Throughout December, the children were invited to explore both the history and science of the winter solstice. Our discussions centered around the sun, and the children were interested in discussing both the sun’s role in the solar system and the sun’s role in our daily lives. Together, we learned the practice of performing a sun salutation and discussed the various ways people celebrate the sun’s return around the northern hemisphere. Throughout the atelier, children were encouraged to represent their ideas about the sun through a variety of languages including collage, sculpture, paint, yoga, music, and loose parts.

To honor the winter solstice on December 21st, our early childhood and kindergarten classrooms joined together for a community morning meeting. The children sang songs about the sun, practiced their sun salutation, heard a winter poem read aloud by Ms. Bettina, and shared their sun-inspired atelier projects (collages, sculptures, and medallions) with one another.
¡Hola Familias!

As we come back from break, students are working hard and having fun using movement (Total Physical Response) to explore a second language. They are impressing me with their command of introductory conversations and their creativity when we work as a class to create original stories with our week's target vocabulary. Additionally, we have studied the culture and traditions of both Spain and Mexico. Next up? Colombia. If your family has any pictures or souvenirs from Colombia consider bringing them in to help decorate our connections wall for the month of January.

4th Graders will begin studying subject-verb agreement.

5th Graders will continue to work with the verb gustar, hobbies, and pastimes.

Both grade levels will have a new set of vocabulary including: la lámpara, la fiesta, la bicicleta, el/la estudiante, la estacion, el parque, el teatro, el amigo/la amiga

¡Hasta luego!

Señorita Hahn

---

Physical Education

Happy New Year!

In P.E. class, students in grades 3rd - 5th will begin participating in a hockey unit. During the unit, students will learn/refresh a variety of skills that will be practiced individually, in pairs, or in small groups. A few of these skills include stick handling, passing, shooting, puck control, and defensive strategies. Students will conclude the unit participating in small sided game play.

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

Have a great day!

Coach Mitchell

Performing Arts

Save the Date: International Night is coming!

Brent's annual International Night will be on Friday January 11th from 6 - 7:30 p.m.!

International Night is an evening celebrating and embracing the diversity of our school through cultural artifacts, musical performance, food, and crafts.

To make this a fabulous and educational evening for our students we are asking for help with the following (please mark accordingly on the following spreadsheet):  
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17Sb4dfEEeS7q9Gsv9ImlKtvtfegh3cowbT18BN5qoWA/edit?usp=sharing

1. We are asking for volunteers to make/bring a dish from any world culture (it doesn't have to be enough to feed an army! Just enough so people can have a taste).
Performing Arts (continued)

2. We need volunteers to organize the food the evening of January 11 (i.e. putting labels on the food, organizing where the food goes) as well as passport stampers at each food station.

3. We need many volunteers to bring in artifacts from various cultures and to label/organize those artifacts so our students can experience more than just a culture's cuisine but rather learn about a culture through its history.

4. We need volunteers to set up as well as clean up from the event.

5. We are asking for students to be a part of the International Fashion Show by dressing in apparel from their culture/culture they identify with.

6. We will have a craft/flag making table for students (and adults) to learn about flags from various countries as well as make them.

7. This is a green event – please bring water bottles for filling at water fountains.

Visual Arts (continued)

During our first weeks, we experienced the enduring understanding that an artist’s work is to communicate visually.

Visual Arts

Happy New Year!

Art classes at Brent are organized around enduring understandings with the hope that students will learn to apply creativity and artistic thinking across a wide range of disciplines and situations.

“Enduring understanding are statements summarizing important ideas and core processes that are central to a discipline and have lasting value beyond the classroom. They synthesize what students should understand—not just know or do—as a result of studying a particular content area.”

In the following weeks we have been digging deeply into the types of work that artists create. We experienced the enduring understanding that artists produce different types of artwork.

We identified 4 major categories of studio work and came some realizations about how we use each of them in our artistic practice:
Skill Builders and Explorations allow us to perfect specific skills, explore new materials and/or use familiar materials in new ways.

WOW- Wonderful Original Works of Art are our finished products- these are the result of careful work, planning and editing.

Make and Take work is for special occasions- birthday cards, congratulatory drawings for friends or family.

Going forward we are going to be focusing on why artists create work. Identifying the motivation behind a work of art helps us deepen our understanding and provides inspiration for our own work.

Library

ECE and Kindergarten friends have been exploring the winter season and weather. We read the classic Katy and the Big Snow by Virginia Lee Burton and Samson in the Snow by Philip C. Stead, which encouraged a discussion about kindness, empathy and friendship.
DCPS Wide Reading Challenge - Quick Reminder:
The District wide 5 Million Minute Reading Challenge has been extended through January 31, 2019. Thank you to all students and their families who have logged their reading time in Beanstack over the winter break. The District is still about 1.5 million minutes away from reaching its goal. Since Brent Bears are readers, it is easy for us to contribute to a successful completion of this challenge. There are two ways to log reading time:

1. Go to 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, 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!