Good News: The library has reopened. Students will resume visiting the library once a week. Please remind your child(ren) to return outstanding library books. Notices will be sent out this week, to help keep track of overdue books.

While the library was closed students enjoyed some outdoor or in-classroom story time, learned how to use the online catalog at www.destinydiscover.com, and/or were provided with guidance on how to behave safely and responsibly online. Students will continue to receive digital citizenship lessons throughout the year.

Kindergarten students created a class web after reading *The Very Busy Spider* by Eric Carle

This week (October 15 – 20) is Digital Citizenship Week. Guidance on how to raise good digital citizens, who use technology and media safely, responsibly and respectfully, can be found on the Common Media website at https://www.commonsensemedia.org.

You are encouraged to complete the attached Media Agreement (https://www.commonsensemedia.org/research/technology-addiction-concern-controversy-and-finding-balance/resources) with your student(s).

Common Sense Family Media Agreeer

5 Million Minute Reading Challenge:
Please help your child(ren) with logging all independent reading at https://brentes.beanstack.org.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Bettina (bettina.schewe@dc.gov) with any questions.

Happy Reading!

Physical Education

Beginning next week, students in Kindergarten will get a special treat in P.E. class. Mr. Krohn and myself will be co-teaching a ribbons and scarves unit. Students will have the opportunity to express creative movement with these pieces of equipment while incorporating the musical expertise of Mr. Krohn. We are certainly looking forward to this opportunity!

If you have any questions, you can contact me at brian.mitchell2@dc.gov

Have a great day!

Coach Mitchell
The end of trimester concert is coming up and I am excited to announce that it will be on Friday November 16, 2018 from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. Does your child/children want a sneak-peak into what they will be learning in music class during their trimester? Students from Ms. Bizanz, Mr. Meneghello, Ms. Hill, Ms. Werstuik, and Ms. Saxton will be performing that evening so please come out to support these young musicians!

Starting next week I am excited to be co-teaching with Coach Mitchell during the Kindergarten P.E. blocks. Students will learn about how scarves and ribbons can be used for both physical education as well as music.

Each year I open up my room before school to students that are excited about performing in both vocal and instrumental music as well as musical theater. For our 2nd – 5th grade musicians I am offering a piano lab for students to learn the piano (Mondays), a recorder ensemble for those students wanting an outlet to perform with their recorder (Thursdays), as well as a performing string orchestra for students with previous playing experience (Fridays). All three ensembles started the week of 9/24/18 and spots are still open for students wishing to participate.

If your 2nd – 5th grade musician is interested in these FREE ensembles please click on this link to sign your child up: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1a1a8GXoDb5fulbZoVfgRiTNRHtn5mWpKg3n2w9t4nF/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1a1a8GXoDb5fulbZoVfgRiTNRHtn5mWpKg3n2w9t4nF/edit?usp=sharing)

The Brent Honors Choir (2nd - 5th grade) begun meeting on October 1 and spots are still open for those that want to join. The choir rehearses during the Wednesday recess block for 2nd/4th grade and the recess block for 3rd/5th grade. If your child would like to be a part of the choir and did not sign up please email me.

There is also a musical theater club that rehearses on Mondays during the 2nd/4th grade recess block. Please email if your child/children would like to be a part of that performing group.

I hope you have a great day and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.
This week in the atelier, children were invited to explore the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly through a hundred languages. Together as a community the children learned about Monarchs through reading books, singing songs, and learning the American Sign Language signs for butterfly-themed vocabulary. They expressed their own ideas about Monarchs through the life cycle freeze dance, choreographed jazz dancing, free lyrical dancing, and butterfly-inspired yoga.

In atelier centers, children were invited to create multiple representations of Monarchs through drawing, painting, collaging, and printing. Our Monarch life cycle puppet center offered an opportunity for children to act out the life cycle with their peers. Our PS3 and PK4 friends spent time learning how to mix the color orange, experimenting with various amounts of red, yellow, white, and grey tempera paints to mix the perfect shade for their Monarch’s wings. A big thanks to all of the family members who joined us in the atelier supporting small groups and sharing their knowledge with us this week!

Welcome to the WOW

At Brent we use a choice-based approach to art education. What this means in practical terms is that:

- In our studio students are regarded as artists. Students choose what to work on. As the pictures below illustrate, walking into the art studio on any given day you will see students engaged in a variety of projects and using a wide range of materials.
Visual Arts (continued)

- Students scaffold their own learning, sometimes going deeply into specific subjects or media. They work at their own pace, following their own lines of inquiry, and develop skills as they need them.

- Not every piece can or should be a masterpiece. In the same way that musicians and athletes practice, artists experiment and practice to learn from their work. Sometimes students practice improving skills. **WOW**—**Wonderful Original Works of Art are our finished products**—these are the result of careful work, planning and editing.

Currently, our artists have a range of WOW work on display in the hallway across from the multi-purpose room.

Each piece was shaped, from start to finish, by the artist’s thinking and choices. Consistent with what we know about developing **artistic thinking**, students explored and practiced with materials until they felt ready to create a WOW work. After working on their WOW piece, students shared it with friends and went through a formal **peer editing** process.
Using feedback from the peer editing process, students were able to adjust their work, if necessary, to make sure that their work spoke clearly and powerfully to their audience. Each artist then worked to craft an artist statement. “An artist's statement (or artist statement) is an artist's written description of their work. The brief verbal representation is for, and in support of, his or her own work to give the viewer understanding.” We hope that you enjoy viewing the WOW work as much as we enjoyed creating it.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gibson