Brent ES Tues News - August 31, 2021

Brent Elementary <brentelementary@k12.dc.gov>
Tue 8/31/2021 9:48 PM
To: Brent Elementary (DCPS) <BrentElementary@k12.dc.gov>

THE TUES. NEWS 8.31.2021
BRENT ELEMENTARY
BRAVE EMPATHETIC ACTIVE RESPONSIBLE

Coming Up
Wednesday, September 1
Brent LSAT Meeting
7 - 8:30 p.m.
Zoom login information below:
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/94849286952?pwd=aTNkN0lCZFJzSmhmbnJQRExEdXFzQT09
Meeting ID: 948 4928 6952
Passcode: 713192

Thursday, September 2
First Day of School for ECE
Students with last names beginning with A - L
All students need to arrive at school by 8:35 a.m.

Friday, September 3
First Day of School for ECE
Students with last names beginning with M - Z
All students need to arrive at school by 8:35 a.m.

Monday, September 6
Labor Day

Key Contact Information
Main Office Number
202-698-3363

Main Email Account
brentelementary@k12.dc.gov

Website
http://www.brentelementary.org/

DCPS Meal Service Menus
https://dcps.dc.gov/page/sodexo-open-meal-site-person-learning-menus

Facebook
facebook.com/BrentElementarySchool

Twitter
twitter.com/brentelementary

Instagram
instagram.com/BrentBears

Join the A-Z Brent Directory
https://atozconnect.com/cls/related_entities_list.php
Brent Closed - no school for teachers, students and staff

Wednesday, September 8
Early Childhood Fall Family Workshops
6:00-7:00 pm
Families can access the meeting by using this link.

Sunday, September 19
PTA Welcome Picnic
11 - 2 p.m.
X Park (Providence Park - 464 2nd Street SE)
ASL Interpreters provided

Thursday, October 7
Parent-Teacher Conference Day
No school for students

Friday, October 8
Professional Development Day
No school for students

Monday, October 11
Indigenous Peoples' Day
Brent closed - no school for teachers, students and staff

DCPS School SY21-22 Calendar

From the DCPS Chancellor
https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/category/chancellor/

Sign up for Tues News and other community communications
http://eepurl.com/gzPB8z

Innovation Learning Contact Information
Site Coordinator - Monique Davis - brent@innovationlearning.com
Customer Service Number - 866-239-3661
www.innovationlearning.com

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View this email in your browser

Click here to pay school supply fees for SY21-22

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Brent Bears Return to School!
Scenes from the First Day (K - 5th) 2021!
DCPS Stronger and Safer Together Pledge

To help protect our students, support DCPS staff, and safeguard our community, I pledge to:

- Wear my mask at school and on school grounds at all times, and when in close proximity to others outside my household.
- Get the COVID-19 vaccine if I’m eligible.
- Wherever possible, maintain physical distance from those outside my household.
- Practice safe hygiene, like washing my hands for at least 20 seconds and using hand sanitizer regularly.
- Limit or postpone nonessential travel to areas outside of the DC, Maryland and Virginia region.
- Choose family activities that minimize the risk of COVID-19 spread.
- Complete my daily health assessment to monitor any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Stay home if I do not feel well, or have any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Immediately alert my school if I test positive for COVID-19 and work with contact tracers to identify any close contacts.
- Be a champion for health and safety within my community.

Take the pledge and commit to doing your part in keeping our schools open and our community safe. Share your commitment to stay safe with #DCPSStrong.

Staying Home If Sick

Students must stay home if:

- Presenting ONE of these red flag symptoms:
  - New or worsening cough
  - Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Fever (measured or subjective)

- OR at least TWO of the following symptoms:
  - Chills
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - An unusual amount of tiredness
  - Runny nose or congestion
  - Diarrhea

*Please note: Schools should follow their existing infectious disease protocols for exclusion, regardless of the number of symptoms experienced. This list is provided solely for the purpose of COVID-19 symptoms and individuals should be excluded from school for illness, as appropriate outside of COVID-19.

DCPS School Building Readiness Checklist Update

HVAC Reporting

To deliver on the DCPS health and safety commitment for in-person learning, DCPS focused on facility readiness, operational planning, health and safety protocols, and building systems for ongoing monitoring. DCPS used a set of building readiness standards to ensure every facility is ready to welcome students back to a safe learning environment. This checklist includes HVAC
enhancements to increase fresh air infiltration. These standards align with public health guidance issued by DC Health, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 when schools may reopen.

**HVAC Enhancements:** Schools are equipped with either a Direct Outside Air System (DOAS) with MERV-13/MERV-14 filters or High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters.

- Read a detailed memo prepared by the Department of General Services (DGS) — updated on November 30, 2020 — on Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) augmentations and updates completed to ensure all DCPS facilities are safe for return to-in-person schooling during COVID-19.
- Click here to view an overview of HVAC enhancements at DCPS schools.

**Brent HVAC Reports**

- Click here to view Brent’s #ReopenStrong: HVAC Enhancement Report
- Click here to view Brent’s air quality report that was developed by a third-party engineering firm (SETTY) for the month of July 2021. SETTY are receiving the air quality feed from the sensors located in Brent’s building and are using that data to generate the report.
Brent LSAT Meeting Login Information

Topic: Brent LSAT
Time: Sep 1, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/94849286952?pwd=aTNkN0JCZFJzSmhmbnJQRExEdXFzQT09

Meeting ID: 948 4928 6952
Passcode: 713192
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,94849286952#,,,,*713192# US (Washington DC)
+13126266799,,94849286952#,,,,*713192# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Innovations Learning Programming Note:

Though significantly fewer Brent students participate in before-care than in the aftercare program, before care meets a critical need for many working parents. Because the program is located outside on the playground, the playground is closed to the Brent community before and during morning arrival. Innovation
Learning can only supervise students enrolled in the program. Before care arrival starts at 7 a.m. and ends at 8:20 a.m. All students arriving after 8:20 a.m. will join the regular arrival line with parent or caregiver supervision until 8:35 a.m. To enroll in before care, please visit innovationlearning.com. Please contact Innovation Learning at brent@innovationlearning.com with any questions.

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**Brent Pick-up Authorization Form SY 21-22**

Brent has a standard pick-up authorization form that lets staff know who is authorized to pick up a student during the school day and after school. All families need to complete this form. The form is linked here. We will also make copies of the form available at the screening tables on Thursday and Friday of this week. Please submit the completed form to brentelementary@k12.dc.gov or drop off the form at an arrival table. Thank you!
Please join the PTA at
Brent’s Annual Fall Welcome Picnic!

Come meet new families and reconnect with old friends at this event with activities, food and fun for the whole family!

Sunday, September 19, 11am-2pm at X-Park
Featuring: Music, bounce houses, book exchange, burgers, snacks, and more!

*** REGISTRATION NOW OPEN ***

The event is free for families of Brent students, faculty, and staff, but please register your family’s attendance and (if you plan to have lunch) meal preferences at the following link:

https://forms.gle/cqxh14Z8AfrKN759A

Brent Used Book Swap

Start gathering up your children’s used books for the annual Brent Used Book Swap, which will take place at the Brent Fall Family Picnic in X (Providence) Park on Sunday, September 19, from 11 am to 2 pm. Please bring your children’s used books and/or a bag to collect some great new-to-you reads for your kids for free. This is a wonderful way to clear out your house and get new books for your young readers.
A few details:

- We only want books for kids 3 years and up. No board books, no adult books.
- We do want picture books, early readers, and chapter books in good condition. Fiction and non-fiction books welcome.
- All books will be free – take as many as your kid(s) will read.
- We will NOT be collecting book donations before the swap. Please bring your books to donate to the swap. If you can help sort them a bit when you drop off, that would be great. Otherwise, we hope to have some volunteer book sorters on hand.

Happy reading! For more information or to volunteer to help with the swap, contact Sarah Carr (sarah@sdcarr.com) or Brittany Poley (brittany.poley@gmail.com)

Join the Families Sharing Parking Passes With Brent Staff

If you live near Brent and are able to share some of your parking privileges with Brent staff, please consider signing up to share a parking pass with a teacher or staffer. The new trailers on campus now cover the small parking lot so there are no available spaces for any staff. School and parent leaders are exploring longer-term solutions, but for the moment, the need for parking passes is urgent! Zia Faruqui has created a spreadsheet for coordinating with staff who need a pass and a document explaining how to create and share passes. Zia (faruqui@gmail.com) or Andrew Pratt (appratt@gmail.com) can answer any questions.
Early Childhood Fall Family Workshops

This fall, our early childhood team has collaborated with Early Stages to host a monthly series of workshops for Brent families with children ages 3-5 years old.

**Developmental Milestones for Ages 3-5**
September 8th, 6:00-7:00 pm


**Trauma & Resilience: Building Strength in Young Children**
October 13th, 6:00-7:00 pm


**Addressing Challenging Behavior in Young Children**
November 3rd, 6:00-7:00 pm


This fall, our early childhood team has partnered with Early Stages to host a monthly series of workshops for Brent families with children ages 3-5 years old. The first workshop, *Developmental Milestones for 3-5 Year Olds*, will be held virtually from **6:00-7:00 pm on September 8th**. Families can access the meeting by [using this link](http://bit.ly/brentfamilyworkshop1).
Workshop Description: We provide an overview of typical developmental milestones for children between the ages of 3 and 5 in the following domains: communication, gross and fine motor, social-emotional, and cognitive skills. Participants learn how understanding developmental milestones is vital to early intervention. Finally, we discuss approaches to supporting a child’s development in each domain.

We look forward to sharing the topics, dates, and times for our October and November meetings very soon. If you have any questions about the workshops, please contact Julia Sadowsky at julia.sadowsky@k12.dc.gov. We hope to see many of you there!
Support the Brent PTA and place your school store order on the Brent website!

Update: Orders this year will be sent home in your child’s backpack. You will receive a notification email when your order has been filled.

Cub Scout Interest Meeting - Wednesday, September 1, 2021
Is your son or daughter interested in joining Cub Scouts? Then please join us for an informational meeting on September 1st (Wednesday evening). Your entire family is welcome. The event is geared specifically to families with no prior experience with Cub Scouts who would like to learn more. We'll give an overview about how Scouting works and answer your questions.

Capitol Hill Scouts Pack 230 is an organization of about 70 families on Capitol Hill. Cub Scouts is a family program for boys and girls from Kindergarten through 5th grade. We do campouts, outdoor activities, games, service projects, and much more!

The program emphasizes leadership development, character development, citizenship, personal fitness, outdoor skills, and advancement. We involve the boys and girls in a variety of outdoor (camping, nature, and service) and indoor (projects, crafts, and speaking) skills and experiences that build confidence, teamwork and respect.

**Where:** Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol St NE, Washington, DC 20003

**When:** Wednesday, September 1st at 7 PM:

- Fun activities for future Scouts and parents
- Presentation and Q and A for parents

**Who:** Capitol Hill families who are interested in joining Cub Scouts! You are welcome and encouraged to invite friends who may want to join.

Any questions, please email Pack 230 Chairman Matt Oskam at pack230chair@gmail.com or Pack 230 Cubmaster David Cranor at pack230cubmaster@gmail.com.

Reminder - If you have not already, please review the linked parent facing and student facing videos below!

[Parent-Facing School wide Orientation Video](#)

[Student-Facing School Wide Orientation Video](#)

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**Principal Corner**

(reprint from 8/31/2021 email)
Dear Brent Families,

What a first day! Brent welcomed 440 students to a day filled with all the promise of what is still to come. Our students and faculty launched the process of becoming connected to one another as a community, exploring the role of self and the individual’s responsibility to the collective.

In Kindergarten, students wrote and drew their worries and offered them to a worry eater doll, a way of helping them name their feelings and move forward with a sense of security. In first grade students created self-portraits that will don the walls and remind students that they are seen. In second grade students wrote about small moments, using the art of storytelling to zoom in on and share important experiences. Our third graders launched identity portrait projects, a way for students to explore values, interests and beliefs while also giving insight into one another’s multi-layered identities. Our fourth graders participated in a read aloud of *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson and discussed the role of friendship, rejection, and missed and possible connections. In fifth grade, students engaged in a classmate scavenger hunt and an All About You “Instagram page” to show their curiosity for one another and imagine themselves through images. Sport classes played rousing games of Grease, Fire, Lightning. PE classes played games to practice routines. Artists pushed themselves past the concept of “being done” and practiced adding on, asking for feedback, deleting, turning over the page. Musicians explored rhythm and musicality with movement. Scientists visited their new classroom space in the south demountable and began to explore the big questions they will pursue this year.

The moments above do not capture the full experience of our Brent first day, but they give you an idea of the purpose and joy that filled our classrooms. It is also true that we observed adjustments to be made – a seating arrangement or two, fine tuning of instructional plans, schedule alterations, and the clarity of our procedures.

Arrival and dismissal are significant points of review as we consider ways to be more expedient in our planning and execution. One way you can help is to complete the ask, ask, look screening in advance to abbreviate the on-campus screening process.
This at-home screening process requires conversation only. You do not need to fill out a paper copy. You do not need to put the information in an app or electronic platform because on-campus screening is still mandated. Your child should be ready to respond “yes” to the questions “Have you completed your daily ask, ask look screening?” and “Are you symptom free?” You can also help by leaving dogs at home. I say this reluctantly as my two dogs might disagree, but not all of our community members feel comfortable with dogs in arrival/dismissal lines and dogs tied to the fence preclude the space our arrival and bus lines need.

Please bring your questions to brentelementary@k12.dc.gov, to my email at norah.lycknell@k12.dc.gov, your teacher, or a Brent faculty members posted at arrival/dismissal.

We can’t wait for day two!

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell