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.

Brent scientists are nearing the end of their first units this trimester, and will soon be exploring new topics.

First grade scientists have explored the similarities and differences between adult and animal babies as well as seedlings and adult plants. We recently completed a project in which we “accidentally” lost the labels to a group of newly planted seeds. Using only the pictures of the adult plants on the seed packets, students had to identify the plants based only on the properties of the newly sprouted seedlings. We are also continuing our study of mealworms and have recently noticed a strange new visitor to the mealworm habitats. Our young scientists haven’t figured out yet what this new visitor is, but they will soon!

Second grade scientists have almost finished their explorations of habitats. They have monitored the progress of their soda bottle terrariums and are still working out the mystery of why water has appeared on the sides of the bottles, even though we haven’t opened them or watered them since the project started. They have also completed their inventories of one square meter of the school’s front yard, and classified their findings into living, non-living and formerly living elements. Second graders are currently monitoring their plant experiments, and are beginning a study of pollinators and how botanists can engineer hand-pollination techniques.

Third grade scientists are nearing the completion of their Bridging the Americas project. Each student has been assigned a migratory bird that can be found in both Washington, DC and in Nicaragua. Using the website allaboutbirds.org, students have researched their birds and are in the midst of creating a booklet and drawing of their birds to be sent to our sister school in Nicaragua. In the spring, our Nicaraguan colleagues will send us the products of their research, on the same birds!

Fourth grade scientists are progressing through their studies of energy transfer. Students have gained experience with waves from three different sources, by vibrating slinkies, by using an online wave simulator and by seeing how musical notes can translate into visible waves using a xylophone and an oscilloscope. Students are exploring cause and effect relationships by seeing how they can alter amplitude and wavelength on all three of these examples of waves.

Physical Education

Beginning next week, students in grades 3rd - 5th will be participating in the fall 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
As the library is closed for repairs right now, students are encouraged to use the online catalog at www.destinydiscover.com, which allows them to check out e-Books and interactive books, as well as put books on hold, which will be checked out to them within 24 hours, as long as they are available. Please be reminded that username and password for the online catalog system are the same as for Clever (Username: Student ID, Password: Birthdate – MMDDYY).

Please participate in the DCPS 5 Million Minute Reading Challenge by logging daily independent reading at https://brentes.beanstack.org.

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

Happy Reading!

Music/Performing Arts

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 start this week (the week of 9/24/18).

Music/Performing Arts (continued)

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/1a1a8GXoDb5fulbZoVfgRiTNRHtn5mWpKg3nzw9t4nfE/edit?usp=sharing

The Brent Honors Choir (2nd - 5th grade) will begin meeting next week (October 1). The choir will rehearse during the Wednesday recess block for 2nd/4th grade and the recess block for 3rd/5th grade. The sign-up sheet will be passed in class this week.

There will also be a musical theater club that will rehearse on Mondays during the 2nd/4th grade recess block. The sign-up sheet will be passed in class this week as well.

I hope you have a great day and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Atelier

This week, music explorations in the atelier were all about percussion. Children learned that percussion instruments are instruments that you need to strike or shake to make a sound. Over the past few weeks, each class has been singing songs inspired by their current projects including Hawaii, beetles, and the sky. This week, we began to integrate the use of percussion instruments into their songs. Children were introduced to eggshakers and rhythm sticks, using both to keep a steady beat for the songs they were singing.
We practiced turn-taking with partners as one child took on the role of vocalist and one child took on the role of percussionist and then switched. The children are very motivated to rehearse their songs knowing that they will choose one to perform at our upcoming Atelier Showcase this November.

This week, art and science explorations in the atelier were all about rainbows. After reading the book *How the Crayons Saved the Rainbow*, children learned about how rainbows are formed as well as a song to use as a tool to help remember the colors of the rainbow in the correct order. In atelier centers, children were invited to represent the rainbow through drawing, watercolor painting, and spray painting!
“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.”

-Marcel Proust

This week Brent artists practiced seeing with new eyes. Whether it was learning to “draw” with different materials such as string, noticing the birds that share our deck space or using a rainy weather as an inspiration; our artists embrace the enduring understanding that “art is everywhere” if you are willing to look for it.

Figure 2 - 5th graders explore the idea that embroidery is simply drawing with thread

Figure 3 - First graders sketching the rainy day and then applying a watercolor wash, with a sprinkle of salt, to get a raindrop effect.

In Other News

According to the American Human Association’s study, “a class pet can teach children important values like compassion, empathy, respect and responsibility for other living things, as well as give them much-needed leadership skills and stress relief.”

Since the aim of art at Brent is to encourage students to look closely at the world around them, I believe that the addition of a pet will produce more wonder. I am hoping to have my pet rabbit join us on a regular basis. Please reach out if you have any concerns.