

January PTO Meeting Tomorrow - Tuesday, Jan. 14th

Principal Seidl's Spotlight

Welcome to 2020!

My hope is that your break was filled with all that you love and this communication finds you eager to welcome the new year. Thank you for your continued support of our school - 2020 will certainly be a great one for Van Hise Elementary! This newsletter will highlight three of the upcoming events in this new year:



1) A new, improved School Improvement Plan (SIP)!

This month our school joins the district in working toward the development of a revised SIP process. Similar to our current SIP, our plan will continue to identify goals as well as strategies to meet those goals. However, the revised plan will include more opportunities for us to “tell our story” as a school.

We begin will begin this process by lifting family voice at VHE. On February 3rd at 2:15, I invite all families that receive English Language Learning (ELL) to a meeting with myself and our wonderful BRT and BRS staff. These families will meet without staff and share their experience of our school to inform our revised SIP for the coming year.

2) Lifting Family Voice event February 6, 2020.

Family involvement is a critical part of our success in planning our School Improvement Plan (SIP). Instead of holding a Welcome Back Picnic last August, staff who work to develop events for families defined the need for an event that occurred mid-year. We realized that if a family moved in after conferences in November, we may not meet the family until April conferences with our current calendar. We also wanted to support our school-wide theme of lifting family voice. Our February 6th event will involve staff, parents, and students coming together and will provide an opportunity within classrooms for families to share a tradition, routine, or cultural artifact. There will also be food carts on site that are optional for families to enjoy. More information will be shared in the weeks ahead, but please mark your calendars and join us February 6th from 4:30 to 6:00pm.

3) G6!

Van Hise is a “G6 School.” This means that we are the sixth group of schools to get technology for our students and staff. This year we are working to train ourselves as a staff so that this Fall when we receive our technology updates, we will be ready to use our updated technology to support the continued success of our students. Please know that technology is a tool to support our high quality instructional practices, it does not replace instruction but rather supports it. You will be hearing

more about G6 over the weeks ahead via classroom newsletters, and we will also be holding a special parent meeting in March - stay tuned for more updates!

Warmly,
Ms. Seidl

Events at a Glance | JANUARY

JAN.12

PTO MEETING

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

6:30 - 8:30 pm

JAN.20

NO SCHOOL

JAN.24

NO SCHOOL



Donate to the Winter Carnival Raffle

A wonderful tradition, the Winter Carnival will be upon us soon. (Mark your calendars for **FEBRUARY 21st!**) We need help filling out our Raffle with items or experiences donated from you, our community. There will not be classroom baskets this year, so the Raffle will feature prominently during the evening. We would particularly like

to offer raffle experiences, so if you have a skill you would like to share or an experience, please email our PTO president, Jodie Thill at prez@vanhisepto.org.

MONONA TERRACE PRESENTS |

TERRACE TOWN 2020



It's Terrace Town time!!

This year, the 4th and 5th grades have been working diligently and enthusiastically to construct our very own green city out of recycled materials. In conjunction with the Monona Terrace, we have are participating in the 2020 Terrace Town! We have learned a ton about architecture, alternative energy, urban agriculture, green modes of transportation, and planning a quality city! Students have been busy creating buildings, housing, parks, transportation and many multi-use facilities. Our model city will have 6 neighborhoods and covers an area of 16x36 feet. It is a giant-little city!

Do you want to see what we have created?

Join us on **February 1, 2020 at the Monona Terrace from 10 am - 4 pm** to see what our future city planners have created! Check out our island community, our university, the public safety system, our tree-house neighborhood, electric cars and water filtration plant!

For more information check out the link for Terrace Town:

<https://www.mononaterrace.com/event-group/terracetown/>



Safety, safety, safety!

As the snow begins to fall and we all adjust to needing more time to get to and from places, I want to join the Madison Police Department in asking everyone for their help. Here are four things they recommend: **SLOW DOWN! School zone speed limit is 15 mph.**

Observe the signals of the crossing guard. You must remain stopped until the children AND crossing guard has returned to the curb. This week we celebrate our crossing guards: Jan Gehrke at Mineral Point/Segoe; Sandy Witkauskas (Waukesha/LaFayette), Doug Bradley (Midvale/Mineral Point Rd.)

Park only where it is legal (NOT on Waukesha at drop off/pick up).

