Music/Performing Arts

Musicians in 1st, 2nd, and 4th grade have been composing their own music and learning how to play their music on the piano. They will be hosting a publishing party on Wednesday during their scheduled music class to give parents and community members the opportunity to learn more about the process.

Musicians are also gearing up for their end-of-trimester concert! Students in Ms. Hoisl’s, Mr. Berg’s, Ms. Maschari’s, and Ms. Rodriguez’s classes will be performing on Monday March 4 at 6 PM. Performing students are asked to arrive at 5:50 PM in concert white/black attire (i.e. white shirt/blouse, dark pants/dress/skirt). 3rd and 4th grade performers are asked to bring their recorders.

Two years ago DCPS created it’s first All-City Choir made up of the best singers throughout DC Public Schools. That inaugural choir performed in March 2017 and for the last two years Brent has had students perform in that choir. I am excited to announce that Brent will be participating in that choir again for the 2018-2019 school year (performance will be on March 23, 2019).

Auditions were held and I am excited to announce the following students will be representing Brent ES at the DCPS All-City Chorus (please congratulate these students when you see them):

Bea Applegate, Sasha Boehm, Avery Drobnyk, Ava Martin, Clara Merrick, Raine Montgomery-Vielmo, Annalee Nieves, Zaida Slakey, and Gabriela Sutherland.

Library

ECE and Kindergarten continued their exploration of the winter season with books such as Winter, Winter, Cold and Snow by Sharon Gibson Palermo, Snowballs by Lois Ehlert, and Best in Snow by April Pulley Sayre.

We learned about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reading My First Biography: Martin Luther King, Jr. by Marion Dane Bauer, and Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King by Jean Marzollo. Dr. King’s message led us to the creation of unity wreaths, which are currently displayed in the library.

Second Semester Reading Challenge:
The District reached its 5 million minute reading goal shortly before the end of January deadline for the first semester. Thank you to all students who logged their reading time and have therefore contributed to the successful completion of the challenge.
District schools are now challenged to read another 5 million minutes by May 31, 2019. All Brent Bears are encouraged to participate. There are two ways to log reading time:

1. Go to [https://brentes.beanstack.org](https://brentes.beanstack.org) and select “Log in with Clever” at the bottom of the page. Sign in using your child’s Student ID as the username and the Birthdate (MMDDYY) as the password. Or you can go to the Clever site at [https://clever.com/in/dcpsk12](https://clever.com/in/dcpsk12), log in and then click on the “Beanstack” option (under Library). In Beanstack, click on the “Log Reading” button at the top.

2. Or you can use the convenient Beanstack App: Download the free app; search for Brent ES and select it; sign in using your child’s Student ID as the username and the birthdate (MMDDYY) as the password; once your child is signed in, he/she stays signed in. Go to “Log” at the bottom of the screen and select the “+” button in the upper right corner, scan the book your child is reading. Use the timer to log your child’s reading time.

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

Happy Reading!

**Atelier**

Mark your calendars! The second atelier showcase of the year is Thursday, March 7th from 6:00-7:00 pm.

**Visual Arts**

**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.
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.

Visual Arts (continued)

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**—**W**onderful **O**riginal **W**orks of Art are our finished products—these are the result of careful work, planning and editing.

Students carefully plan a large drawing of the Greek Gods playing soccer.

**Finished Wow works will begin to appear on the bulletin boards outside of the multipurpose 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