Brent ES Tues News - November 30, 2021

Brent Elementary <brentelementary@k12.dc.gov>
Tue 11/30/2021 10:39 PM
To: Brent Elementary (DCPS) <BrentElementary@k12.dc.gov>

**Coming Up**

**Revised date:**
Tuesday, November 30

Due to DCPS system-wide issues, November 30 is the new date for report card distribution for K-5th families. Report cards will also be posted on the Aspen Parent Portal on that date.

**November 29 - December 5**
Brent Elementary Book Fair
East City Book Shop - https://eastcitybooks.hop.com/
645 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Unit 100
Open Tues-Fri 11am to 7pm • Sat 10am to 7pm • Sun 11am to

**Key Information**

- **Main Office Number**: 202-698-3363
- **Main Email Account**: brentelementary@k12.dc.gov
- **Website**: http://www.brentelementary.org/
- **DCPS Reopen Strong School Reopening Information**: https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/
- **DCPS Meal Service Menus**: https://dcps.dc.gov/page/sodexomagic-elementary-menus
- **Facebook**: facebook.com/BrentElementarySchool
- **Twitter**: twitter.com/brentelementary
- **Instagram**: instagram.com/BrentBears
Wednesday, December 1
LSAT Meeting
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
https://zoom.us/j/92845391378?
pwd=T3hYd202cnorTRIy9CzbVaTmZ5QT09
Meeting ID: 928 4539 1378
Passcode: 809371

Thursday, December 2 - Sunday, December 5
Brent Holiday Sale
Order today at www.brentholidaysale.org
Please consider volunteering some time and indicate if you have time/day preferences on the signup sheet.
Working hours for volunteers are:
Thursday - 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday - 4 p.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday - 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Sunday - 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Thursday, December 23 - Friday, December 31
Winter Break
No school for students and teachers

Join the A-Z Brent Directory
https://atozconnect.com/cls/related_entities_list.ph

DCPS School SY21-22 Calendar

From the DCPS Chancellor
https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/category/chancellor/

Sign up for Tues News and other community communications
http://eepurl.com/gzPB8z

Innovation Learning Contact Information
Site Coordinator - Monique Davis - brent@innovationlearning.com
Customer Service Number - 866-239-3661
www.innovationlearning.com

Asymptomatic Testing Information
OSSE Letter to Families
Accessing Test Results Instructions

New - Return to School Guidelines
Exclusion and Dismissal Criteria and Protocols for Schools

New - Daily Screening Questions
Daily Screening Questions for Families with Students Attending Schools
BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL’S ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS TREE & HOLIDAY SALE

Fantastic Fraser fir trees, wreaths, garland, poinsettias, and Hanukkah items.

December 2-5
at Brent Elementary School
301 N. Carolina Ave. SE

HOURS
Thurs & Fri: 4 - 7 pm
Sat & Sun: 9 am - 5 pm

Supply limited. Order your tree, Hanukkah items online now through Nov. 30!

www.BrentHolidaySale.org
* Greenery available at the sale only.
**Annual Can Drive**

Brent’s Annual Can Drive will be held from December 6th through December 17th. This year, we are partnering with the Capital Area Food Bank, and families are asked to donate items to the drive based on their arrival door. So that families can start collecting items, we wanted to preview the following assignments:

Front Door: Green Beans  
Side Door & ECE: Corn  
Back Door: Sweet Potatoes
All purchases online and in store at East City Book Shop benefit the Brent Library!

**Just make sure to say at checkout that you're shopping to benefit Brent!**

*All teacher and library wish-list purchases will be collected and delivered to the school by East City. You do not need to pick those books up from the store.*
Dear Brent Bear Families,

This is the week! Our first big school fundraiser - the Brent Holiday Sale! We need all hands on deck! Trees, wreaths, and greenery will arrive on the playground Wednesday early evening and we still need unloading volunteers. Older kids are welcome to join parents, sign up here and we will text or email when the trees are approaching.

https://outlook.office.com/mail/BrentElementary@k12.dc.gov/id/AQMkAGQwMjFiZDI1LTZjODAtNDU5L04MjQ3LTYyNDU0MWJkMzA0MABGAAADdVf6/12
You can also:
1. Shop online! Today (Nov 30th) is the last day! Visit brenholidaysale.com
2. Come to the sale! Dec 2-5! Thu & Fri 4-7, Sat & Sun 9-5
3. Volunteer!
4. Spread the word! (Pick up a fence sign for your house at drop-off this week!)
5. Donate a tree!

Important Announcements and Upcoming Events

Great job, Trot for Hunger Participants and Donors!

61 Brent Bears and families supported or ran the Trot for Hunger on Thanksgiving morning! We raised $2,564 for Trot for Hunger to benefit thousands of our DC neighbors through SOME.

Vaccine Clinic #2! Tuesday, December 7
We are excited to have our second vaccine clinic, in partnership with Family and Medical Counseling Services (FMCS), Inc., next Tuesday! We are still awaiting final details from the clinic, but all children who received their first vaccine at Brent should have an appointment slot written on the back of their vaccine card. We will be following appointment times as closely as possible to keep the line moving quickly, so please arrive at the time stated on your card.

We should be able to accommodate a limited number of children receiving their first shots, children receiving second shots who received first shots at a different location, and adult vaccines. We are still figuring out if we can accommodate walk-in appointments. Please call Lynn Forman 202-430-2540 (FMCS) to make an appointment if you don’t have one already. You can also email Rebecca rsaxtonf@gmail.com with questions.

**Volunteer to drive donated food, December 17**

We are supporting the Brent Spirit Team in their annual holiday food drive! Please email Tara Ramchandani (tramchandani@gmail.com) if you are able to help drive collected food from Brent to the National Capital Food Bank the weekend of Dec. 17.

Stay warm! Best,

Your PTA Board

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**DCPS Attendance Notification**

**From the DCPS Office of Student Engagement**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of updates to DC Public Schools’ policy regarding unexcused absences related to COVID-19 and Virtual Learning Program for school year 2021-22. If your student has unexcused absences related to COVID-19 or Virtual Learning Program this school year, please review the information below to determine whether your student's absences are eligible to be excused. If you believe your student to be eligible, you must submit a note to your school’s Attendance Point of Contact for absences to be excused.

**COVID-19 Close Contact:** You may now submit a note for an excused absence if your student was absent from school because the student, or a member of the
student’s household, was determined to be a close contact of a person who tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Students whose absences were not previously eligible for excusal for this reason can now have those absences excused.

**Virtual Learning Program Expansion:** If your student is approved for virtual learning under new requirements set by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), their previous absences related to COVID-19 can also be excused.

Please complete and submit the excuse note provided below if your child has been absent from school this school year due to one of the following reasons:

1. Your child or a member of your household was determined to be a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19; or
2. Your child has recently been approved for the Virtual Learning Program and has had COVID-related absences between the start of school and November 30, 2021.

Notes must be submitted via email, text, or hand-delivery to your child’s school **on or before December 17, 2021**, so that your child’s absence can be recorded as excused. For the rest of this school year, please submit excuse notes to your school within five days of your child’s return to school from an absence.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Brent Elementary at brentelementary@k12.dc.gov. Thank you for your timely attention to this matter.

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**Brent COVID Reporting - Covers Previous Seven Days - Staff and Students on Campus**

Asymptomatic Testing - there was no asymptomatic testing the week of November 22

- Positive cases reported at school - 3
- Close contacts identified at school - 2
- Number of close contacts positive - 0

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**Principal Corner**
Dear Brent Community,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday and break! It has been inspiring to hear our students’ stories of gratitude and connection.

As we settle into the four weeks of consistent school days until Winter Break, it seems like the right time for a mishmash Q&A, capturing some of the most frequently asked questions from our community.

*The Mayor has lifted the mask mandate for many of the public indoor spaces in our city. How does that policy change affect schools?*

It does not. The indoor and outdoor mask mandate for all those on DCPS school campuses remains in place. According to the Department of Health, because of the unique demands of school environments, safety policies and procedures will always be considered separately from the city’s restrictions.

*My Brent student has received their second dose of the COVID vaccine and is on their way to being fully vaccinated. Should I turn in their vaccine card or similar documentation?*

Not yet. DOH is working to integrate COVID vaccines onto health forms. To honor that process and medical confidentiality, DCPS is not currently allowing schools to collect the information via other routes. For now, be ready to provide documentation in case of a close contact quarantine (those who are fully vaccinated – two weeks past the second dose – and without symptoms do not need to quarantine even when identified as a close contact).

*I know report cards are visible in Aspen via the parent portal and that families will receive report card envelopes in backpacks today. How do I resolve any issues?*

If you are struggling with Aspen access or see errors on the attendance section of the report card, please email brentelementary@k12.dc.gov.

If you have questions about the academic and social-emotional portions of the report cards, please email your classroom, focus or specials teacher.

If you would like help interpreting what can be a complex set of documents, be sure to read through the “Report Card Cover Sheet.” If you have questions it does not
answer, email brentelementary@k12.dc.gov and/or your classroom teacher.

What is the current status of aftercare and when will the Winter Enrichment catalog be released?

Though Innovation Learning operates wholly as an independent contractor, our Brent team also cares deeply for our students both during and outside of the school day. Unfortunately, we are not in the position to manage their daily operations but have partnered closely to advise around staffing shortages (impacting schools across the country), safety routines and procedures, space and scheduling. We do, however, hold the power to renew or terminate their building use contract.

Recently, we appreciate those Brent faculty members who have signed up to work for Innovation learning, the shifts in dismissal procedures to allow for a smoother and more efficient pick-up, and Innovation Learning’s willingness to reconsider Winter scheduling to acknowledge limitations and maximize the care experience.

In the Winter Term, the enrichment class offerings will be more limited than in the past: one class per day in the cafeteria/gym and music classes. This plan will allow Innovation Learning to dedicate staff to care rosters of no more than 15 students for appropriate indoor spacing and staff to student ratios. It will also limit transitions during the care period.

Even with the aforementioned changes, we believe there is a lot of progress to be made and will continue to advocate for it with Innovation Learning’s leadership team. It is also important that they hear from customers directly.
Email brent@innovationlearning.com or speak to our interim site director and permanent regional director, Nia Holmes, at pick-up.

If you would like to get involved with the still-forming Care Advisory Team, email norah.lycknell@k12.dc.gov.

Ms. Diggs is leaving Brent this Friday, December 3. Is there anything we need to know about the school’s transition plans?

We will miss Ms. Diggs so much. She has contributed so much to this school community and the effects of her contributions will last for many years to come. We are also thrilled for Ms. Diggs as she tackles her next adventure and leadership role at the Department of Health.

While we plan to hire for the Manager of Strategy and Logistics role in the coming weeks (email norah.lycknell@k12.dc.gov for the position description or with candidate referrals), in the meantime we have a transition plan in place, both as a
school and in partnership with community leadership groups, to minimize any bumps in the road. If you have been emailing Ms. Diggs directly, attendance notes and other operational inquiries including around COVID protocols should be sent to brentelementary@k12.dc.gov.

Over the next few weeks, you will also notice an evolution to Tues News, initially a simpler and more manageable format for our leaner staff and, around the start of the new year, a revised format to match the recommendations LSAT makes as part of a current study on schoolwide communication.

If you have other questions that are not on this list, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell