Brent ES Tues News - October 26, 2021

Brent Elementary <brentelementary@k12.dc.gov>
Tue 10/26/2021 10:40 PM
To: Brent Elementary (DCPS) <BrentElementary@k12.dc.gov>

**THE TUES. NEWS 10.26.2021**

**BRENT ELEMENTARY**

**Coming Up**

**Wednesday, October 27**
Brent Community Meeting on Race and Identity
6:30 - 8 p.m.
Zoom information
[https://zoom.us/j/97317488056?pwd=T2haVkRJbm94ZDdPbFNkek1QK29Udz09](https://zoom.us/j/97317488056?pwd=T2haVkRJbm94ZDdPbFNkek1QK29Udz09)
Meeting ID: 973 1748 8056
Passcode: 770051

**Tuesday, November 2**
Election Day
No school for students and teachers

**Wednesday, November 3**
Brent Early Childhood Fall Family Workshops - Addressing Challenging Behavior in Young Children
6 - 7 p.m.

Jefferson Academy Virtual Open House
6 p.m.

**Key Information**

**Main Office Number**
202-698-3363

**Main Email Account**
brentelementary@k12.dc.gov

**Website**

**DCPS Reopen Strong School Reopening Information**
[https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/](https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/)

**DCPS Meal Service Menus**
[https://dcps.dc.gov/page/sodexomagic-elementary-menus](https://dcps.dc.gov/page/sodexomagic-elementary-menus)

**Facebook**
facebook.com/BrentElementarySchool

**Twitter**
twitter.com/brentelementary

**Instagram**
instagram.com/BrentBears
https://tinyurl.com/JAfamily20

LSAT November Meeting
6:30 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/92845391378?pwd=T3hYd202cnorTzRIRy9CbxVaTmZ5QT09
Meeting ID: 928 4539 1378
Passcode: 809371

Friday, November 5
Records Day
No school for students
End of Term 1

Saturday, November 6
Brent Veterans Day Celebration at JBAB
2-5 p.m.
Joint Base Anacostia Bolling (JBAB)

Thursday, November 11
Veterans Day
Brent closed

Wednesday, November 24 -
Friday, November 26
Thanksgiving Break
No school for students and teachers

Thursday, December 2 - Sunday, December 5
Brent Holiday Sale
Please consider volunteering some time and indicate if you have time/day preferences on the signup sheet.
Working hours for volunteers are:
Thursday - 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday - 4 p.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday - 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sunday - 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Thursday, December 23 - Friday, December 31

Join the A-Z Brent Directory
https://atozconnect.com/cls/related_entities_list.php

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

Asymptomatic Testing Information
OSSE Letter to Families
Accessing Test Results Instructions

New - Return to School Guidelines
Exclusion and Dismissal Criteria and Protocols for Schools

New - Daily Screening Questions
Daily Screening Questions for Families with Students Attending Schools
Winter Break
No school for students and teachers

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View this email in your browser

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Scenes from Brent's Fall Clean-up Day!
A huge thank you to all the Brent Bear volunteers on Saturday who tackled many projects at Brent. From assembling new outdoor picnic tables, organizing the mailroom to sweeping the perimeter of the school, the volunteers worked hard! A special thanks to Katherine Holt and Renee Christensen for leading the event.
ASL INTERPRETERS WILL BE PROVIDED.

CALLING ALL BRENT BEARS!

BRENT COMMUNITY MEETING ON RACE AND IDENTITY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27!

VIRTUAL

6:30 - 8 P.M.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION ON RACIAL EQUITY AND IDENTITY

Join other parents, caregivers, and staff to talk about how our racial identities shape how we show up in the Brent community. In preparation for the conversation, the Diversity Working Group has curated a set of readings, podcasts, and videos that explore race equity and identity. Visit brentelementary.org to view the pre-meeting assignments!

This is the first in a series of conversations this school year about race, gender, and disability/ableism in the community. Hosted by the Brent PTA and Diversity Working Group.

Brent Community Meeting on Race and Identity

Wednesday, October 27 - 6:30 p.m. -8 p.m.

