



BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

Dear Brent Families,

On behalf of your Brent PTA Board, we are excited to welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year! A special welcome to our new families that are joining Brent this year. You are joining an inclusive and dynamic family focused on improving the lives and academic achievement of each child who walks through Brent's doors.

The PTA Board works with the school administration to ensure they can provide a unique and engaging curriculum that challenges every student intellectually, supports their social and emotional development, and promotes a lifelong love of learning. Each year, through the hard work and generosity of the Brent community, the PTA raises over \$350,000 to support the school's teachers and students on their academic journey. These funds support additional staff in our children's classrooms; unique educational programs such as music, arts, science and field experiences; professional development for our teachers; and classroom technology. We strive for 100% community participation in our fundraising, at any level comfortable for your family.

These funds only make up a part of the important work the PTA does to support Brent. Hundreds of volunteers give their time to support the school and the PTA would not be successful without these contributions. We hope every family will volunteer their time to at least one PTA activity or event. Time commitments range from only a few hours over the course of the school year to a few hours a week. Getting involved as a room parent, in committees such as the Green Team or Field Experience committee, or any one of the other groups is a great way to make a positive impact. Our monthly General PTA meetings, which are usually held the 4th Wednesday of the month from 6 – 7:30 pm, are another important opportunity to contribute your ideas for how to support the success of our school. Free childcare is provided, and pizza is generously donated by We the Pizza. In addition to PTA Board and Principal updates, this year will feature guest speakers on select dates. Your time, creativity, innovative ideas and enthusiasm help create the strong sense of community and school spirit that makes Brent so special.

As you prepare for the school year, we offer these tips to support your engagement with Brent:

- Please visit the Brent school [store site](#) for uniform options and Brent memorabilia. The PTA also coordinates a used uniform program. These gently used uniforms are another wonderful resource. The used clothing bins will be available during the Open House and other school events.
- Please **pay the school supply and field trip fee**, payable via Brent's website at <http://brentelementary.org>. These are per-student fees for which the PTA collects the direct costs of supplies and field trips, including art, music, classroom and curricular materials; technology subscriptions; event fees and transportation for field trips. These fees save you a trip to the store, save teachers the time of coordinating per-field trip fees and transportation, allow Brent to buy in bulk and reduce costs, and ensure teachers have what they need at the start of the school year.
- Please **plan your donation to the Annual Fund**, which will launch in September. This past year we raised over \$110,000. Our goal this year is \$120,000 and 100% participation. Every amount counts. It is your participation that is valued most.

- Please see the attached list of parent names and contact information for our current committees—please reach out directly to committee leads or to any member of the PTA Board for more information about how to get involved.
- Please **use smile.amazon.com** (select Robert Brent Parent Teacher Association) for your amazon.com purchases—Brent gets cash back! Harris Teeter, Safeway, and Box Tops for Education offer similar opportunities to link your purchases to cash for Brent.
- Join us for the annual Popsicles in the Park, across the street from Brent at X park, following the Back to School Open House from 3 - 4 on August 23rd. It's a great opportunity to connect with old friends and meet new ones.
- Connect with the school on social media via Robert Brent Elementary School on Facebook, @BrentElementary on Twitter, and @Brentbears on Instagram.

We depend on parents as visionaries, problem-solvers, advocates, and volunteers to help achieve our school's ambitious agenda. So many of Brent's successes have happened at the hands of parents, working in partnership with Brent's dedicated and excellent staff. We encourage parent input about what is and isn't working at the school, and your engagement in our shared commitment to excellence. And we are deeply grateful for parents' generous contributions of time, money, and expertise. Please join us in making our community—and our school—even stronger.

Welcome back and Go Brent Bears!
Your Brent PTA Board

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Genevieve Taft-Vazquez; sgtaft@gmail.com
Co-Presidents

Kiana Moore; kiana.j.moore@gmail.com
Tara Goldenberg; taragoldenberg@gmail.com
Vice-Presidents

Neeraj Bhat; neeraj.bhat@gmail.com
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Co-Secretaries

Cortney Dell; cortneydell@yahoo.com
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Community Liaisons

Ben Champa; benchampa@gmail.com
Past President

Chloe Patterson; chloe.patterson@k12.dc.gov
Liz Kraemer; elisabeth.kraemer@k12.dc.gov
Brent teacher representatives

PTA Parent Committee Chairs and Contact Information

•Family Picnic	Raf/Diana Rubin diana.rubin@gmail.com
•Annual Fund	Piper Campbell piper@pipercampbell.com Tara Goldenberg taragoldenberg@gmail.com
•Holiday Sale	Alyson Lewis & team alysonandjeff@gmail.com
•School Store	Liz Hanna elizabeth.h.hanna@gmail.com Katie Del Valle katedelvalle33@gmail.com
•Teacher Appreciation	Francine Asche francine.asche@gmail.com
•Field Experience	Scarlett DeShaw scarlettdeshaw@gmail.com
•Middle School	Nancy Caretta nancycaretta@gmail.com
•Communications	Lynsdey Medsker lmedsker1@gmail.com Erin Baldwin erin.baldwin@gmail.com
•Spring Gala (looking for new chair)	Claire Portolese cmportolese@gmail.com
•Wellness	Lindsay Bernard lmkilcoin@liberty.edu Carolyn Gorman Carolyn.gorman@gmail.com
•Green Team (looking for new chair)	TBD