

## A Note from Our Principal

### In This Issue

- ◆ Principal's Letter
- ◆ School Calendar
- ◆ Oodles of Doodles Blog
- ◆ PTO Notes
- ◆ Boxtops for Education
- ◆ VHE Attendance and Student Pick-Up Policy
- ◆ MMSD Tardy and Attendance Information
- ◆ TAG Information
- ◆ Yearbook Information
- ◆ VHE Holiday Pottery Spectacular
- ◆ MSCR Winter Program Info.



Dear Families,

What a wonderful start to the school year we had – great weather and a lot of learning and fun happening around here. Our school garden is prepared for the upcoming winter; vegetables harvested, plants pulled out or cut down by our families and children. While the garden rests until spring time, we continue our work! Our children know the routines and expectations in their classrooms.

November also means that some of us will be taking the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE). As parents/guardians of our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, please support your child by ensuring that they have a good breakfast each day and go to bed at a reasonable time. This is the best way of preparing for this test, along with what the teachers do to assist our students to get ready for the WKCE. We are also encouraging our younger students to be quiet in the halls when they see the signs posted throughout the school indicating testing time.

November also marks the time for conferences. Your child(ren)'s teachers have a lot to share with you. Just think, we have been in session for over 2 months, and your child has learned so much in this time. Be sure to share your questions, concerns and other information that you might have with your child's teacher at the conferences and throughout the school year. During this conference, your child is invited/expected to attend and together you will review the Individual Learning Plan for the school year that was developed during your Ready Set Goal conference. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to me or your teacher(s).

We will have the Scholastic Book Fair set up in the cafeteria during conferences in November. This is another thing our PTO organizes for the purpose of **fund** raising. There are a number of good, current books for all levels of reading and enjoyment. The proceeds from this fund raiser go to a number of things in our school; books for guided reading and shared reading in our classrooms, furniture, and more.

(Continued)

We are also taking time to talk as a staff and with our students about “bullying”. You will find some information from our school district in this newsletter. As a school, we work to create safe learning environments where students feel they can engage in rigorous work and connect to their peers. When an incident happens where children are bullying or have been bullied, you can trust that we take it seriously and work with all involved to learn from the experience. This includes engaging families in the process of healing and restoration for each child.

I want to thank all of you for contributing to our school in whatever way you can – either sharing your time, taking such great care of our children so that they are ready for learning each day, or by contributing to the fund raising happening through our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). There is a sense of abundance in our school because of the fundraising efforts, and we are able to purchase some things that we might have needed to do without; a new laminator, more technology, funds for each classroom, and the list goes on! In the Segoe Street entrance, there is a “Giving Tree” that the PTO set up for our staff to put items for purchase for our classrooms onto the leaves☺. This is just another way that we are supported through all of you! Van Hise is such a great place to learn, work and have fun – and each one of you contribute to our success. Let’s have a great month ahead!

With Warm Regards,

Peg Keeler

[mkeeler@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:mkeeler@madison.k12.wi.us)



Estimadas Familias,

¡Qué comienzo tan maravilloso del año escolar que hemos tenido - buen clima y una gran cantidad de aprendizaje. Nuestro jardín ya se prepara para el invierno y las hortalizas ya se cosecharon. Mientras que el jardín descansa hasta la primavera, continuamos nuestro trabajo! Nuestros hijos saben las rutinas y las expectativas de sus salones.

Noviembre también significa que algunos de nosotros tomaremos el examen de conocimientos de Wisconsin y Conceptos (WKCE). Como padres / tutores de los estudiantes 3, 4 y 5, por favor apoye a su hijo al asegurar que tengan un buen desayuno cada día e ir a la cama a una hora razonable. Esta es la mejor manera de prepararse para este examen, junto con lo que hacen los maestros para asistir a los estudiantes a prepararse para el WKCE. También estamos animando a nuestros alumnos más jóvenes para permanecer callados en los pasillos cuando ven que los letreros estén indicando tiempo de examen.

Noviembre también marca el tiempo de conferencias. Maestros de sus hijo/as tienen mucho que compartir con ustedes. Hemos estado en clases más de 2 meses, y su hijo/a ha aprendido mucho durante este tiempo. Asegúrese de compartir sus dudas, inquietudes cualquier información que pueda tener con el maestro/a de su hijo en las conferencias y durante todo el año escolar. Durante esta Conferencia, es recomendable que su hijo/a asista

y juntos se revisará el Plan de aprendizaje Individual para el año escolar que se desarrolló durante las conferencias que tuvieron al comienzo del año. Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre este proceso por favor hable con sus maestros o conmigo.