Zoom information

https://zoom.us/j/97317488056?pwd=T2haVkJbm94ZDdPbFNkek1QK29Udz09

Meeting ID: 973 1748 8056

Passcode: 770051
Join other parents, caregivers, and staff to talk about how our racial identities shape how we show up in the Brent community. In preparation for the conversation, the Diversity Working Group has curated a set of readings, podcasts, and videos that explore race equity and identity. Please read/watch/listen to at least one item of your choosing and come ready to discuss with others:

- **DCPS Equity Framework / Glossary and Definitions** (read)
- **NPR: “How White Parents Can Talk To Their Kids About Race.”** Michel Martin interviews Jennifer Harvey (read/listen)
- **National Museum of African American History and Culture: Being Antiracist** (read/watch)
- **Peggy McIntosh: “How to recognize your white privilege—and use it to fight inequality”** (watch)
- **Learning for Justice: “Students Say Teach the Truth”** by Elizabeth Kleinrock or “Humanity, Healing and Doing the Work” by Crystal L. Keels (read)

This is the first in a series of conversations this school year about race, gender, and disability/ableism in the community. Hosted by the Brent PTA and Diversity Working Group.
This week in the library, students have been celebrating fall by reading fiction and nonfiction books about autumn. Students in every grade have been invited to make their own leaf to add to our library tree.

**Want help remembering your student's library books?**

Get a text message reminder the night before your child's library day by joining our library Remind group. It only takes a minute to sign up! See the instructions below for how to sign up depending on your child's library day:

- For Tuesday library classes: text @brent-tues to the number 81010
- For Wednesday library classes: text @brent-wed to the number 81010
- For Thursday library classes: text @brent-thur to the number 81010
- For all ECE library classes: text @brent-fri to the number 81010

*If you have trouble with 81010, try texting @brent-thur to (484) 577-8203 instead.

**Email Ms. Schutte with any questions at angela.schutte@k12.dc.gov.**
PTA Update

Dear Brent Bear families,

A big thanks to the families who came out to our Fall Clean-up day, and a special thanks to the 4th-grade room parents for organizing! It was so wonderful to see our students and caregivers building picnic tables for outdoor lunch, cutting back dead plants, pulling weeds, picking up trash, and more!
This week, we are having our Community meeting about Race and Identity in the Brent Community. This is the first in a series of conversations this school
Important Announcements!

The Brent PTA is now on Instagram! Follow us @brentelementarypta!

Upcoming PTA Events

Brent Community Meeting on Race and Identity

- Wednesday, October 27, 6:30-8 p.m.
- Join other parents, caregivers, and staff to talk about how our racial identities shape how we show up in the Brent community. In preparation for the conversation, the Diversity Working Group has curated a set of readings, podcasts, and videos that explore race equity and identity. Please read/watch/listen to at least one item of your choosing and come ready to discuss with others.

Brent Elementary Veterans Appreciation Day!

- Saturday, November 6, 2-5 p.m., Joint Base Anacostia Bolling (JBAB)
- Thanks to those who registered! More details will be sent soon!

Brent Bears at the Trot for Hunger 5K!

- Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, November 25, Freedom Plaza
- Join the Brent Elementary Bears at the 20th Annual So Others May Eat (SOME) Trot for Hunger. This will be Brent’s 7th year participating, and our teams have a sterling record of placing in the top 10 fundraisers--in
2019 we were able to raise almost $2500. We'd love to revive this tradition for 2021!

- More details can be found by going here: Brent Bears team sign up or contacting Mary Claire York, maryclaireb@gmail.com.

**Volunteer for the Holiday Sale!**

- Thursday, December 2 - Sunday, December 5
- The Brent Holiday Sale is one the biggest sources of funds for the PTA and fun for volunteers! It will start with unloading of the trees the afternoon of Wed, Dec 1. We need lots of help! Please consider volunteering some time and indicate if you have time/day preferences on the signup sheet.
- Working hours for volunteers are: Thursday, 9 a.m.- 8 p.m.; Friday, 4 p.m. - 9p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.- 8 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.- 8 p.m.

Best,

Your 2021-22 Brent PTA Board

Contact us!

Email: rsaxtonf@gmail.com neeraj.bhat@gmail.com
Brent PTA website: http://www.brentelementary.org/pta.html
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/BrentElementarySchool
Instagram @brentelementarypta
VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Come join us to learn more about Jefferson! Can’t make it in person? No problem!

Join us virtually on Microsoft Teams:

https://tinyurl.com/JAfamily20

NOVEMBER 3
DECEMBER 1
JANUARY 5
FEBRUARY 2
MARCH 2
APRIL 6

@ 6 PM

RSVP TO MS. WINTERS

MELISSA.WINTERS@K12.DC.GOV
We know that many students and families are excited to celebrate Halloween this week. As a reminder, students are *not* permitted to wear costumes at school. We also ask that families *do not* send in candy for students to pass out.
or share during the school day. If your child wants to bring in a small amount of candy to have for snack/lunch, please ensure that it is **NUT FREE**. Thank you for your cooperation!

