March 2015
Editor: Beth Coppoe Gunshor

The Hedgehog Herald
Van Hise Elementary Monthly Newsletter

A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Van Hise Families –

It’s March and we are almost finishing up 3rd quarter! Time sure flies when you are having fun learning! There sure are a lot of things happening this month at VHE. Our Positive Behavior Support (PBS) theme of the month is “Taking Responsibility”. Like usual, our wonderful PBS team will have activities for teachers to use with students throughout March focused on Taking Responsibility at home, school and within the community. On March 13th, students do not come to school – and teachers will be here for Professional Development. On March 19th, we have Early Release at 11:35 for Conferences. On March 20th, we will have our annual Multicultural Night at 5:30 – the food and the performances really celebrate our diversity in our school. On March 24th we have “Dress Up” day – in other words, come to school in your fancy clothing! We end our month with Spring Break beginning on March 30th until April 7th.

This year is a bit different in that we will have Spring Conferences in March with you and your child instead of sending a report card. Grade level teams are using the feedback from our surveys at each level to create a balance between student leading and teacher sharing progress. You will be hearing from your teachers very soon about this adjustment to our conferences. We want to keep a focus on our students’ participation in their learning to continuously build their confidence and understanding about their strengths and areas to continue to develop. There is so much to celebrate in our children’s learning at this time.

Our students in grades 3-5 once again took the Measure of Academic Performance (MAP) assessment in the area of Reading. The MAP assessment data is just one source of information we use to keep track of our students’ proficiency and growth in reading. Our grade level teams examine this information together to ensure it connects with other

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NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL, CONTINUED

assessments that are done at the classroom level on a regular basis. All data (not just MAP) is used by our grade level teams who are working on using the Great Teaching Cycle to plan/teach/reflect/adjust specific instruction for groups and individual students in literacy. Here is a quick look at how our kids did as compared to our end of year School Improvement Goals for 2014-15:

**Overall Reading Proficiency Goal (all kids) = 73%**
*Winter, 2015 results = 74%!!*

**Focus Student Groups:**

- **Proficiency for African American Students = 52%**
*Winter, 2015 results = 42%*

- **Proficiency for Students Qualifying for Free/Reduced Lunch= 50%**
*Winter, 2015 results = 42%*

While we have met our overall Reading Proficiency goal for our School Improvement Plan, we still need to work to continuously improve all students’ skills, in particular our focus groups. Through focused collaborative planning and teaching at many levels, we have the potential of meeting our goals and even exceeding them!

Thank you so very much for all that you do to support our wonderful school!

Peg Keeler, Principal

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**PTO MEETING**

Come and join the fun! Support your kids and Van Hise Elementary

Our next PTO meeting is
Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:30p.m
VHE Cafeteria

Child care will be provided for school-aged children

**Topic: MMSD Expansion Referendum**

Speakers will include Mike Hertting, Chief of Schools-Operations and/or Mike Barry, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, from MMSD and Carousel Bayrd, Co-Chair for Communities and Schools Together (CAST) and VHE Parent.
There is a referendum on the April 2015 ballot to support our Madison Public Schools.

The referendum will upgrade schools in physical disrepair, expand schools that are overcrowded; and improve schools to ensure they are physically accessible to all students.

The referendum also provides technology upgrades to every Madison school, ensuring all our kids get a 21st century education, regardless of income.

Want to know more?

Join us for a public information session
Monday March 23rd
6:30 to 8:00pm
at Sequoya Library

Sponsored by CAST (Communities and Schools Together)
http://www.madisoncast.org

Questions?
Contact CAST Co-Chair Carousel Bayrd
cbayrd@gmail.com or (608) 658-7333

Science Night:

Just a reminder that this year's science night is
Tuesday, April 14th.
Click below for submission forms for students and a form for parents.

Adult Form
Student Form

PTO OFFICERS

2014-2015 School Year

Shelby Connell, President
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(secretary@vanhisepto.org)

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Kristin Ruedi-Krause and
Heidi Weitzman,
Event Coordinators
(events@vanhisepto.org)

Carousel Bayrd,
Outreach Coordinator
(cbayrd@gmail.com)

Rachel Betzen
At Large Executive Board Member

Jodi Beck and LéAndrea Vernon
Volunteer Coordinators
Kindergarten and First Grade students have recently completed a unit on hand drumming and are continuing to improve their rhythm reading skills looking at notated melodies from all around the world. Whether they are reading music from Liberia, China or France, they recognize their quarter notes (ta) and eighth notes (ti-ti).

Second and Third Grade students are currently meshing their note and rhythm reading skills and applying them to reading music from around the world and integrating drum and mallet playing. They are working on becoming more independent readers and carrying their own parts in 2-3 part harmonies! Our latest addition to our rhythm learning is syncopation. See if your 2nd or 3rd grader can give you an example of a syncopated rhythm! In the end of March, 2nd graders will embark on a full body learning experience that incorporates Phy-Ed and Music in one. Look for more details next month.

Fourth graders are preparing music within a curriculum put together by Carnegie Hall in New York City. Schools from around the country are chosen to participate and we are really excited to be a part of it. On May 14th, we will travel to the Overture Center to perform along with the Madison Symphony in a collaborative concert. Students will sing and play recorders along with the music that we are preparing. Selections include Dvorak’s New World Symphony, Beethoven’s Ode to Joy and Copland’s Simple Gifts.

