Dear Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to Kindergarten in Room 101 at Van Hise Elementary! To make this coming year of exploration, wonder, and imagination even more fun, our class will have a “Space Explorers” class theme. I am so excited that your student was chosen for this very “spacial” training and I look forward to getting a chance to know your family and partnering with you in making your child’s first school year of school “out of this world!”

I’d like to tell you a bit about myself so I don’t seem like such a stranger. My name is Edie Mileham (pronounced Ee-Dee Mile-um), and although children generally call me “Ms. Mileham,” I really like to have adults call me Edie.

I was born in Milwaukee to parents who are both educators, and I grew up just north of the city in a suburb called Shorewood (no relation to Shorewood Hills!). Since then I studied at Vassar College in New York, Oxford in England, the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, and both the UW-Madison and the Teaching College in Windhoek, Namibia for my teaching degree. This fall I will complete “student teaching” (in my own classroom!) for an ESL degree from Edgewood College, funded by a national grant!

I have two daughters, Louisa (a 1st grader at Midvale) and Jane (a 4th grader at Lincoln),

so I have the perspective of a parent as well as that of a teacher. This summer we

traveled through South Dakota and visited the Crazy Horse and Mount Rushmore monuments, the Black Hills, the Bad Lands, and yes, Wall Drug. We had a amazing, unforgettable trip.

This is my thirteenth year (lucky 13!) of teaching in Madison, and my fifth at Van Hise. I’m so excited to meet your student and connect with you, their family. I know that you are the true experts on your children and I hope I’ll be able to draw on your understanding of your child to make this year of school the very best it can be.

Contact me with all your questions and concerns. I can be contacted by phone in our classroom at 204-4839 (this number is routed to the office during the school day) and on my personal cell phone at 658-5205. In case internet contact is easier, my email address is: emileham@madison.k12.wi.us. Please keep in mind that, if you call, text, or email during the school day with an urgent message, I may not be able to check my messages until the end of the day or even (occasionally) the next day. Usually calling the school office at 204-4800 and letting them know about the emergency or change in your child’s after school plans will ensure that I get the information promptly.

Teaching is one of the greatest joys of my life. Families are a huge part of that joy. Please don’t hesitate to contact me at any point in the year when you have a concern or just want to be sure I know something you think would be helpful. I look forward to blasting off into a year full of seeking science facts and imagining science fiction.

Live long and prosper,