La Feria del Libro Escolar se llevara acabo en la cafetería durante las conferencias en noviembre. Esto es otra cosa que nuestra Organización de Padres y Maestros (PTO) organiza con el fin de recaudar fondos. Hay una serie de libros buenos, actuales para todos los niveles de lectura para que usted y su familia puedan disfrutar. Los ingresos procedentes de este evento ira a un número de cosas en nuestra escuela; libros de lectura guiada y lectura compartida en nuestros salones, con mesas y sillas, y mucho más.

También estamos tomando tiempo para hablar como equipo y con nuestros estudiantes acerca de "acoso escolar". Usted encontrará algunos datos de nuestro distrito escolar en este boletín. Trabajamos como unidos para crear entornos de aprendizaje donde los estudiantes se sientan que pueden participar en rigurosos trabajos y conectarse con sus compañeros. Cuando se produce un incidente donde los niños acosan o han sido acosados, puede confiar en que tomamos en serio la situación y trabajamos con todos los involucrados para aprender de la experiencia. Esto incluye la participación de las familias en el proceso de recuperación y restauración para cada niño.

Quiero darles las gracias a todos ustedes por contribuir a nuestra escuela de cualquier manera que puede - o bien compartir su tiempo, u ofreciéndoles una gran atención a nuestros hijos para que estén listos para aprender cada día, o por contribuir a la recaudación de fondos que ofrece a través del PTO. ¡Hay una sensación de abundancia en nuestra escuela debido a los esfuerzos de recaudación de fondos, y hemos podido comprar algunas cosas que no hubiésemos podido adquirir; un nuevo laminador, más tecnología, fondos para cada salón y la lista continúa! En la entrada de la Calle Segoe, existe un "árbol de la bondad" que el PTO ha creado de cosas que nuestros maestros necesiten para sus salones. Esta es otra manera en la que nos sentimos apoyados por medio de ustedes. Van Hise es un lugar estupendo para aprender, trabajar y divertirse - y cada uno de ustedes contribuye a nuestro éxito. ¡Tengamos un exitoso mes de noviembre!

Con mucho cariño,

Peg Keeler, Directora  
[mkeeler@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:mkeeler@madison.k12.wi.us)



# SCHOOL Calendar

[www.madison.k12.wi.us](http://www.madison.k12.wi.us)

School Telephone: 204-4800  
Voice Mail: 204-4801

School Fax Number: 204-0419  
To report absences: 204-4807

## November

Tues	1	Picture Retake Day - AM
Tues	8	PTO Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Art Room
Thur	10	<b>NO SCHOOL – Parent/Teacher Conferences</b>
Thur	10	Book Fair – 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Fri	11	Book Fair – 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Mon	14	December Newsletter Articles Due
Thur, Fri	24-25	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> - Thanksgiving

## December

Mon	12	January Newsletter Articles Due
Tues	13	PTO Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Art Room
Mon	26	Winter Break Starts

**Winter Break**  
**Monday, Dec. 26 - Friday, January 6**

**OODLES OF WHAT?  
OODLES OF DOODLES!**

the art room has a blog!  
log on to see what's happening in art.  
the brand new blog will be frequently updated  
with news, events, and of course...art!

[www.vheoodlesofdoodles.blogspot.com](http://www.vheoodlesofdoodles.blogspot.com)

**Don't forget...**

*Hedgehog Herald  
Newsletter Articles Due*



**December Newsletter  
articles due  
Monday, November 14**

**Email to Kim Mohoney at  
[garykimmohoney@att.net](mailto:garykimmohoney@att.net)**



## NOTES FROM THE PTO

*Come and join the fun!*

*Support your kids and Van Hise Elementary!*

*Our **next PTO Meeting** is **Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**  
at 7:00 p.m. in the Art Room.*

*Child care will be provided for school-aged children in the gymnasium.*

❖ **REAP Fundraiser:** The REAP Holiday Fundraiser was a huge success. Sales totaled more than \$3700 and Van Hise earned \$1439! Thank you to everyone who participated. The orders will be ready for pick up on December 4. More details will be available soon. If you have any questions, please contact Shelby Connell at [sconnell@tds.net](mailto:sconnell@tds.net).



### **EARN FREE MONEY FOR VAN HISE WITH HOLIDAY SHOPPING:**

The holidays are the perfect time earn money for Van Hise Elementary. Avoid parking at the busy mall when you shop online at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or via Box Tops Marketplace. Remember to use you Target RedCard and recycle those empty Scotch Tape Dispensers and Solo Plastic Cups from holiday gatherings with TerraCycle! Continue reading for very easy ways to earn money for Van Hise all year around!

Check out all the great ways you can help Van Hise!

◆ **Amazon.com:** You can shop for books, music, movies, computers, electronics, furniture, pet supplies, toys, clothing, sporting equipment, car parts, and even the kitchen sink on Amazon! Amazon is the perfect location to shop if you are looking for school supplies, birthday gifts, getting an early start on holiday shopping, or just want to avoid lines at the store? Most items over \$25 ship for free. Next time you place an order on Amazon, first go to [vanhisepto.org](http://vanhisepto.org) and click on the Amazon School Rewards link, then do your shopping. Note that only new items added to your cart AFTER clicking on the link will apply. Up to 15% of your purchase at Amazon.com will go to Van Hise Elementary. Share the link with friends and family!

◆ **Target REDCard:** Shop at Target? The Take Care of Education program is a credit card program through Target where 1% of every purchase on your Target REDCard is donated to the school you select. If you don't already have a REDCard, please take the time to sign up the next time you visit the store. If you already have a REDCard, please make sure that you have designated Van Hise (code is 108762) as your school of choice. And, if you have already designated Van Hise, thank you and keep shopping.

◆ **Box Tops for Education:** Have you heard about eBoxTops from Box Tops Marketplace? Go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) and register (enter VHE's zip code – 53705, select Van Hise from the list, and complete the registration). Once you have an account, you can earn eBoxTops ([www.boxtops4education.com/Marketplace](http://www.boxtops4education.com/Marketplace)) whenever you shop online at Barnes and Noble, Crate and Barrel, Dell, Disney Store, Eddie Bauer, Hanna Andersson, [hotels.com](http://hotels.com), iTunes, Lands End, Old Navy, Oriental Trading Company, Snapfish, Children's Place, and many more. Select your store of interest from the Box Tops Marketplace list and you will automatically be taken to your shopping destination once you click on that store's icon. All Box Tops earn money for Van Hise "special" programs (Art, Music, PE).

◆ **TerraCycle** is a company that makes affordable, eco-friendly products from non-recycleable waste materials. TerraCycle prevents 1000s of tons of waste from going to the landfill. To do so, they run a free national collection program that pays non-profits and schools to collect various materials, which are then upcycled into products such as totes and shower curtains. Van Hise Elementary can earn 2 cents for every ELMER's glue bottle, ELMER's glue stick, SCOTCH tape dispenser, and plastic (#6) cup. Please save these items and drop them in the collection bin located just inside the doorway leading to the classrooms (or give them to your child's teacher).

◆ **Swiss Valley: Caps for Cash and Kemps: Nickels for Schools:** Mrs. Cantwell collects milk caps for the art program. Each cap collected is worth 5 cents. The caps have a sticker on the top indicating that they are part of the school donation program. Caps can be turned into the art room. Thanks for drinking milk and helping art!

◆ **The Giving Tree:** The PTO has asked all of the teachers at Van Hise for classroom wish lists. The wish lists have been put on a Giving Tree near the Segoe Entrance. Donating an item(s) from these wish lists makes a difference to your child's teacher and in the classroom. Please take a look at the items on the tree. Please contact Shelby Connell ([sconnell@tds.net](mailto:sconnell@tds.net)) if you have any questions.

Don't forget to mention Van Hise Elementary when making purchases from Office Depot who will donate a percentage of your sales to our local stores. Earn easy money for Van Hise when you shop...

**Please join us and get involved! Together, we can and will do great things!**

Thank you VHE Families, Friends and Supporters!

Thank you for making last year's PTO fundraisers such a HUGE success!

# Fall Fund Drive Meets its Goal!

Thanks to the generosity of nearly 150 families, the PTO raised **\$10,763** in just five weeks through its first-ever Fall Fund Drive!

Donations ranged from \$5 to \$500 and when pooled together exceeded our initial \$10,000 goal. Now these funds are being put to work helping Van Hise.

Last month, the PTO approved the purchase of a new laminator for the office (teachers have been without a functional laminator since last year), as well as a new CD player for the music program.

In addition, the PTO will be giving a \$200 grant to each classroom teacher as well as grants for the art, PE, music, Special Ed, ESL, and Reach programs to purchase classroom materials or use for a special project. Typically teachers receive \$100 in the fall and a second \$100 in the spring. However, because of the success of the Fall Fund Drive, teachers will receive their entire \$200 grant now so they can put the funds to work right away.

**We are so grateful to all of the parents, grandparents and friends who generously offered their support, and we look forward to telling you more about how your commitment is used to help Van Hise this year.**

If you have not received a receipt for your donation, it should be arriving soon.



the difference  
**1** can make.

The VHE Box Tops Back to School Challenge has come to an end. Thanks to all of you who diligently submitted all those box tops. The winning Classroom is Mrs. Miller's Class with a total of 1,349. Mrs. Miller will be the beneficiary of a free planning period while her class enjoys an extra recess. Mrs. Keeler will be coordinating with the Classroom to ensure they are able to celebrate their efforts.

Special kudos are to be given to all the students and Classes who participated, especially Ms. McGuire's Class who submitted 938 box tops and Mrs. Powell's Class who turned in 559. Over half the classrooms had well over 100 box tops turned in. Super job everyone!

Additional thanks to the Box Tops Brigade: Melinda Starkweather, Elaine Bogan, Shelby Connell, Karen Rouse, Jennifer Annin, Karen Barrett-Wilt, Stephanie Whitehorse, Jane Lonning-Faber and Julia Stein-Barnes. Your help cutting and sorting was greatly appreciated!

The box tops were mailed end of October with the final tally being **8,756** for a total of **\$875.60**. This total is based on all box tops gathered from March of last school year through mid-October. Van Hise Elementary can expect their check to arrive in December, before the Winter break.

Please keep collecting and turning in your box tops. Last year we hit a school record and submitted approximately 2000 box tops for the year. I am hopeful we can exceed that benchmark and with your help (and anyone else you know!) I believe we can!!

Snip, snip, snip!!  
Stacey Chandler, BTFE coordinator  
staciapc@gmail.com



## Van Hise Attendance and Student Pick-up Policy

Since the district is making clear its policy regarding student tardiness and attendance, we thought this would be a good time to state the Van Hise practices regarding those district policies as well. When students are tardy, they **must check in** at the school office to get a late pass. Checking in helps us make sure all students are accounted for, and lets us avoid making unnecessary phone calls regarding children who really did end up getting to school. It also helps to ensure an accurate lunch count for the day. **The school day begins at 8:30**; students who arrive after that time are considered late to school. Further, as you can see in the district's article in this newsletter, it is district policy that students who arrive more than 15 minutes after the start of the day will be marked as absent and unexcused for half of the day. Students who have a valid reason for being late, such as a medical appointment, will be excused. According to district policy, if several absences accumulate, a doctor note may be requested. This same policy applies to students leaving school before the school day ends.

If you need to pick your child up at some point during the day for any reason, district policy states that the responsible adult must come to the school office to sign the child out, and the child will then be called to the office to meet the adult. There are three key aspects to district policy regarding pickup of a student:

- Parents/adults must sign their student out in the office.
- The student is to be sent to the office to meet the parent/adult; students are not to be picked up at their classroom
- Students are not to be sent to the office in advance of the parent/adult arriving at school for the pickup

The primary purpose of the policy is student safety. By having the child come to the office where the adult is waiting and has signed them out, school staff knows the child has left with an appropriate person. If staff is unsure of your ability to pick a child up, they may need to request identification or make a call to verify your authority to take a child home. Though a child cannot be sent to the office to wait for an adult, please feel free to send a note to the office or to your child's teacher to give them notice that your child will be leaving so that they can help your child be ready at the appropriate time.

Finally, as always, please **report your child's absence to the school on the SAFE ARRIVAL line at 204-4800**. If there is no call from you, and we are then unable to reach you to confirm a reason for the absence, the absence will be unexcused. Thank you very much for your cooperation in keeping our students safe and in school for learning!

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**MMSD Changes in Attendance & Tardy Definitions and Procedures**  
**Elementary Schools**

**Pre-Approved Planned Absences**

When students are absent from school, there can be a negative impact on their school success. Every effort should be made to schedule non-emergency appointments and events before or after school hours, during school holidays, etc. Examples of non-emergency events include medical appointments, dental check-ups, college visits and orthodontist appointments. Absences that are planned in advance are called ***Pre-Approved Planned Absences*** and are handled in the following manner:

1. Parent/Guardian completes the ***Parent Request for a Pre-Approved Planned Absence*** form and submits it to the school office prior to the absence. This form is available in the school office and requires the signature of a parent/guardian and the principal.
2. The absence is recorded on the student's permanent attendance record.
3. No more than ten (10) absences per school year will be approved as ***Pre-Approved Planned Absences***.
4. Students are responsible for completing assignments missed as a result of ***Pre-Approved Planned Absences***.