U-Turns are strongly discouraged in school zones and there is a new "No U-Turn near the entrance of Van Hise.

Thank you for your vigilance!

THE PTO NEEDS YOU!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We continue to need volunteers to help the PTO bring to life its many activities and roles. We would like to specially invite you to our next meeting to hear more about opportunities. **Our next meeting is January 14th at 6:30 in the library.**



We are a supportive organization, so there is guidance and help along the way. Email our PTO president, Jodie Thill, at prez@vanhisepto.org for

more information!

Be a Classroom PTO Rep

Sign up to be a conduit between the PTO and your child's classroom community. Many classrooms do not yet have a rep for this year!

Playground Committee

We in the process of putting together a new committee to work on adding equipment and design features to our playground. Email Carousel Bayrd at cbayrd@gmail.com for more info.

Food for the Winter Carnival

Coordinate pizza order & delivery, secure fruit donations from local grocery stores, purchase chips, plates & napkins (cost is reimbursable) & coordinate volunteers to serve the night of the event. Estimated hours: 10-12.

Multi-Cultural Night

Coordinate a potluck dinner and performances by students, families and area dance troupes.
Event date: March 6
Estimated hours: 20-30

Science Night

We need someone to coordinate exhibits and, if willing, coordinate the exhibit of kid science projects. This would be great for a pair of people.
Event date: April 17
Estimated hours: 20-30

After School Coordinator

A longer term need!
Work with a great team to help schedule after school classes. Work with teachers to help plan and schedule the after school class offerings.
Need: Immediate
Estimated hours: 8-10 hours per month.

SPECIAL AREA SPOTLIGHTS

Music Notes

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

Mr. Olsen: K - 1st Grades

Kindergarten and 1st grade music students are growing their skills and reviewing concepts and skills in performing, reading, and creating everything from slow and fast tempo to high and low sounds as we've returned from break. Look up songs such as "The Rock Island Line" and "You'll Sing a Song and I'll Sing a Song" to connect with your child around our classroom music. As we conclude our unit exploring the drums we will move into a new season of Musical Explorers!



Ms. Jenks: 2nd-5th grade

2nd-5th graders have started the new year in music shoring up our vocabulary on how to analyze, describe and explain musical ideas. We have talked about how "I like it" or "I don't like it" doesn't really tell anyone much about the music (or help us get to know it better), but if we think about the basic elements of music, it can change what we notice and how we connect with the music. Next time you are listening to music at home, try using the musical elements to help talk about what you think it exciting, interesting, powerful or enjoyable about the music! If you are not familiar with the elements of music, ask a VHE student to talk to you about Melody, Rhythm, Harmony, Texture, Timbre, Form and Dynamics and how they can help us notice and listen more deeply.

P.S. We watched a very special conductor lead the St Olaf Orchestra on an exciting piece of music and used the musical elements vocabulary to talk about the piece. If you would like to see Chewbacca conduct the Star Wars music by composer, John Williams, here is a link to the family concert that it came from. It is 1:02:33 into the concert (last piece).

<https://www.stolaf.edu/multimedia/play/?e=2856>

Art Happenings

From Mr. Lynch

"To Sculpt, or Not To Sculpt..."

It's a new decade which calls for new materials, new ideas, and new projects! The Van Hise fourth and fifth graders are taking a dive into the world of street art and urban beautification while adding artistic touches to their Terrace Town buildings. Be sure to check out the final product on Saturday, February 1: 10am-4pm @ the Monona Terrace.



Meanwhile! Third grade is considering structural architecture in their own way while preparing to sculpt clay castles! Since it is crucial that all Van Hise students start clay at the same time, k-3 is graciously using the weeks leading up to terrace town as an opportunity to explore their subject matter from multiple angles.

In the case of second grade, what better way to prepare for making Italian clay cuisine than a multi-media pizza party?! As first grade gears up to make their clay vessels, we are exploring the idea of negative space and what it means to use the shape of an object to make an entirely new one. Kindergarten will also be making new discoveries as they are introduced to three dimensional form-building for the first time at VHE. Stay tuned for more art room happenings!

Keep Creating!

Mr. Lynch



Van Hise Elementary School

Madison, Wisconsin

VHE SCHOOL WEBSITE * VHE PTO WEBSITE