Coming Up

March 24 - May 29
Distance Learning

URGENT
Monday, April 27 - Friday, May 1
SY 20-21 Enrollment - online link:
forms.dc.gov/f/DCPSEnrollment
Form_English

Monday, May 4 - May 17
Virtual Book Fair

Friday, May 22
Parent-teacher Conference Day

Monday, May 25
Memorial Day
School Closed - No Distance Learning

Key Contact Information
Main Office Mobile Line
202-590-7458

Brent General Email
brentelementary@k12.dc.gov

Website
brentelementary.org

Facebook
facebook.com/BrentElementarySchool

Twitter
twitter.com/brentelementary

Instagram
Instagram.com/BrentBears

Week of the Naturalist

Welcome to Naturalist Week at Brent! Even though we’re apart, there are
many things that connect us, and one of them is our rivers. We all live close
to the Anacostia River, and that means that every drop of rain that falls flows
right past all of us on its way downstream. We call this big neighborhood,
the Anacostia watershed. We’ll be celebrating this great connection by
exploring our watershed’s many natural wonders.
All week long, you’ll be invited to investigate nature around you, and record what you find in a Naturalist Notebook. And for the first time, all of Brent’s K-5 students are invited to enter the Anacostia Watershed Society’s Naturalist Notebook challenge. Last year, in the contest’s first year, Brent students swept all three places in the contest. Let’s see how we do this year!

You will find everything you need for the Naturalist Notebook Challenge, optional activities for the week, and Friday’s Naturalist Day (Catch Up Day) virtual field experiences and hands on provocations in our Naturalist Week Packet: https://tinyurl.com/brentnaturaliston

**Book Fair is Coming - May 4 through May 17!**

Even though Brent’s end of the year Summer Reading Book Fair cannot happen in our school library this year, we are holding a Book Fair anyway - ONLINE -, so that you can stock up on summer reading material that can be enjoyed away from the screen!

The Online Fair is available from May 4 through May 17, 2020, at https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/bretelementaryschool3

Visit our school’s homepage to hear the latest Book Fair news, RSVP for events, sign up to volunteer, and more!bookfairs.scholastic.com

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### APRIL 2020

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<td>Coolidge/Wells</td>
<td>Anacostia High School</td>
<td>Ballou High School</td>
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DCPS has launched an online enrollment for SY20-21. Parents can quickly complete enrollment packets via an online application and submit. Due to COVID-19, all enrollment will be done via this process. It is urgent and critical for families to complete by this Friday, May 1. We must ensure Brent meets enrollment targets and we don’t want to risk over filling classes because current students have not confirmed their enrollment for the next school year.

Parents will receive an email on Monday, April 27, with a link to the enrollment application. Parents should complete and submit the enrollment packet with residency verification documents at the earliest possible convenience. Parents will also need to submit residency documents including a current paystub or car driver’s license and car registration. Families can also provide residency via the DC Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR). Visit https://sled.osse.dc.gov/ResidencyVerification/Index/2546 to complete a brief survey and an automated email will be sent to families who successfully complete this process. All enrollment must be completed by the end of day of Friday, May 1.

Help is here! We are ready to provide any and all support for parents! Families can access support these three ways:

Visit Brent’s Virtual Main Office
Denise Diggs and Lindsay Swayze will staff Brent’s virtual main office during the times below. Stop in to ask questions about enrollment, distance learning, health forms and more. Or just stop in and say hello!

**Morning Hours**
Meeting ID953-4175-7117
Meeting Password 3BBiDQ
Join URL: https://zoom.us/j/95341757117
Monday 9 – 11 a.m.
Tuesday 9 – 11 a.m.
Wednesday 9 – 11 a.m.
Thursday 9 – 11 a.m.
Friday 9 – 11 a.m.

**Evening Hours**
Meeting ID960-2390-6127
Meeting Password 5Yyr4W
Join URL: https://zoom.us/j/96023906127
Monday 8 - 9 p.m.
Tuesday 8 - 9 p.m.
Wednesday 8 - 9 p.m.
Thursday 8 - 9 p.m.
Friday 8 - 9 p.m.

Call or Text Brent’s Mobile Number: 202-590-7458

Email brentelementary@k12.dc.gov
A Wonderful Earth Week

Brent Bears are RESPONSIBLE when they help take care of the Earth. We were so proud to see families upcycling, recycling, planting and caring for our planet throughout Earth Week. Many families got out and explored the nature around us with our Brent Bear Earth Walk Scavenger Hunt and we had over 75 submissions to Brent’s Virtual Garden!
A note from Brent’s Spring Gala’s chair, Claire Portolese:

Thank you to everyone in the Brent community for coming out Friday, March 13th to check out the awesome auction items and promote school spirit! You all helped make the Spring Gala & Auction a smashing success for the school! Because of your donations and bidding, our AMAZING sponsors, and our school spirit, we were able to raise $80K to support important line items in the PTA budget!

