Coming Up!

Friday, April 2 - Monday, May 3
Deadline passed - SY21-22 School Enrollment
https://dcgov.seamlessdocs.com/f/DCPSEnrollmentForm_English22

Wednesday, June 9
ECE Meet and Greet for New Families
2:00-2:45 pm: Students with last names A-K
3:00-3:45 pm: Students with last names L-Z

Thursday, June 10
Community Meeting (virtual)
6 - 7:30 p.m.
ASL Interpreters Provided
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85222837661
Meeting ID: 852 2283 7661
Passcode: Brent2020!

Saturday, June 12
Auction & Virtual Gala
Register at:
https://e.givesmart.com/events/ln4/

Thursday, June 17
Kindergarten to 1st Grade Transition Meeting
5 - 6 p.m.
Visit brentelementary.org for login information.

BRENT'S SPRING GALA - SATURDAY, JUNE 12
PURCHASE TICKETS TODAY!
HTTPS://BRENTGALA2021.GIVESMART.COM

You are cordially invited to the Above and Beyond Lift-Off the evening of June 12th! Join us in-person and virtually --- encourage family & friends to register and bid.....

https://brentgala2021.givesmart.com

Above & "From the Beyond" Tours ($25/family)
• Timed ticket docent tours chock-full of entertaining & historical stories (5pm - 7pm)
• Signature drink

Above & Beyond Blast Off Party ($75/person)
• Chance to mingle with the Brent Community & view amazing class art
• Delicious bites from amazing local eateries (5:30-7:30pm)
• Wine tastings by Chat's Liquor

Online Auction & Virtual Program (suggested donation $25)
• Inspiring videos from your favorite Brent Community members & sponsors
• You won’t want to miss the famous “Steal” drawing & “Raise the Paw” appeal

Remember the STEAL CARD from last year? It’s back!
Each purchase is a chance to win. For $50, you can “steal” any item of your choice from the silent auction. For example, if your kid really, really wants their class art project, this can be your opportunity to bring it home without getting in a bidding war. Watch the drawing on Facebook Live Saturday @ 9:30pm EST, and have your cell phone and choice ready. You must be available at 9:30 p.m. to claim your prize!
Above & Beyond Auction Lift Off
Sat, June 12 2021
Congressional Cemetery

...honoring the Brent Staff & Community

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

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Bhavna & Ankur Ghia

Curtis & Fuchs Family

The Nasser Family

Chat’s Liquors Capitol Hill

AGUA 301

ACQUA AL 2

WISEGUY PIZZA
The next DWG Book Club is “The Tyranny of Merit: What’s Become of the Common Good?” by Michael J. Sandel. Although this is not a “traditional” Diversity, Equity & Inclusion book, we will discuss the concepts using both parenting and equity perspectives to think about how meritocracy applies to our parenting styles and what its effect on our Brent and larger DC community is.

From the publisher: World-renowned philosopher Michael J. Sandel argues that to overcome the crises that are up-ending our world, we must rethink the attitudes toward success and failure that have accompanied globalization and rising inequality. Sandel shows the hubris a meritocracy generates among the winners and the harsh judgment it imposes on those left behind and traces the dire consequences across a wide swath of American life.

Everyone is encouraged and welcome to join. We take a slow approach and read a few chapters every few weeks. We’ve been meeting outside on Thursdays at 11am. Email Leda Bloomfield at leda.derosa@gmail.com if you’d like to join us.

P.S. Please support our local bookstore and purchase your copy at East City Bookshop!
CALLING ALL BREN BARRIES!
BREN COMMUNITY MEETING ON THURSDAY,
JUNE 10
6 - 7 P.M.

Join the discussion on:

- PTA Board Elections
- PTA SY2021-22 Budget review
- LSAT Elections
- Diversity Working Group Elections

Visit brentelementary.org for login information

ASL INTERPRETERS WILL BE PROVIDED.
2021-2022 PTA Candidates

We are pleased to present the following candidates for the 2021-2022 PTA board.

