Performing Arts

The third grade belt-testing schedule will be the following until the end of the year (belt testing is always from 8:30 – 8:45 in the music room):

KRAEMER: Monday and Wednesday
HILL/MASCHARI: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Auditions for the talent shows start this week! We have approximately 85 students from KG – 5th grade auditioning with singing, dancing, instrumental music, comedy, and more. Please support our talented performers on May 29 and May 30 as they perform for the community. Each performance will be from 6:00 – 6:45 and ASL interpretation will be available for both nights. Interested in helping with the concerts? Please contact me at Joshua.krohn@dc.gov

The end-of-trimester concert is also coming up! On June 3 at 6:00 students from Ms. Patterson’s, Ms. Laskowski’s, Ms. Kramer’s, Ms. Leary’s, and Ms. Lee’s classes will perform. Those students performing need to arrive at Brent at 5:50 PM in concert white/black attire and 3rd-5th grade students will need their recorders that evening.

The Brent Honors Choir will be performing at The Kennedy Center on May 23, 2019 around 12:00 PM as part of the DCPS Arts Festival. Please come out and support our talented singers!

Atelier

This spring, children have been exploring the arts through several atelier field experiences. Last week, The Silly Dragons and The Great Fireworking Superheroes visited the National Gallery of Art. The children participated in an interactive story time inspired by the book “Not a Box,” and has the opportunity to view and discuss several pieces of art in addition to making their own mixed media sculpture!

Next week, The Ocean City Friends Forever will visit the National Museum of Women in the Arts to extend their artist study of Alma Thomas.

Physical Education

Beginning this week, students in grades 3rd - 5th will be participating in the spring Fitnessgram assessment. This is a series of challenges that measures student's cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, and body composition.

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

Have a great day!

Coach Mitchell
ECE and Kindergarten friends have been exploring spring themed books, such as Rose’s Garden by Peter H. Reynolds and My Garden by Kevin Henkes, and have been creating colorful flowers from various materials.

Book Return:
During spring break an inventory has been conducted. In order to accurately complete this inventory it is necessary that all overdue books are returned as soon as possible. Please ensure that students search thoroughly for overdue books and notify Ms. Bettina if items cannot be found. Thank you very much for your help and support. Lists with outstanding items will be sent home frequently to help keep track.

Library (continued)

DCPS Wide 5 Million Minute Reading Challenge:
Please help your children with logging all independent reading at https://brentes.beanstack.org or using the Beanstack App (Username: Student ID, Password: Birthdate-MMDDYY), so that Brent is contributing to the goal of the 2019 Second Semester Reading Challenge.

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

Happy Reading!

Science

First grade scientists have finished their studies of animal and plant babies. They just made the amazing discovery that the mealworms they’ve been observing so closely were actually baby beetles all along! They watched the mealworms go through their pupal stage and generated hypotheses about what was going on, before seeing that they turned into beetles. First graders are now investigating light and sound.

Second grade scientists have competed an investigation of pollination, culminating in an engineering project to create hand pollinators, mimicking the actions of bees of butterflies in pollinating flowers. They are now working on a study of matter and are about to begin investigating the properties of silly putty.
Third grade scientists have completed their magnet studies and are now designing magnet-powered cars. Using what they know about how magnets attract and repel, they have created a wide assortment of vehicles that move when magnets are brought near them.

Fourth graders have just begun their Rice Rangers project with the Anacostia Watershed Society. They are growing Arrow Arum and Wild Rice in the science classroom, which they will transfer to the wilds of Kingman Island later this month. In the meantime, they are investigating how these plants will help their ecosystem.

Fifth grade scientists are investigating the properties of mixtures and solutions, and are finding that they can actually see evidence that matter is made of particles too small to be seen. They will soon be connecting this concept to what they learned about photosynthesis and food webs earlier this trimester.

Visual Arts

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)

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.

- 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.
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