

MUSIC/PERFORMING ARTS

Come out and support the eighty students that have been working on their performance of "Dear Edwina Jr.!" They will be performing on April 12 and April 13 (both performances start at 6 PM) and both performances are free.

Concessions, playbills, and flowers will be sold and all proceeds will support the performing arts at Brent.

The Spring Concerts are coming up next month! The students have already begun working on their music for the concert during class. The concerts will be on May 16 for our ECE – 1st grade musicians and May 17 for our 2nd-5th grade musicians. Please ask your young musician to sing something for you at home!

Thanks to a partnership with "Creative Spark!" our 5th grade students have been learning about theater improvisation, character development, and scene creation. They will be expanding their knowledge this month by developing scripts and performing their scripts.

Looking to volunteer? Mr. Krohn could use help with book binding and copying.

Library

Reading Without Walls Challenge

The deadline for the Reading Without Walls Challenge (<http://geneyang.com/the-reading-without-walls-challenge>) has been extended to April 16. Students should provide Ms. Bettina with the titles of the books that they read to complete the challenge:

Library (continued)

- 1.) Book about a character who doesn't look like them or live like them,
- 2.) Book about a topic they don't know much about, and
- 3.) Book in a format that they don't normally read for fun; for example, if a student usually reads graphic novels, he/she should pick up a chapter book or a book with poems.

DCPS Wide Three Million Minute Reading Challenge

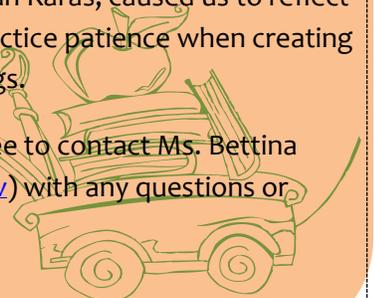


The Three Million Minute Challenge ends on April 30. We are 10,808 minutes short of reaching our school contribution target. So, please do not forget to log all independent reading time at <https://brentes.beanstack.org>. Brent Bears are readers! We can do this.

Read Across America Celebration of Diverse Books

Read Across America was celebrated with exploring the book *Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood* by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell, Illustrator: [Rafael López](#). After reading the picture book that is based on a true story, Pre-K and Kindergarten classes created paper "murals" to beautify the library. *More-igami* by Dori Kleber, Illustrator: G. Brian Karas, caused us to reflect on perseverance and practice patience when creating our own Origami ladybugs.

As always, please feel free to contact Ms. Bettina (bettina.schewe@dc.gov) with any questions or concerns. Thank you.





SCIENCE

Brent scientists are in the throes of Marsh Madness this week! All 1st-5th graders are participating in the "Marshmallow Challenge," an engineering exercise with some counterintuitive results.

Teams of students were given the task of building a structure that would hold up a single marshmallow, using only 20 pieces of dry spaghetti, a meter of tape and a meter of string. Many creative solutions were tried, and a variety of types of towers emerged, from radio towers with guy wires to simple tripods.

Students learned that a marshmallow is much heavier than it looks, when compared to the structural strength of dry spaghetti. For this reason, the teams that prototyped their towers, by building around the marshmallow, tended to have more success than the teams that built a tall tower and then put the marshmallow on at the end of the time limit.

More on the marshmallow challenge can be found at <https://www.tomwujec.com/design-projects/marshmallow-challenge/> This page includes a TED talk, sharing some of the trends that the presenter found while doing the marshmallow challenge in corporate teams, and then comparing the results with those of elementary school students.

Physical Education

Good afternoon families.

I hope that everyone is having a great week.

In P.E. class, students in grades K - 2nd are hard at work participating in a Parachute unit. This unit aims to encourage cooperative behavior among students. The activities performed during class involve stretching movements, strength development exercises, locomotor & non-locomotor skills, and a wide variety of social interactions.

Have a great day!

Coach Mitchell

Visual Arts

Why Background Matters; the importance of place in portraits.

The National Portrait Gallery recently revealed the official portraits of President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. The portraits painted by contemporary artists Kehinde Wiley and Amy Sherald have captured the attention and imagination of viewers.

Our 5th grade artists have been considering the bold choices made by these artists and also thinking about a setting for their own "official" 5th grade portraits. Students are in the process of creating detailed self-portraits and will soon begin creating a large-scale, collaged background in which to place their portrait.





SPANISH

ECE and Kindergarten

ECE and Kindergarten students have been working on chapter 7 and practicing saying what they have “tengo...” I have... and don't have “no tengo...” I don't have... as well continuing to practice the action verbs “cantar” sing and “bailar” dance. ECE students have been creating picture sorts distinguishing between items that they have and don't have. Kindergarten students completed workbook pages saying if they have or don't have items in Spanish, “tengo”, “no tengo”.

[Hola amigos](#)

[Buenos días](#)

First and Second Grade:

Over the past few weeks students have learned action verbs “corre” he/she runs, “salta” he/she jumps, “juega” he/she plays, “canta” he/she sings, and “habla” he/she speaks. In addition, students are reviewing the members of the family “el padre” father, “la madre” mother, “el hermano” brother, “la hermana” sister, “el abuelo” grandpa, “la abuela” grandma. They will use review vocabulary words (joven young, viejo old, divertido fun, alto tall, bajo short, atlético athletic, listo smart) to describe family members.

[La familia](#)

Spanish (continued)

Third Grade:

Third have been practicing using single digit and double digit numbers in Spanish to say their phone numbers out loud to each other. For example: they can say 202-489-7653 by using single numbers or double digit numbers 202-489-76 53. In addition, third grades have been learning the action verbs “decir” to say and “lavar” to wash with the different forms of “necesitar” to need.

[Count to ten](#)

[Count by tens](#)

Fourth and Fifth Grade:

Fourth graders spent some time counting money by 1's 5's and 10's as well as practiced using the different forms of the verbs necesitar, querer and poder with an action verb.

[Vengan ya](#)