Rebecca Saxton-Fox (Co-President) – Rebecca is mom to Ziad (4th grade) and Sally (K). Along with my husband Muhammad, we have been a part of the Brent community for 5 years now and have cherished the community and the support we’ve felt here since day one. I am a policy advisor and manager at USAID, working to ensure safe, reliable, and equitable access to digital technology globally. My entire career has focused on supporting communities internationally, but this year has really pushed me to think and work at a local level. Like many of you, I was paralyzed by watching the devastation the pandemic had on so many of our children, despite the heroic efforts of Brent’s staff and teachers to keep them engaged and learning virtually. Along with Kim Stokes and Tara Ramchan-dani, I formed and led the Brent Parent Advocates group to advocate to safely and equitably re-open Brent for those who wanted to return, working alongside the school administration and with over 60 Brent parents. Spending so much time in the local community talking to Brent’s amazing staff, parents, teachers, and DC’s education leaders inspired me to do more. I’m running for PTA co-president because I want to continue to work with all of you to re-build our amazing Brent community after the devastation of the pandemic, support the goals and objectives of Brent’s administration, and advocate for all of Brent’s children to receive equitable access to high-quality public education. I look forward to working with all of you next year!

Neeraj Bhat (Co-President) – Neeraj has served as the PTA co-Treasurer for the past two years and is excited to support Brent as we emerge from the pandemic. He is father to Naveen (3rd grade), Aria (1st grade), and Jaiden (2 years old). Neeraj works in the clean energy sector, with a background in business and finance. He and his family moved to Capitol Hill in 2012 and have loved being part of this amazing community.

Margaux Manley Lima (Co-Vice President) – Margaux is mom to Catalina (rising 2nd grader) and Marina (rising 1st grader). She has served on the PTA for the past three years as Community Liaison. Her professional background is in Higher Education. Margaux is interested in further strengthening the amazing community at Brent. The Lima family has been a resident of Capitol Hill since 2013 and members of the Brent community since 2017.

Bhavna Ghia (Co-Vice President) – Bhavna is mom to Aria, a rising first-grader, and Devin, future Brent Bear who will start Kindergarten this Fall. This is our first year at Brent and we were so excited to finally be a part of our neighborhood school, albeit in an unusual year! I served as room parent for my daughter’s class and really enjoyed the interaction with the class, teachers, and PTA. I also joined the Gala committee and am helping to coordinate and plan the auction to help raise money for the PTA. I loved both of these roles and the opportunities to help Brent and become engaged with the school community. In my day job, I’m a political fundraiser and donor advisor. I work with Members of Congress, PAC’s, and donors on their fundraising events, finance plans, and advise on political giving strategies. I look forward to translating my fundraising skills into raising money for our PTA!

I’m excited to join the PTA and to work with my fellow parents, staff, and teachers as we start a new year and have more opportunities to engage with each other and come together as a school community.

Laura Martinez (Co-Treasurer) – Laura has been an active member of the Brent community for five years. Laura served on the Brent Gala Committee and PTA Nominating Committee in the 2019-2020 school year. She is the Deputy Director of the DC Forensic Nurse Examiners, a victim services nonprofit. In her duties Laura is responsible for all financial and budget oversight, and management of the organization’s $1M operating budget. This includes strategic budget planning, financial reporting to funders, and ensuring adherence to generally accepted accounting principles. Laura is mom to Livia Lai (rising 3rd grader). Livia has attended Brent since Pre-K3 with the exception of last year when her father (Borchien Lai) completed a State Department assignment abroad. The Lai/Martinez family have lived in Capitol Hill since 2011.

Kim Stokes (Co-Community Liaison) – Kim is the mom of Cassidy, who will be entering third grade at Brent this year. I have lived on and off Capitol Hill since 2004 but our little family most recently returned to this wonderful neighborhood from an assignment in Tel Aviv last summer. I am interested in serving on the PTA as community liaison because I have been so appreciative of how welcoming the Capitol Hill community has been to our family especially over the last year of the pandemic as we worked to reintegrate back into DC life. We are truly lucky to be here as...
part of the Brent community! With a few moves under our belt, being a new family is something we have quite a bit of experience with and I’m eager to help make sure all members, especially our new families, of the Brent community feel welcome and included! I’m also thrilled to work on efforts to help continue to build relationships between all community members, especially our teachers/staff and families. Everyone has been through quite a lot the last year and I want to help us emerge from this pandemic even stronger and make sure our incredible staff and faculty and families are getting all the support and appreciation they deserve!

**Tara Ramchandani (Co-Community Liaison)** – Tara is mom to Roopa (rising 3rd grade) and Vaasu (rising pre-k4) and has lived on Capitol Hill since 2012. I have very much enjoyed getting to know more members of the community this past year through the Brent Parent Advocates group, and am particularly interested in the Community Liaison group to help form bonds across the many different groups that rely upon one another at Brent (teachers, parents, neighbors, City leadership, etc.) and to seek to include as many voices as possible in how to best strengthen our school and community. Professionally, I am a partner at a civil rights firm based in DC with a nationwide practice, litigating discrimination cases in the areas of housing, lending, and public accommodations.

Returning board members include Kiana Moore and Tara Goldenberg as co-Past Presidents, Joby Fortson as co-Treasurer, and Katherine Holt Co-Secretary.
Defining LGBTQ Words for Elementary School Students

- When children ask questions about LGBTQ words, it is sometimes best to offer simple and direct answers.
- You might choose to answer a student’s question with another question to figure out what they are really asking — is it about name-calling, a classmate’s two dads, or something they saw on the internet? Listening first helps you respond.
- Using examples helps students understand definitions.
- Questions about LGBTQ words can provide teachable moments on topics like understanding difference and treating people with respect.
- If a student uses an LGBTQ term in a derogatory way, ask them if they know what it means. If they don’t, give a short definition and explain how that term is hurtful and mean. Let them know they should not use it in that way.
- This list can serve as a starting place for educators to respond to questions about LGBTQ words. These suggested definitions can help to ensure that you feel confident in your own knowledge and ability to communicate these ideas to students.

Gender

Cisgender: When your gender identity (how you feel) is the same as what doctors/midwives assigned to you when you were born (girl/boy or sex assigned at birth).  

Gender Binary: A way of seeing gender as two distinct and opposite groups — girl and boy. This idea doesn’t include all the ways we can have a gender identity and express our gender.

Gender Expansive: Some people feel that the traditional ways of being a “boy” or “girl” do not fit for them. They live their lives knowing that there are many ways to be a girl, boy, both, or neither.

Gender Expression: People express themselves in many ways, such as through clothes or hairstyles. Sometimes people think that these things go with certain genders, but really you cannot guess someone’s gender or pronouns from how they look. In our school, we respect that every person is unique and different, and we don’t tease or bully anyone about their personal expression.

Gender Identity: How you feel. Girl, boy, both, or neither. Everyone has a gender identity.

Intersex: An umbrella term that refers to people who are born with bodies that are naturally different from what is traditionally considered female or male. (This occurs in about 2% of babies born, similar to the percentage for redheads.)

Non-Binary: People who do not feel like the words “girl” or “boy” fits. They may feel like both or neither. They sometimes use pronouns such as they, them, them.

Sex Assigned At Birth: When a baby is born, a doctor or midwife looks at the baby’s body/anatomy and says they a girl, boy or intersex.

Transgender or Trans: When your gender identity (how you feel) is different than what doctors/midwives assigned to you when you were born (girl/boy or sex assigned at birth).

Who You Love

Bi: People who love people of more than one gender. [In grades 3 – 5, you might say people who love or are attracted to people of more than one gender.]

Gay: People who love people of the same gender. [In grades 3 – 5, you might say people who love or are attracted to people of the same gender.]

Heterosexual: People who identify as women who only love (or are attracted to) people who identify as men. Also, people who identify as men who only love (or are attracted to) people who identify as women.

Lesbian: People who love people of the same gender — two women. [In grades 3 – 5, you might say people who love or are attracted to people of the same gender.]

Pansexual: People who love people of any gender. [In grades 3 – 5, you might say people who love or are attracted to people of any gender.]

Sexual Orientation: Who you love. [In grades 3 – 5, you might say who you love or are attracted to.]

Gender and Who You Love

LGBTQ: Acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer.

Queer: People use this word as a way to identify with and celebrate people of all gender identities and all the ways people love each other. When used in a mean way, it is a word that hurts.
Dear Brent Families,

We have been thrilled to serve 100% of our students in the learning stance of their choice. Based on our standing commitment and on the Chancellor Ferebee’s announcement yesterday, we are even more thrilled that we will serve 100% of our students in person next year.

From the Chancellor’s announcement, we learned that schools and families can expect the 2021-2022 protocols shown above.

HVAC enhancements allow for well-ventilated spaces at every school, including state-of-the-art HEPA filters in classrooms and air quality sensors throughout the building.

Practice safe routines: All staff, students, and visitors must wear a mask or face covering, and daily PPE and hygiene supplies will be provided.

Enhanced cleaning protocols for high-touch surfaces, and a deep cleaning completed after a suspected or reported COVID-19 case.

Space arrangements: Students should be separated as far as possible, and individual desks and tables are to be facing the same direction to the extent feasible.

Student meals: Pre-K and Kindergarten students will eat in the classroom and all other grades will eat in the cafeteria. Social distancing should be followed while eating and drinking, to the extent feasible.

Student cohort interactions will be limited to the extent feasible, but there will be no cap for student or staff cohort interactions in any grade.

Screen for illness: Students and staff will complete a daily “Ask, Ask, Look” screening, but temperatures will not be taken upon arrival at school.

COVID-19 reporting protocols: Schools will report positive cases within a school community if a person has been in the building during their infectious period and follow a quarantine protocol. Additional information about asymptomatic testing will be shared over the summer.

In summary, from the availability of before care and aftercare to in-person special subject classes, we expect to return to almost typical operations.

While there is a very limited virtual option for students, we aim to serve all of our students in person. If you have not yet enrolled, please turn in your paperwork by the end of this week. If you are still feeling wary of in-person school, please reach out to us as soon as possible so that we can work together to address your concerns and make our community whole once again.

Sincerely,
Norah Lycknell
To help limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and to protect the health and safety of all children and staff of schools and child development facilities, travel outside of the District, Maryland or Virginia remains discouraged at this time. As travel increases, so does your chances of becoming infected and spreading COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting sick.

Please remember children, teachers and staff returning from travel outside the District, Maryland or Virginia, or any place other than a low-risk state, territory or country, must complete the following before returning to school or child care:

**SELF-MONITOR AND LIMIT DAILY ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING STAYING HOME FROM SCHOOL OR CHILD CARE, FOR 10 DAYS UPON RETURN TO THE DISTRICT**

**OR**

**LIMIT ACTIVITIES AND SELF-MONITOR UNTIL THEY ARE TESTED FOR CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) (AT LEAST THREE TO FIVE DAYS AFTER THEIR RETURN) AND RECEIVE A NEGATIVE RESULT.**

**NEW:** Travel-related testing and quarantine requirements may be waived if an individual:

- Has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days AND does not have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19

  **OR**

- Is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 AND does not have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

An individual is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after completion of a COVID-19 vaccination series (after the second dose of a 2-dose series, or after one dose of a single-dose vaccine).

Note: The COVID-19 vaccine is currently not available to children under the age of 16. Non-vaccinated children must continue to follow the travel restrictions before returning to school or child care, even if their parent/guardian(s) are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

**REMEMBER**

Individuals must quarantine while awaiting COVID-19 test results.

All individuals who have traveled must closely monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days after their return, including those who are fully vaccinated. If symptoms develop, they must immediately isolate and seek further guidance from a health care provider.

Institutions and employers may enforce additional restrictions, as deemed necessary.

For a list of high-risk states and to learn more about the District’s travel restrictions, please visit: [coronavirus.dc.gov/phasetwo](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/phasetwo).