

June 2020

The Vadnais Voice



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Principal - sara.svir@isd624.org

Dear Vadnais Heights Families:

We made it to June! This has definitely been the most unique spring yet staff and students have learned many new skills that may be used this summer and these learning tools will be used when we return to school.

As you settle in for summer, remember to keep reading part of your summer plans. Read together, check out libraries and garage sale deals on books and find ways to mix it up and make it fun for your whole family.



As you begin to think ahead to the 2020-21 school year, know that we will be working this summer to prepare to best meet the needs for your child's education whether we are back at school full-time, a combination of distance learning and class time or distance learning full-time. We won't know the requirement, from the State of MN, until the end of July but here are the teachers who you'll be working with in 2020-2021:

Kindergarten:

Marissa Lane
Rachael Lapinski
Nancy Jones

3rd Grade:

Barb Bliss
Kari Thimjon
Jessica Petrik

1st Grade:

Megan Church
Melissa Gaddini
Stacey Loch
Mark Theissen

4th Grade:

Mae Haley
Kate Jensen
Jodi O'Donovan

2nd Grade:

Steve Allen
Misty Aubin
Nancy Przybylski

5th Grade

Angie Rider
Gillian Sawtell
Heidi Walsh

Have a wonderful, safe and happy summer!

Sara Svir

Hmong: LUS CEEB TOOM! Yog koj xav tautsev kawm ntawv cov ntawv txhais ua lus Hmoob, thov hu rau Mas Lias Xyooj los yog Xw Xyooj. (651) 407-7623

Spanish: ATENCIÓN: Si usted necesita hablar con una persona que hable Español, por favor, llame al (651) 407-7625.





Important Dates

Date	Activity
June 5th	5th Grade Virtual Graduation @ 11:30 AM ❖ Mrs. Rider's Class - https://meet.google.com/tpk-rhny-qub ❖ Ms. Sawtell's Class - https://meet.google.com/dba-xtax-bqu ❖ Mrs. Walsh's Class - https://meet.google.com/xsj-dvby-twu
June 5th	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!
<i>Looking Ahead...</i>	
July 13th - 16th @ VHES	8 AM - 1 PM - Getting Ready for Kindergarten Please contact (651) 407-7501 for more information
Thursdays: July 30th - August 20th	Marketfest from 6 PM - 9 PM in downtown White Bear Lake - Enjoy music, food & vendors with family and friends
August 15th - 16th	Heritage Days in Vadnais Heights - Events held at the Community Park & Vadnais Heights Commons

Manitou Days Writing Contest



Shelby Larson is a 4th grader in Mrs. Haley's class and she was one of the winners of the 2020 Manitou Days Writing Contest. Students were asked to write about "Roaring Bears" and her paper was one of the best. This theme was chosen to celebrate the roaring 1920's and/or the people who advocate for our community. Congratulations to Shelby!

Our 2020 Graduates!





**Thank you 5th graders!
We will miss you!**



Track & Field Events?

Many events were cancelled this spring yet **Betsy** and **JJ Flor**, 3rd graders in Mrs. Opatz and Mrs. Bliss's classrooms, recreated their own track and field day. Way to go!



Nutrition Services

If your student has graduated or has moved out of the District, please click [here](#) to complete the Request for Refund form. If you would like money transferred to a sibling, please indicate so on the form. If the remaining balance is less than \$5.00 please call (651) 407-7524. Paper copies of the form may also be found in your child's school office or kitchen. For more information on the Nutrition Services Angel Fund, please click [here](#).

Click [here](#) to access our meal charge procedures.



School Readiness Plus Preschool

The White Bear Lake Early Childhood Program has an exciting opportunity for your preschooler who was 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2020. We are offering two preschool classes, a morning or an afternoon class at Vadnais Heights Elementary for children who live in the Vadnais Heights school boundaries. Tuition assistance is available.

These additional classes are designed to offer a learning experience the year before your child attends kindergarten. Preschoolers will spend time investigating through play based age-appropriate math, writing, music, art, language, and science activities, while developing their social and emotional skills.

Children must meet specific eligibility requirements and fill out the School Readiness Plus Application. To find out more information about this opportunity, click on the link below or call the Early Childhood office at [651-653-3105](tel:651-653-3105).

<http://www.isd624.org/earlychildhood/index.asp?ID=37>

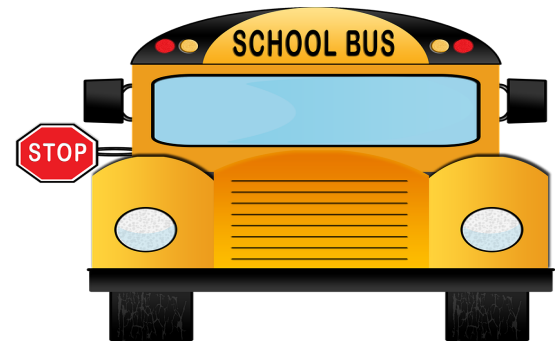
Transportation Reminders

The Transportation Office staff is asking for your assistance with updating your student's transportation information and with keeping that information current. We are better able to service your student and the other students who are transported when we have accurate information. If the current information for your student has changed, you can help by contacting the Transportation Office staff at 651-407-7538 or at our e-mail address of Transportation@isd624.org with the following information:

- Updated address and phone number changes
- Updated daycare information
- Updated transportation status

You can also use the District Website at www.isd624.org to fill out, print, and submit forms such as: Daycare Form, Decline Transportation Form

Also available on the District website in the Transportation area you will find boundary maps, frequently asked questions, and information to assist you with reviewing bus safety with your students.



Technology Problems?

If you need help over the summer - Please Email or call:

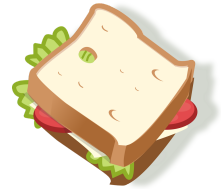
Email: parenttechhelp@isd624.org

Phone: (651) 653-2600 extension 7637



- The apps that your children used during the school year will be available this summer
- Check out Epic to find all kinds of books

FREE Summer Meals for Kids & Teens



Reminder About Summer Food Service Program (starting June 8)

Starting the week of June 8, all meal pick-up locations will move to once-a-week pick-up only, on Wednesdays. Each meal bag will contain at least 5 breakfasts and 5 lunches. There is no need to sign up. Pick-Up locations are listed below.

Wednesday School Site Pick-Up (starting the week of June 8) from 9:30-10:30 a.m. located at:

- Oneka Elementary
- Otter Lake Elementary
- Willow Lane Elementary

Wednesday Neighborhood Meal Pick-Up (starting the week of June 8) from 8:45-9:45 a.m. located at:

- Hugo: 15057 Forest Blvd N
- Maplewood: 1053 County Rd D E
- Vadnais Heights: 200 Mayfair Rd
- White Bear Lake:
 - 3521 Century Ave N
 - 3149 McKnight Rd N
 - 1634 9th St
 - 1805 Cedar Ave

A person 19 years of age and over who has a mental or physical disability (as determined by a State or local educational agency) and who participates during the school year in a public or private non-profit program (established for the mentally or physically disabled) is also eligible to receive meals.



Sicily Heim



Sicily attended Vadnais Heights from kindergarten until her passing, as a 5th grader, in November 2019. As a result of generous donations, we will purchase a picnic table for our playground area that will serve as a memorial to Sicily. She was a great friend, sweet to everyone, loved art and truly loved life. Sicily you are missed greatly yet you'll always be in our hearts!



A Message from the VHES Staff:

The VHES Staff is horrified and saddened by the tragic death of Mr. George Floyd, and extends our condolences to his family. We are grieving both with you and among our school staff family over his senseless death. There are no words to take away the hurt, sadness, and anger many of our students, families, and staff members are feeling right now.

Please know that our first and highest priority is to ensure the safety and well-being of our students, including protecting them from physical and mental harm due to systemic racism and abuse. We believe that our school is a welcoming school filled with beautiful children of all races. We endeavor to continue to provide a safe, caring environment that will always be a refuge to all who enter our doors.

We know that this horrific incident is causing emotional distress in our children and younger children will most likely have a harder time expressing how they feel. If you need guidance in talking with your children about how to deal with their feelings, please look through the resources listed below for ideas.

Our staff shares your pain and frustration. Please know that we are here for you.