Please remember to SUPPORT our sponsors during this tough time - $27,000 of our fundraising was donated by sponsors who year after year contribute funds to support our school. Let’s be sure we are all giving back to them during this tough time and always remembering to thank them:

Top of the Class ($5K) Sponsors: Metro Motors, The Jeanne, Phil, Meg Team, Taoti Creative
Platinum Sponsors ($2K): Capitol Hill Auto, National Capital Bank, & Tom Faison
Also please remember our local eateries and beverage sponsors during this time. Many businesses are open for carry out, delivery and pantry supplies, please support these small businesses and friends of Brent. Especially those below that support Brent year after year!

THANK YOU TO OUR RESTAURANTS...

enjoy small plates from local eateries at the Brent Spring Gala March 14 @ AJAX DC!

Thank you to all of the Class Basket Leads and those that contributed to these fabulous baskets! Class Baskets raised $9,100 for Brent!

Class Basket Leads:
Greta Lundeberg * Sarah Yerkes * Elizabeth Hanna * Jackie Whisman * Jenny Cheek * Sarah Goldsmith * Lindsay McDonough * Carrie Miller * Brittany Poley * Kellie Nasser * Beth Johnson * Emilie Sommer * Dunnzy Levine * Anne Arrington
* Abby Maslin * Mathilde Salmberg * Margaret Gerety * Diana Rubin * Piper Campbell * Christy Leavitt

Thank you to all of the Class Art Leads! Class Art raised $3,560 for Brent!

Class Art Leads:
Rachel Usdan * Kyle Fortson * Nancy Caretta * Liz and Pram * Rachel Sandu * Jenny Cheek * Erin Baldwin * Andrew Pratt * Ms Sadowsky * Maria Coppola * Lindsay Bernard * Veronica Rus * Steve Goldenberg * Junko Sugimoto * Nick Bartelt * Robyn Swanson * Scarlett Deshaw * Abby Lyons * Brittany Poley * Margaret Gerety * Laura Green * Scott Christian * Piper Campbell * Margaret Cooney

And last but definitely not least....thank you to our fantastic committee who spent many hours planning and fundraising over the course of the year and then “pivoted” the event at the last minute. Your energy and dedication to this effort was exceptional:

Kellie Nasser * Lindsay Gorman * Rebecca Saxton-Fox * Tara Goldenberg * April Boyd * Anne Arrington
Dear Brent Families,

It is my pleasure to be writing to you in the Principal’s Corner this week, as Principal Lycknell steps away to welcome the newest member of the Lycknell family. As she wrote last week, the construct for her leave is a little different in the distance learning space, but she plans to spend the next week or two settling in and bonding, then return for the rest of the virtual year and reserve the bulk of her leave for coming months. In her absence, I am happy to be at the helm alongside our strong and capable leadership team and faculty. Brent has been my home for eleven years and serving the students and families of this community is the work of my heart; please let me be of service to you as needed during this time.

As Principal Lycknell shared at the community meeting last Wednesday evening, we received 74 responses from families for the Week Four Family Survey. Even though the responses were pretty evenly split across grade bands, we took note of a few themes that were apparent. For one thing, the need for flexibility in scheduling was expressed as a clear preference over static scheduling when possible. That said, live instruction, small group and one-on-one opportunities in particular, was preferred by students of all ages. The distinction between “must-do” and “can-do” was reported to be helpful as families prioritize where to devote attention, and that will be language we continue to employ to aid in family decision-making. Many families reported feeling like their days are full and life at home feels hectic, but paired that with appreciation and encouraged their teachers to stay the course.

As we head into week 6 of distance learning, our goals shift only slightly. As was signaled last week, teachers and faculty are looking toward clarifying and emphasizing what students need to be doing to increase their independent access of learning. For some grades or subjects that might sound like focusing on self-monitoring or tracking stamina, for other grades that might be an emphasis on coming to a group prepared to share, or the executive functioning skills associated with task management. In all cases, this would be the sort of independence that students need to best make use of the live, pre-recorded, and program-based instruction that is being provided. As we look ahead to the next two intervals, and especially as we approach the end of our shortened year, we will re-emphasize connection as we build in time for student-parent-teacher one-on-one conversations and grade level meetings.

I know that Principal Lycknell has expressed this, but I want to reiterate how disorienting it is to know that we won’t be together with your children again before the end of the school year. We have planned some schoolwide opportunities to bring our community together, and will be sharing more about those next week, but in the meantime, I hope you will pass along my greetings to your children. They are the reason I love my job and, while I think that together we have built a pretty impressive distance learning structure, I look forward to our eventual reunification.

All My Best,
Sara Ewbank
Sara.ewbank@k12.dc.gov