



Specialists' Newsletter Page 1

August 28, 2018

LIBRARY (MS, BETTINA)

Welcome to Brent's School Library for another fabulous school year!

All students will have the opportunity to check out books once a week during their scheduled library time. Additional check-out times can be arranged on an individual basis as the need arises. Books can be returned anytime by placing them in the return bin near the entrance to the library.

The library's catalog and a variety of research resources can be found at www.destinydiscover.com. Students can access their accounts to check out digital material and to put books on hold by using the following login information:

Username: Student ID Number

Password: Student's Six-Digit Birth Date (MMDDYY)

Additional resources can be found on the DC Public Library website at www.dclibrary.org. Please remember that the DC One Card serves as a library card.

Please feel free to contact Ms. Bettina at bettina.schewe@dc.gov with any questions or concerns.

Happy Reading!



Performing Arts (Mr. Krohn)

Greetings from Brent's Performing Arts director!

Students in grades 1st – 5th will have the opportunity to come to music four times a week for approximately 13 weeks. During their time in music students will be studying percussion, guitar, ukulele, violin, piano, vocal instruction/coaching, theater, and movement while hopefully gaining a deep appreciation for what the performing arts can offer. This trimester the following classes will have music: Ms. Bizanz, Mr. Meneghello, Ms. Hill, Ms. Werstuik, and Ms. Saxton.

We have been working with percussion as well as reminding ourselves about how we use our singing voice to match pitch with various instruments (i.e. piano, xylophone, etc...). Students are also being reminded that great musicians look, listen, and learn when someone is speaking.

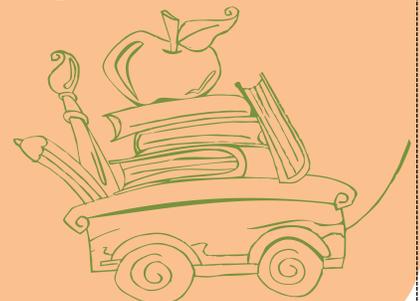
3rd Grade musicians have been introduced to the recorder through the method book "Recorder Karate" and they have been asked to practice at least 5-10 minutes daily so they can improve their muscle memory, finger dexterity, and music reading abilities. "Belt" tests will be starting in two weeks.

Looking for a way to volunteer? I am in need of book binding, photo copying, and emailing parents as a room parent. If you are interested please email me at Joshua.krohn@dc.gov

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Best Wishes,

Joshua Krohn





VISUAL ARTS (MS. GIBSON)

Welcome back Brent Bears.

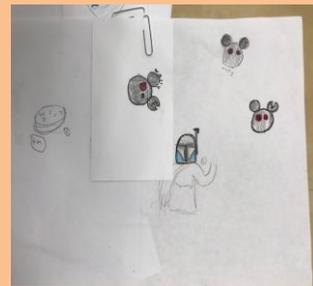
There is a saying that goes "a picture is worth 1,000 words." This week in art we experienced how "an artist's work is to communicate ideas visually." In that spirit, here are some pictures of what we have been up to in the first week.

Using visual language students illustrated for themselves, and others, a moment when they felt brave and/or creative over the summer.



Visual Arts (continued)

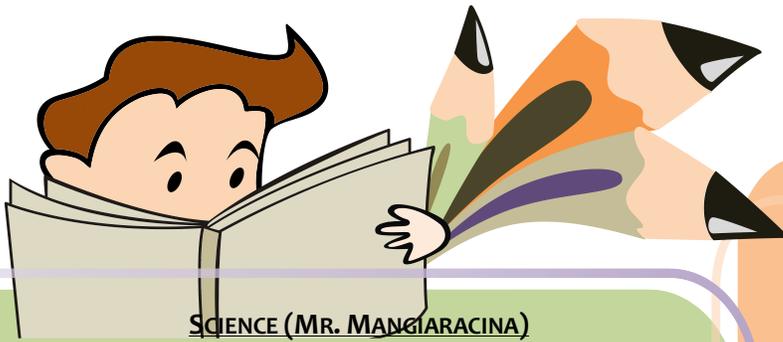
Special signatures- students chose a symbol to represent themselves and integrated their name into the picture to create an artistic signature.



Exploration- students explored a variety of drawing materials and learned new techniques for working with old favorites: Printmaking with markers. Texture plates and recycled crayons. Using the recycled crayons they made last year, students enjoyed the fruits of their hard work and made textured rubbings.

One of my personal favorites, watercolor pencils- you can draw and paint!





SCIENCE (MR. MANGIARACINA)

During the first trimester, the following classes have science four days a week with Mr. Mangiaracina: Ms. Hoisl, Mr. Berg, Ms. Maschari, and Ms. Rodriguez.

Science in our brand new classroom is off to a great start. Our new modular schedule allows each class to come four days a week for one trimester. This is a big change from years past, and is allowing us to really get to know each other quickly.

All classes started their science experience with a study of observations and inferences, two foundational elements of scientific thinking. Students explored “mystery boxes” and tried to figure out what was inside, even though they couldn’t open the boxes to use their sense of sight! Students at all grade levels came up with ideas for how to observe these boxes beyond simply shaking them and listening.

Each grade will start its first unit this week. First grade are beginning a study of living things and their young, beginning with a close look at meal worms and plant seedlings. Second grade will begin their habitats unit with the creation of soda bottle terrariums and a survey of one square meter of the school yard. Third grade are beginning their bird studies, with a survey of bird life on campus and a study of Lynne Cherry’s book *Flute’s Journey*. 4th graders will be starting their unit on energy transfer with the creation of Rube Goldberg Machines and a study of Newton’s cradle.

Learning will progress quickly this year in science, so be sure to check in with your young scientist often about what they are learning.

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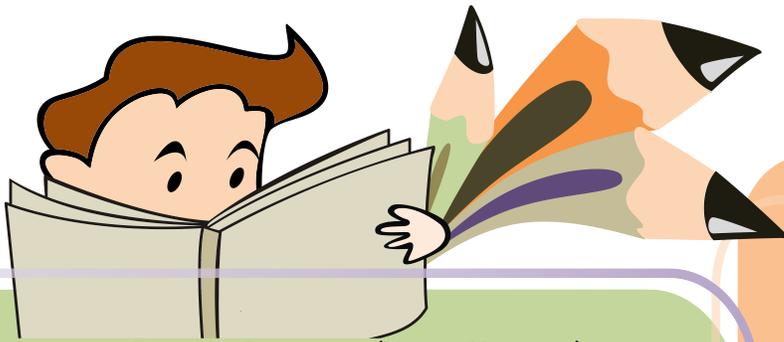
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Atelier (Ms. Sadowsky)

Brent’s early childhood team is inspired by the Reggio-Emilia approach to teaching and learning. In Reggio-Emilia, Italy every school has an atelier which children visit regularly. Our team is excited to take this next step in our Reggio-inspired journey by adding an atelier to our school environment. The atelier provides children an opportunity to construct new knowledge in the domains of art, music, and science. The atelierista uses the National Core Arts Standards for art and music to guide art and music instruction and uses the Teaching Strategies GOLD objectives to guide science and social-emotional instruction.

This week, Brent’s kindergarteners and preschoolers were welcomed into their new atelier. They began building their sense of place as they explored the many materials throughout the space and learned the routines and expectations of their new classroom. We read the book “Breathe” by Scott Magoon as we introduced the atelier’s calm spot as a peaceful and positive space to calm down. Children practiced the deep breathing technique of “smelling the flowers” and “blowing out the candles.”





PHYSICAL EDUCATION (COACH MITCHELL)

Good afternoon families -

Welcome back to the start of another amazing school year! I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer. It has been so great to see all of your smiling children back at Brent and hear all the stories of travel, camps, adventures, etc. from the past two months.

I'm really excited to begin another year in P.E. class!

Students in grades 3rd - 5th will start the year participating in a Teamwork / Cooperation Unit. During these lessons, students will participate in a variety of activities that encourage everyone working toward a common goal and using positive communication. Students will participate in partners, small groups, and whole class activities.

Students in grades K -2 will start the year participating in a Building a Foundation Unit. During these lessons, students will focus on establishing our class environment, behavioral expectations, body and spatial awareness, pathways, levels, and cooperation / teamwork.

If at any time you need to contact me during the school year, please feel free to email me at brian.mitchell2@dc.gov

Have a great day!

Coach Mitchell