Fifth Graders are reading a chapter a week of the book, “The Little Prince” and exploring the many ways that music, art, other literature and ideas in their own lives mesh with this book. We are exploring many big ideas, reflecting and discussing and going deeper into the way that music and art function in our lives. If you are interested in coming to read a chapter, please let me know! Each student will be able to keep their own copy of this really special book, thanks to a grant from the Foundation for Madison Public Schools.

As always, feel free to email me if you have questions about our music curriculum or would like to visit/assist with a class. majenks@madison.k12.wi.us
Lessons from the Library

5th Grade
Please see the 5th grade blog for information on what we covered in Reach/Library class. The fifth grade Van Hise Book Bowl is Friday, March 6th at 1:45.

4th Grade
The fourth graders have finished their nonfiction reports using google slides. They are presenting them to their peers in Library/Reach class. Please ask your child to show you theirs at home and/or stop by the library during conference night and you can view them on the computers in the LMC. In March we will be examining how to use information sources such as, encyclopedias, atlases, and almanacs (both print and online) this month. The fourth grade Van Hise Book Bowl is Tuesday, March 10th at 1:45.

3rd Grade
This month we are focusing on fact versus opinion. We are examining some inverted fairytales. We will also review information sources (dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, and almanacs) both in print and online. We finished our google slide reports at the end of February and presented them to our class in Reach/Library. Please ask your child to show you theirs at home and/or stop by the library during conference night and you can look at them on the computers here at Van Hise.

2nd Grade
During the month of March in Second Grade REACH students will practice understanding and making inferences about character traits. We will use the book Hoorah for Wodney Wat by Helen Lester to identify the main characters’ traits and search for evidence in the text to support ideas. Our instructional technology plans include reviewing how to copy and paste clip art in Microsoft word and students will practice a new objective; saving work on the network server. Students will also create a Wordle that represents the character traits they see in themselves.

1st Grade
During the month of March in First Grade REACH we will use the book Enemy Pie by Derek Munson to practice identifying author’s purpose and using context clues to define unfamiliar words. Our instructional technology plans include using Microsoft Word documents to review inserting clip art and practicing how to resize and copy/paste pictures.

Kindergarten
During the month of March in Kindergarten REACH students will listen to expository and narrative book selections that focus on the moon. A few of the picture books include, Papa Get the Moon for Me by Eric Carle and Owl Moon by Jane Yoden. Students will work to form predictions about the author’s message in response to specific illustrations. They will continue to use the computers and practice logging in to the library portal and navigating to sites to practice early literacy skills such as short vowel sounds and rhyming words.
The PTO Board Needs YOU!
PTO is searching for:
President & At Large Members
for the upcoming school year.
Please join our team of parents and teachers and continue to make Van Hise a great place to learn and work!

Way to go Van Hise Families!
You collected a total of 9,993 Box Tops. This means $999.30 for Van Hise.
Congratulations to the classrooms who won Carnival game and prize tickets!

Thank you all for clipping and saving!
All of those little rectangles add up quickly.

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VAN HISE ART AND CRAFT FAIR

We are pleased to announce the Third Annual Van Hise Art & Craft Fair! Last year’s event was amazing with over 70 local and student vendors! We would love to have you join us this spring.

Important information for you to know:

• The art & craft fair will take place on May 2nd from 10-4. Our booth fee is $50 for a 10’ x 10’ space with tables and chairs provided at no additional cost. Back by popular demand: student spaces will be available for $10, open to any student K-12!

• Set up will begin Saturday May 2nd at 8 am and tear down must be completed by 6 pm the same evening.

• Tasty treats and beverage will be available all day at our PTO bake sale, and new this year from 11-2 a good old fashioned cookout!

We are looking forward to seeing you this May!

Thanks, Beth Cantwell :)
FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015
VHE MULTICULTURAL NIGHT

Multicultural night is a PTO-sponsored event devoted to celebrating the cultural diversity within our VHE community. The night includes a potluck dinner and cultural program for the purpose of learning more about the cultural traditions and heritage of our friends and classmates.
Order your 2014-15 VHE Yearbook Today!

Memories like this come once in a lifetime!
Remember all your friends, favorite teachers, classes, games, fun, music, art, events, fashion, field trips and everything in between with your very own VHE yearbook.

Order your VHE Yearbook now to reserve your copy.**
The price of the book in full color is $10.
To place your order, complete this order form and return it to your child’s teacher with your payment in an envelope marked “Yearbook,” by Monday, April 13, 2015.

** Your preorder is required to guarantee that you get a copy of the 2014-15 VHE Yearbook. **

Please write clearly and provide all the information requested so that your order can be processed correctly. Thank you!

Student 1 Name: ___________________________ Teacher/Room: ___________________________
Student 2 Name: ___________________________ Teacher/Room: ___________________________
Student 3 Name: ___________________________ Teacher/Room: ___________________________
Your Name: _______________________________ Phone Number: ___________________________
Email: ________________________________ (optional) *

Number of yearbooks ordering ____ X $10.00 each = __________

_____ Check here if you would like to include $10 to purchase a yearbook for another student in need.

Total Amount of Check Enclosed _________
Please make checks payable to Van Hise Elementary PTO.
* If you provide your email address above you will get an email confirmation regarding your order.