

February PTO Meeting - Tuesday, Feb. 4th

Principal Seidl's Spotlight

Report cards are getting ready to make their way home and we have kicked off the second semester of our 2019-20 school year! It is the time of year when we reflect on the first half of the year to inform the second half.

Our school-wide theme this year, Say Something, begins by thinking about who you are - your story. Knowing who you are informs what and how you want to say something. Importantly, "saying" something can be done with words, but also in writing, with a communication device, or even in silence - not saying something, can also say something.

Our Van Hise Elementary first semester story was marked with events to set the stage for hard work by learning more about our students and partnering with our families. We lifted off the year with Fall conferences and also found time to celebrate together while doing some hard work. Here is a recap of some highlights...

September: We launched the year with Ready, Set, Go! Conferences, welcomed 441 Hedgies to the 2019-20 school year, and completed Fall assessments to inform our quarter 1 instructional plans.

October: Academic Success nights celebrated our school-wide read, "Say Something" as we hosted families across our school and shared practices that families can use to support their student's success.

November: We celebrated our Blue Ribbon honor including hosting guests from West High School, sipping hot chocolate, and forming a blue ribbon for a drone fly-over. We also welcomed parents for Fall conferences!

December: Staff members have met regularly in preparation of our G6 lift off next year - five teachers attended the SLATE (School Leaders Advancing Technology in Education) conference.

January: Snow! We finally had enough snow to pull out the sleds and have fun...without a polar vortex. We also gathered mid-year assessment data to inform our report cards and will use this to inform second semester instructional moves.

Our first semester "story" serves as a foundation upon which we will build as we welcome second semester. February in particular serves to ground our work, with many calendar place holders that we honor. Here are some of the chapters in our second semester story:

***Black History Month** - We look forward to lifting up our district's vision for black excellence all month. The first week of February in particular is Black Lives Matter Week of Action, a collaboration of Madison Teachers Inc (MTI) and MMSD.

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MEREDITH LAVITT

DON'T BE AFRAID TO TELL
YOUR STORY,
YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT
AND YOUR STORY IS UNIQUE.

*Lifting Family Voice - Thursday, 2/6/20 from 4:30 to 6:00 we will host a school-wide celebration that provides an opportunity within classrooms for families to share a tradition, routine, or cultural artifact. Note, there will not be food carts due to snow; however we are planning on snacks for families to enjoy including popcorn and hot cider! We hope you will join us to “Say Something” as a family at VHE.

***Positive Post Office** - This February we will have our very own Van Hise positive post office! Aligned with our school equity vision, we want all in our community to feel that they belong. As a result we do not celebrate holidays including Valentines Day; however we do want to honor the sentiment of taking time to show kindness to one another which often happens on this day. The Positive Post Office will provide an opportunity for everyone in the school to acknowledge and appreciate each other for longer than just one day. It gives everyone an opportunity to “Say Something” kind to each other!

***Jazz and Friends National Day of School and Community Readings** - On February 27th, the National Education Association honors teaching students about different identities that exist within our community. As a Welcoming School, Van Hise will again this year expand students’ perceptions and understanding of gender in a developmentally appropriate way, and increase students’ understanding of ally behavior. Welcoming Schools lessons provide an opportunity for students to serve as an ally to peers and Say Something when it matters for others who may not be the same as them.

As a staff our professional development has also aligned with our work of lifting voice. Just as our students need to know what to say before they “Say Something,” so to do staff need to know their own story. Becoming better teachers for all students requires us to first reflect within. Knowing what we do, and why we do it, helps inform how we do it.

Our staff development and the upcoming events in February align with our school-wide equity vision: At VHE we want all to experience a sense of belonging. To support a sense of belonging we are focusing on story - each and every voice is important and matters at Van Hise. The second half of our Van Hise story is starting out strong and I value and honor the role you play in this novel...or comic book!

Warmly,
Ms. Seidl

Events at a Glance | JANUARY

FEB.4

PTO MEETING

Join us for the January PTO meeting. We will meet in the Van Hise Library. All are welcome! Childcare provided.

6:30 - 8:00 pm

FEB.6

**LIFTING FAMILY VOICE
EVENT**

Join us for this school wide family event in classrooms. There will be popcorn and hot chocolate.

4:30 - 6:00 pm

FEB.7

FEB.11

STAFF ONLY DAY

**CHOCOLATE SHOPPE
FUNDRAISER**

Head to the Chocolate Shoppe at 555
S. Midvale to help raise money for the
PTO!

4:00 - Close

FEB.21

WINTER CARVIVAL

Join us for this fun event that takes place in the Van Hise cafeteria and gyms. There will be food, carnival games, and a raffle. Food will begin at 5:00, and games will begin at 5:30. All are welcome!

5:00 - 8:00 pm

Head to the Chocolate Shoppe on **Feb. 11th** and give some sweet support to the PTO!

**Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream Co. Sequoya Commons
555 South Midvale Blvd. • Madison, WI 53711**

**20% of all proceeds will support
Van Hise Elementary School**



4:00pm - Close
Tuesday, February 11



Van Hise Elementary Carnival 2020

Friday, February 21st
Food: 5 - 6:45 pm
Games: 5:30 - 8:00 pm

***Watch your email for volunteer opportunities!**

Join us for this special and fun filled Van Hise tradition! Enjoy dinner, carnival games, and a raffle. Advanced tickets will be available for sale at 8 am the morning of the Carnival. Tickets are also available for purchase during the event.

G6 UPDATE & SURVEY

In 2020-21, Van Hise will join other MMSD schools that are supported by technology. We are “group 6” or G6. That means that other schools in the district (G1, G2, G3, G4, and G5) have all received this technology already. The advantage of being in the last group to receive this technology means that we benefit from the experience of those schools that have gone before us! That said, we are spending this year preparing for this technology. Our staff has attended conferences and conducted school visits to inform our work. We would like to hear from you! What questions do you have about the use of technology at Van Hise elementary? Please complete [this survey](#) so staff can best consider how to incorporate these new devices next year in the rigorous and fun curriculum VHE students know and love!



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

The winter Box Tops Challenge is on! Collect Box Tops, send them to school, and earn money for Van Hise. The class that collects the most will earn a special prize!

You can also collect digitally using the Box Tops app. [Click here](#) to learn more. By downloading the app on your phone, you'll be able to scan store receipts and the app will identify participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our school's earnings online. The contest will run **February 10th - 21st**. Collection sheets will come home with each child but feel free to send Box Tops to your classroom teacher in a baggie.

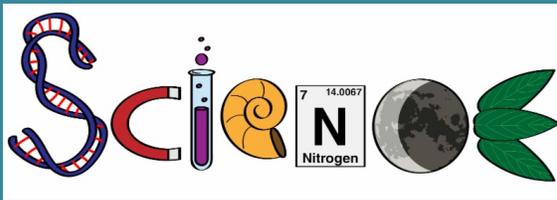
Thank you for collecting!
Molly Cooney (molbarr13@gmail.com)



JOIN US! LOADS of Opportunities - Big & Small

Join a supportive group of parents to help bring the activities and opportunities that the PTO brings to the Van Hise community to life. We always need volunteers to help out in roles - big and small. Come to a meeting and listen in, speak up, or volunteer to fill a specific role. We would like to specially invite you to our next meeting on Tuesday, **February 4th at 6:30 in the library.**

Email our PTO president, Jodie Thill, at prez@vanhisepto.org for more information about opportunities!



Mark your Calendar SCIENCE NIGHT IS COMING! Friday, April 17th

Calling all students who love science... Or having fun exploring science!

All Van Hise students are welcome and encouraged to prepare a hands-on project or an exhibit about a scientist.

This is a chance for students to explore and share something about science that they think is fun and exciting! All student projects will be demonstrated. There will also be fun, hands-on exhibits from local science experts to explore. Need ideas? There are a TON of resources to help students (and parents) available online. The Van Hise's librarian is also available to help with resources and ideas. **Click on the form for more information!**

Dear all
FOR AN SPECIAL PLEASE SEE PARTICIPANTS!

Get Ready for Van Hise's



Friday, April 17, 6:00-7:30pm

Calling all students who love science... Or having fun exploring science!

All Van Hise students are welcome and encouraged to prepare a **hands-on project** or an exhibit about a **scientist**.

This is a chance for students to explore and share something about science that they think is fun and exciting! All student projects will be demonstrated.

There will also be fun, hands-on exhibits from local science experts to explore.

Need ideas? There are a TON of resources to help students (and parents) available online. The Van Hise's librarian is also available to help with resources and ideas.

Keep in Mind:

- This is an extra opportunity for students to complete at home. Time will not be provided during classroom hours.
- Students will demonstrate their project and share the science behind it to other students, parents and teachers visiting the science night.
- Students will be assigned a time slot during which they will present their hands-on project or exhibit (no more than 30 minutes, unless they want to stay at their station longer) so they can explore other stations.
- All kids will also have time to explore the projects and exhibits.

We want your kids to have fun exploring science!!!

Have questions about a student project or need help coming up with an idea?

Contact Wendy Crabb (wendy.m.crabb@gmail.com)

If you are interested in helping with Science Night we need you! Please contact wendy.m.crabb@gmail.com

SPECIAL AREA SPOTLIGHTS

Music Notes

From Margaret Jenks (2-5) and David Olson (K/1)

K-3 graders are about to begin our Carnegie Hall designed Musical Explorers unit! Carnegie has produced some wonderful resources with performers from around the world. The artists talk about their musical journey and share music that they are really passionate about. Last year, students

paper form. If an event or trip comes up in your child's class, and you would like to volunteer but are not approved ahead of time, we cannot let you volunteer. Avoid disappointment all around and complete your application today! Here is the link: <https://appgarden6.appgarden.com/VolTrackWI3269.nsf>

It can also be found via the district website: www.mmsd.org, choose Working with MMSD and then follow the link to Volunteer Opportunities. Approvals can take up to two weeks, so just do it now and be set to join in when it's time. Thank you for your volunteer support!

District Required Lock-Down Drill in February

Last summer the district worked with outside agencies to inform and update emergency protocols across all schools. This included updated procedures for lockdown drills. Students received training on these protocols at the onset of the school year. We are required by state statute to regularly conduct safety drills to ensure that our students and staff know what to do in the event of an emergency. We conduct monthly fire drills. We are also required to conduct one pre-announced "school violence event" drill, or Lockdown drill. As a reminder, we would implement a Lockdown in response to a threat or hazard inside the school building. We will be holding our Lockdown drill on February 11, between 9:00 and 11:00am. You will receive additional information in the coming days. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Van Hise Elementary School
Madison, Wisconsin

VAN HISE PTO
ELEMENTARY 

VHE SCHOOL WEBSITE * VHE PTO WEBSITE