

MAY/JUNE 2021

# The Vadnais Voice



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**Emergency School Closing** (651)407-7540

**Website** - [www.whitebear.k12.mn.us/Vadnaisheights](http://www.whitebear.k12.mn.us/Vadnaisheights)

**Principal** - [sara.svir@isd624.org](mailto:sara.svir@isd624.org)

Dear Vadnais Heights Families:

The end of the school year is always action packed, exciting and filled with events that students, staff and families remember and treasure. This spring everything is a bit different yet there are still many things for which I am thankful.



This past week we celebrated Teacher Appreciation and I've always told my staff that everyone in our school is a teacher. Each and every one of the incredible people that I'm privileged to work with, have positively affected the lives of our students, the learning environment and the atmosphere and community in our school. Vadnais Heights Elementary is an amazing place for students to learn and grow and whether families chose to have their children attend in-person or distance learning, I know that your children have received the very best education - because our staff is the very best!

As we begin to plan for the 2021-2022 school year, we are so excited to have more of our students and families return to in-person learning. We want to provide the best support possible and we are planning to make some significant changes that we believe will help us accomplish this goal. Starting next year, we will have 3 neighborhoods at VHES. There will be 1 grade level teacher, in each neighborhood, and students will remain in that neighborhood for at least 3 years. Your child will get to know the teachers, staff and students in their neighborhood and this will better support families because the staff will all work together to meet the needs of students as well as families. It is our plan that families, with multiple children in our school, will have all of their children in the same neighborhood. I anticipate that there will be exceptions yet this is our model to more effectively support each and every student academically as well as socially.

Thank you all for your flexibility and patience as we've worked through this pandemic and school year together.


Stay Safe & Be Well,  
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
May 12th	Car BINGO - Everyone welcome. It will be held in the church parking lot, across the street from our school. Bring a cell phone to play and <a href="#">RSVP</a> to let us know you're coming.
May 20th	Join us for the <a href="#">virtual</a> PTO Meeting at 6:30 PM
May 25th	Drive Through Kindergarten Event @ VHES - If you have a child who will be in kindergarten next fall, join us between 5:30 & 6:30 to meet the teachers, sign up for summer assessments & get resources for summer. For more info. call (651) 653-2858.
May 31st - No School	
June 11th	Last day of school
June 15th	Report cards will be available in Skyward
July 19th - August 12th	Summer U at Lakeaires Elementary - Mondays - Thursdays: 8:00-12:30 PM
September 8th	First day of school for grades 1-5
September 9th	First day of school for Kindergarten



A special thank you to our Teacher Candidates; Emma Eldridge, Annie Micklin and Tayler Heidelberg who have been with us this entire school year as part of their educational program through the University of MN. They have truly been a part of our staff and great additions to our school. We wish them all the best as they begin their careers in education.



# End of Year Activities for Students



Everyone is hearing about restrictions, with Covid, being reduced or removed yet very little has changed in public schools. We are still unable to have visitors, in or outside our building, without social distancing and this is very difficult to manage. We will provide year-end activities for students; unfortunately, we will not be able to invite families to attend. It's important that everyone is aware of the events we are hosting and I hope you all understand why we aren't able to invite families. Thank you!

- ❖ Tamarack Nature Center - Every class will be divided in half and both groups will attend, an on-site event, with a naturalist from Tamarack Nature Center. Students will participate in a lesson in our outdoor classroom areas. We have added benches where students are meeting with the naturalists and then they will enter our Bear's Backyard to complete activities that support science.



- ❖ Strive Day - Our building has read the book, I Promise by LeBron James and taken "encouraging" and boosting reminders that success starts with You." We've set goals for our school to "strive for greatness in everything we do." On May 28th, our classrooms will remain in their grade level cohorts and participate in activity stations outside. Everyone will have an hour of activities during the morning and grade level teachers will create learning stations when their students are inside. Just in case, our rain date is 6/4.
- ❖ Color Run - Our students are begging for the return of the Color Run and we have found a way to make it happen. The event will be divided into 2 groups: K-2 and 3-5. We will have a staggered start to allow for social distancing between grade levels. Students may run as fast as they're able, around our field/playground and through color stations. There will be a passing lane and a lane to allow students to walk/run with their grade level peers. We will take pictures and share so you may see your child experiencing a rainbow of colors. 6/4 is the rain date if needed.

# Neighborhoods for 2021-2022

A new design for Vadnais Heights Elementary that will provide optimum support for students both academically and socially. We will be working out all of the details to prepare for the start of school in September yet you can count on the following:

- ❖ 3 Neighborhoods with every grade, if we have 3 sections, in each neighborhood
- ❖ Students assigned to a homeroom teacher in their grade level
- ❖ Neighborhoods will be located close to one another to allow students to "visit" other classrooms for both academics and social activities
- ❖ Students will remain in their neighborhood for 3 years
- ❖ Bear Time - 20 minutes each day where students will move across the classrooms, in their neighborhood. They may choose an art activity, physical activity, homework help, time for friends - it's their choice.
- ❖ Recess and Lunch will be a grade-level time so students will be able to connect with their grade level friends outside and in the cafeteria.



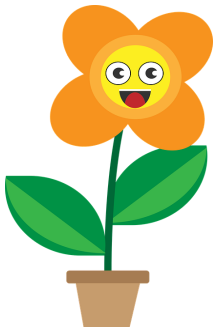
Why are we doing this? Vadnais Heights Elementary is a small, neighborhood school yet our students and families have shared that at times it seems big and hard to connect. We believe that we can better meet everyone's needs by creating neighborhoods that will make our school a bit smaller.

When our students are in neighborhoods, they will have more opportunities to connect with students and staff across grade levels. This is a great opportunity to build community, relationships, self-esteem and it provides a structure to meet all academic needs.

The pandemic has taken so much away and this is one way we can better structure our school to support all of our students and families.



# Preschool Program



A full day 4-year old preschool opportunity is available at Vadnais Heights Elementary for the 2021-2022 school year. This is a program designed to support students who otherwise would not have access to preschool.

Perhaps your child is learning English as a Second Language (ESL) or you have limited resources or transportation - this program will support ESL learners and families. Please contact (651) 653-3100 for more information or the Vadnais Heights school office at (651) 653-2858 for an application.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.isd624.org) to fill out, print, and submit forms such as: Daycare Form, Decline Transportation Form. 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.



## Is Your Family Moving or Relocating?

We need your help to plan for the 2021-2022 school year. If your family is planning to move or relocate and will not be attending Vadnais Heights Elementary - PLEASE let us know in the main office at (651) 653-2858. Thank you for helping us!

**Hmong:** LUS CEEB TOOM! Yog koj xav tau tsev 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.



THE WBL AREA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION'S

# 21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



AUGUST 16, 2021  
OAK GLEN GOLF COURSE  
STILLWATER, MN

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS!

## REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

The White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation Annual Golf Tournament is on Monday, August 16 and registration is now open.

The WBL Area Educational Foundation's Annual Golf Tournament was cancelled last year but the golf tournament is back and we are excited to be at a new venue, the beautiful Oak Glen Golf Course in Stillwater.

In 2019 the tournament was sold out so if you'd like to golf - register early!

Your day of golf supports the Foundation's mission to enhance the White Bear Lake Area School District's ability to provide excellence in education for all students. We can't think of a better way to support our students and educators than to provide you with a fun day on the golf course with friends.

A few things to note:

- Register to Golf: Click [HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE](#)
- Early "Birdie" Special: All paid golfers whose registration forms are received on or before June 11, 2021 will be entered in a special drawing for a chance to win \$100!
  - The drawing will take place during the dinner program.

The tournament fills quickly, register today!

[www.wblaef.org](http://www.wblaef.org) / 651.407.7696 / 4855 Bloom Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

No School May 31st-  
Memorial Day



Last Day of School-  
June 11th - Happy Summer !