Resources:

<https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/health/Emotional-Health/Discussing-Difficult-Situations-With-Your-Children>

<https://www.gse.upenn.edu/news/talking-children-after-racial-incidents>

https://www.splcenter.org/sites/default/files/splc_civil_rights_activity_book_online.pdf

[CNN/Sesame Street Racism Town Hall](#)

[Mental Health Resources](#)

Congratulations to ALL WBL Graduates -
A Special Shout Out to Former VHES Students!



Peyton Tormanen, Gavin Tschida, Michael Williams, Eliza Williams,
Robert Walsh, Hunter, O'Donnell & Thomas Breen



Make a Difference! Experience life-changing growth as a Minnesota Reading Corps tutor at Vadnais Heights Elementary in 2020-21!



Make a difference in the lives of Vadnais Heights Elementary Kindergarten – 3rd grade students who struggle with reading by serving as a Minnesota Reading Corps tutor in 2020-21! Whether you want to explore a career in education, re-enter the workforce, or give back to your community, you can make a difference as a tutor.

As a tutor, you'll see a student's progress – in their test scores, in their other school work and in their confidence as they build their skills. Last year, Minnesota Reading Corps provided direct services to more than 30,000 children in more than 700 schools across the state. We're helping more kids reach their reading potential. And you can be part of it.

Minnesota Reading Corps Tutors receive extensive training and **support** from onsite coaches. Tutors are paid a **living allowance** and are eligible for up to an **education award** of up to \$5,800 to pay tuition or repay qualified student loans or pay tuition. Tutors 55 or older may gift the award to a child or grandchild.

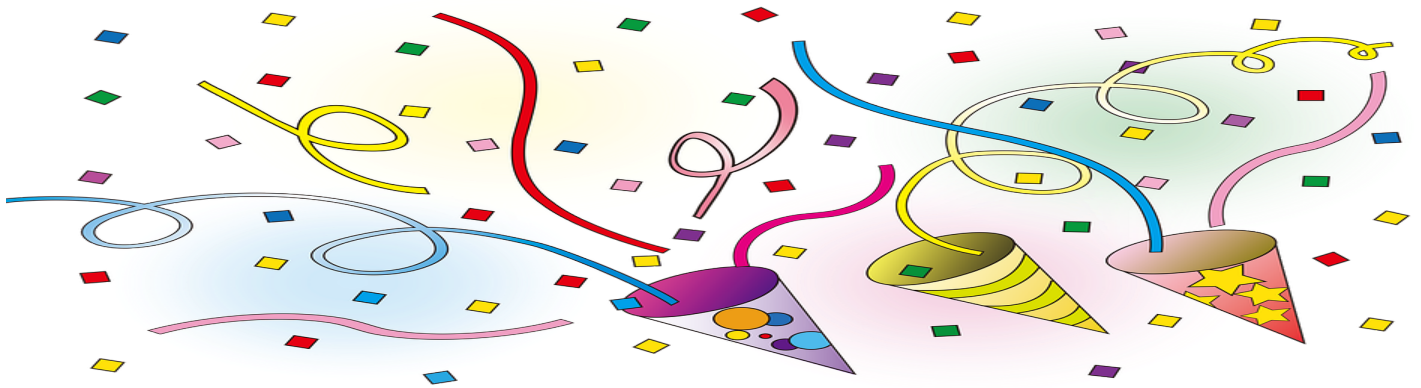
If you or someone you know might enjoy making a difference in the lives of Vadnais Heights Elementary children, learn how to get involved at www.readingandmath.net. Positions start in August for the 2020-21 school year. Questions? Contact recruitment@servetogrow.org or 866-859-2825..



Congratulations & Best of Luck!

Our school is fortunate to have wonderful staff. It's never easy to say "goodbye" yet we are happy for those who are retiring and we wish the very best to those who are seeking new adventures.

Thank you for sharing your gifts and know that you will be missed!



Amy Opatz - retiring after 32 years

Margaret Lane - retiring after 28 years

Molly Happe - relocating to Kansas

Congratulations and Thank You to our 2019-2020 T&RI Teachers!

Jordan Anderson

Meredith Keller

Shelby Mielke

Tia Tumbleson

Thanks for a Wonderful School Year
2019-2020

It was awesome because of each and
every member of our
V.H.E.S. Community!

Happy Summer

