



BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

May 15, 2018

Dear Brent Families,

In the final weeks of the school year, we seek a balance between the ongoing work of learning, anticipating needs and actions for the coming year. For example, we have set individualized instructional goals for students to accomplish in the next four weeks even as we conduct end-of-year assessments to determine our academic starting points in the coming school year. Or we are taking current supply and curriculum inventories even as we order new materials for August. For Brent, balance means pivoting between staying in the moment and looking ahead.

Much of our communication serves the moment – TuesNews, classroom newsletters, playground check ins – so we want to be sure to share our looking ahead plans as well. Until the end of the school year, each TuesNews will have a *Looking Ahead* section to serve that purpose, starting now!

Looking Ahead

Every year, the composition of our community shifts as we say goodbye to valued faculty members and prepare to welcome new teachers and new roles. Our departing faculty has each written a note to share their appreciation and future plans:

Lucy Clark

I will not be returning to Brent next year, as I am moving out of Washington, D.C. My family recently moved from my childhood home in California to Chapel Hill, North Carolina. I will be joining my family there and pursuing my Master's Degree in Education at NC State while continuing my teaching career in the area. Teaching at Brent has been such a valuable experience to me and the most difficult part about this is leaving the wonderful school community here. Thank you so much for a memorable school year.

Warmly,

Ms. Lucy Clark (second grade)

Sarah Isaacson

The Brent community is so special, and I treasure the relationships I've made while working at this school more than anything else. The staff, students and families all make Brent a school that is hard to say goodbye to; so this will not be a goodbye, but instead, a "see you soon!" Over the past year I have come to realize that my true passion in teaching revolves around the world of literacy. The feelings you get as a teacher when a student begins to really love to read, or work through and solve some of the words that seemed impossible to them at the beginning of the year, or realize that books can take us to so many magical places are some of the many reasons why I love being a teacher. I was lucky enough to accept a new opportunity

that allows me to continue to grow as a literacy educator: I will be working at Teachers College, Columbia University, as a Junior Staff Developer and enrolling as a student in their Literacy Specialist M.A. program. I'll continue to work with students in various schools, and begin to coach teachers as well. I look forward to staying in touch with Brent, and I hope everyone has a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Sarah Isaacson (first grade)

Ashli Wilson

I will be using next year to expand my after school and tutoring programming *Imagine Greater* alongside my husband. I will also engage in some Special Education consulting and helping all students access reading curricula. I have truly enjoyed being able to teach at Brent for the past three years as well as the opportunity to work with Rising Tides. Brent is such a unique community with meaningful experiences for students. I will miss working with the amazing Brent teachers and staff but will remain connected by continuing to partner with Brent in a recess and after school capacity. I'm excited for opportunities that are ahead and grateful for support from the Brent Community!

Sincerely,

Ashli Wilson (fifth grade)

We wish Ms. Clark, Ms. Isaacson and Ms. Wilson all the best and thank them for their service to our community!

We also congratulate Julia Sadowsky as she will move to our new Atelierista role, an opportunity to bring her strong Early Childhood and Reggio Emilia content to our PK and K students as part of their special subjects program.

Stay tuned for next week's *Looking Ahead* topic, the class list process.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell
Principal