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**Brent COVID Reporting - Covers Previous Seven Days - Staff and Students on Campus**

**Asymptomatic Testing - October 21, 2021 -** 106 students tested with accepted test samples - 24% of Brent’s student population

- Positive cases reported at school - 2
- Close contacts identified at school - 51
- Number of close contacts positive - 0

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**Principal Corner**

Dear Brent Community,

We had this year’s second and third (related) COVID cases last week – we would like that number to be zero even as we recognize the incidence of positive cases is very low, even with weekly asymptomatic testing rates ranging from 10-20%.

Given that close contact quarantine has been a rare occurrence at Brent, several families reached out with questions, many applicable to the wider community, such as:

**What makes someone a close contact? With whom does Brent work to determine close contacts?**

A close contact is either:

- An unvaccinated person (all Brent students) within 6 feet and unmasked of an infected person for 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour window within 2 days prior to that person’s illness onset or their positive test collection date.
- An unvaccinated person (all Brent students) within 3 feet and masked of an infected person for 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour window within 2 days prior to that person’s illness onset or their positive test collection date.

The close contact definition applies to both indoor and outdoor settings.

Brent works with a dedicated DCPS contact tracer to identify close contacts per the definition above. The grade level, available classroom space, recent activities also influence particular circumstances. Following any instance of a positive case in our building, we assess and reflect on our safety protocols and response so that we can balance minimizing health risks and close contacts while maximizing the daily learning experience.

**How are families informed of a close contact?**

As soon as we are aware of a positive case, we identify and call all families of close contacts. Families can expect notification the same day and so it is important to update phone numbers and emails via [brentelementary@k12.dc.gov](mailto:brentelementary@k12.dc.gov) or 202-698-3363 as needed.

Once DCPS sends approved official communications, within 24 hours but often before, the Brent team sends three separate emails: a community notification, a classroom/group notification, and a close contact notification.

**What are the policies specific to the Care and Enrichment setting?**

Care and Enrichment operate separately from Brent and DCPS. We have shared our school day health and safety protocols with the expectation that they are followed in the Care and Enrichment space. We have particularly emphasized masks, spacing and a high duration of outdoor time, especially during mask-free times like snack time. Though DC DOH and DCPS close contact rules do not change even if students are outdoors (see above), scientific evidence tells us that outdoor space is far safer.

While we are cohorted (classroom groups do not mix with other classroom groups) during the school day, logistics make class cohorting impossible in Care and Enrichment. In Care, students are most often cohorted within their grade level. In Enrichment, students are cohorted by class and grade-level band. This model and participation in Care and/or Enrichment necessarily expands potential close contacts.

In the most recent instance of a positive case, the Brent team chose to reach out to the families of close contacts on behalf of Care and Enrichment to streamline messaging. We will continue to follow this process in case of similar
notifications in the future. Moving forward, we will explicitly identify the point of exposure (the school day, Care/Enrichment or both).

**Why do we have to wait to test until 5-7 days after the point of last potential exposure?** If my child receives a negative test result before day 8, why do they still have to wait until day 8 to return to school?

Close contacts have a choice between two pathways to return to school:

- Quarantine for 10 days AND do not develop COVID-19 symptoms at any point during that quarantine. Day 1 is defined as the first full day following the last point of potential exposure. OR

- Take a PCR COVID-19 test on day 5 or later AND receive a negative PCR test result AND do not develop COVID-19 symptoms at any point during their quarantine. Day 1 is defined as the first full day following the last point of potential exposure.

Families are welcome to get a COVID test prior to 5-7 days for their own information and reassurance. Tests prior to that period cannot end quarantine because of the known COVID transmission period. Similarly, even if all other conditions for return are met, Day 8 is the first point of return to rule out the development of COVID symptoms after a negative test.

**What type of COVID tests are permitted? Why are rapid tests discouraged?**

COVID PCR tests are the required tool as they have proven to be a more reliable tool. Even when testing for peace of mind and not for a school protocol, we recommend against rapid tests. Rapid tests have a higher rate of false positives, something that can unnecessarily disrupt your child’s learning or that of their peers.

**How are instructional plans for students in quarantine determined?**

Per DCPS policy, quarantines affecting ECE students, whether individuals or the whole class, will always result in asynchronous learning.

For grades K-5, students will engage in asynchronous learning if less than 25% of the class is quarantined; if more than 25% of the class is quarantined up to and including the whole class, students will have access to live virtual learning for core content areas.

We do not generally have the staffing capacity to allow for check ins or live time during an asynchronous day; however, in the rare case where it is possible, we will communicate that schedule directly to families.
School devices are distributed to all students headed into quarantine, most often at the point of pick up.

If you have additional questions, please reach out to brentelementary@k12.dc.gov, return to our Brent Health and Safety Orientation Video, or visit dcpsreopenstrong.com.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell