th grade creations!

More exciting artwork to come in the upcoming weeks. Stay tuned!

Artistically Yours,  
Mr. Lynch



## Physical Education Update & Reminder

We have started our 2022-2023 year off with one of our favorite units, Gymnastics!! It is amazing to see so many improvements on strength, flexibility, and balance at the start of the school year. We have so many brave kiddos

at our school that overcome the many obstacles gymnastics has. Here are some pictures from our gymnastics unit.

Also a reminder as we start to get into the cooler months. **Gym shoes are an important part of being active and moving safely in PE.** Gym shoes are any sneaker type shoe that can be laced, velcroed or slipped on and protects the foot when moving (not boots, heels, or sandals). Also having a pair that stays at school is also helpful when it starts to get wet and muddy outside.



Thank you!  
Ms. Sorensen



You've reached the end. We hope to see you Tuesday, 10/11 at the PTO meeting! Check [www.vanhisepto.org](http://www.vanhisepto.org) for updates.

**VAN HISE** PTO  
ELEMENTARY



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

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