**Excused Absences - Excessive**

Any time a student accumulates more than ten (10) excused absences in a school year, a written excuse from a physician may be required. The school nurse and/or principal will talk with the parent/guardian to make this determination.

**Change in Tardy Procedure**

Students are expected to be at school at the designated start of the school day. Elementary students who arrive at school **up to 15 minutes after** the designated start time are recorded as ***tardy***. Elementary students who arrive **more than 15 minutes after** the designated start time are recorded as ***absent for one-half day***. Students who leave school **up to fifteen (15) minutes before** the designated end time are recorded as ***tardy***. Elementary students who **leave more than 15 minutes before** the designated end time are recorded as ***absent for one-half day***. Tardiness results in missed learning opportunities for the student who is tardy as well as disruption to the learning environment for all students in that student's classroom. Patterns of tardiness are unacceptable and require intervention by the teacher, the school social worker or psychologist, and/or the principal.

If your child is ill or is going to be late, please leave a message on the **Safe Arrival line at 204-4807 (a 24 hours a day, seven days a week answering machine)**. If a parent does not report illness, an appointment or tardiness to the school, it will be recorded as an **unexcused absence**.

Questions about your school's specific practices regarding student absences and tardies can be directed to your school office.

## **TAG (Talented and Gifted) Parent Meeting**

The Talented and Gifted Department has planned a general meeting for December 8, 5:30-7:00 in the Doyle McDaniels Auditorium. There will be introductions of the TAG staff, overview of the TAG Plan, an update of progress in meeting DPI standards, and an opportunity to ask questions.

### **New Additions to the TAG Department**

We want to inform you of many exciting changes to the Talented and Gifted Department this year. We have a new director, Dr. Sue Schaar, who comes to us from California and has a strong background in Talented and Gifted Education. We have also added 6.4 staff members who will be TAG support teachers in our elementary schools. These support teachers are focusing their attention at the building level, working with students and teachers. Along with the 6.4 support teachers, we have seven TAG resource teachers working at the district level, participating in school support teams, facilitating the referral process, collecting data, and helping to match students with appropriate services.

The goal of the TAG Department is to support district efforts to provide challenging curricula and services for students who have mastered their current grade level standards so that they may achieve their full academic, intellectual, and creative potential.

For more information, including referral forms, eligibility criteria, the TAG plan and staff contact information, please see the Talented and Gifted Department webpage at <http://tagweb.madison.k12.wi.us/>.

## **Reunión para los padres del Programa de talentosos y dotados (TAG por su sigla en inglés)**

El Departamento de talentosos y dotados (TAG) ha programado una asamblea general para el jueves, 8 de diciembre del 2011 en el Auditorio McDaniels del edificio Doyle. Ahí se hará la presentación del personal nuevo en el programa TAG, se presentará la visión general del plan del programa TAG, se les pondrá al corriente sobre el progreso obtenido para satisfacer los estándares del Departamento de Instrucción Pública (DPI por su sigla en inglés) y habrá una oportunidad para hacer preguntas.

### **Adiciones recientes al Departamento de talentosos y dotados:**

Queremos informarles sobre los muchos cambios emocionantes que han ocurrido este año en el Departamento de talentosos y dotados. Tenemos una directora nueva, la doctora Sue Schaar, quien viene desde California y tiene una formación sólida en Educación para talentosos y dotados. También hemos agregado un total de 6.4 miembros del personal quienes formarán parte del equipo de apoyo del Programa TAG en nuestras escuelas primarias. Estos maestros están concentrando su atención en el trabajo con los estudiantes y los maestros en las sedes escolares. Junto con los 6.4 maestros de apoyo tenemos siete maestros de recurso TAG trabajando a nivel distrital, participando en los equipos de apoyo en las escuelas, facilitando las remisiones, recolectando información y ayudando a relacionar a los estudiantes con los servicios adecuados.

El objetivo del Departamento TAG es apoyar los esfuerzos del distrito para ofrecer un plan de estudios desafiantes y servicios para los estudiantes quienes han adquirido el dominio de los estándares de su nivel de grado de tal manera que puedan alcanzar su máximo potencial académico, intelectual y creativo.

Si desean más información relacionada con el formulario de remisión, el criterio de elegibilidad, el Plan TAG y la información de contacto para el personal, por favor refiérase a la página web del Departamento TAG en <http://tagweb.madison.k12.wi.us/>.







