Coming Up

**Thursday, August 24**
ECE Start Day for Students with last name beginning with A - L

**Friday, August 25**
ECE Start Day for Students with last name beginning with M - Z

**Wednesday, August 30**
Back to School Night 6:30 - 8 p.m.
ASL Interpreters Provided
Childcare will not be provided.

**Monday, September 4**
Labor Day
No School for students and staff

**Wednesday, September 6**
LSAT Meeting 6:30 – 8 p.m.

**Friday, September 8**
Brent Picture Day
Uniform Free Day

**Wednesday, September 13**
PTA Board Meeting
6:30 – 8 p.m.

**Friday, September 15**
Principal Coffee
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

**What is Tues News?**
Welcome to this school year’s first edition of Tues News. Tues News is Brent’s weekly newsletter that is sent home to all families. The newsletter covers upcoming events, learning activities, student and staff accomplishments and news from DCPS. Every Tuesday, check your child’s communication folder and your email inbox. If you have news or announcements or are not receiving the email version, please email Denise Diggs at denise.diggs@dc.gov.

**Back to School Night – Wednesday, August 30**
Brent Back to School Night will be next Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. Principal Lycknell will introduce Brent staff and discuss schoolwide initiatives. After Principal Lycknell’s presentation, parents will visit their children’s classrooms, meet the teachers, and learn about classroom goals and expectations for the year. This is a wonderful opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the upcoming year at Brent. It is an adults only event, so please plan accordingly. ASL interpreters
will be provided.

**Brent’s Student Store is up and Running**

The Brent Elementary Online Store is operated by the Brent PTA. During the school year, Brent merchandise that is ordered online will be delivered to your child’s classroom within a few days of your order. You can also purchase items at the school store by bringing checks or cash to the front office. If you have any questions about the store or your order, contact Candace Fleming at candacesigmonfleming@gmail.com.

**Brent Needs You! Sign up to be Room Parent Today!**

Welcome back to school! As the school year gets underway, the PTA is seeking parents who would like to be room parents in their children’s classrooms.

Room parents are hubs of communication. Working closely with the teacher in your child’s classroom, room parents help to organize classroom activities and events like field trips, class play dates, parent gatherings and other events. Room parents obtain parent volunteers, create a classroom roster and help keep families informed about school-wide issues, events and fundraisers. Each class can have more than one room parent in order to share the responsibilities.

**What Does a Room Parent Do?**

Meet with your teacher to determine:

1) preferred method of communication
2) calendar of events and
2) predicted needs and priorities for the year;

- Set up e-mail distribution list with the names of students/families in your class;
- Send introductory email identifying yourself as Room Parent;
- Help recruit chaperones for field trips if the teacher would like assistance;
- Coordinate gifts/appreciation for the teacher at holiday time and during teacher appreciation week;
- Send regular emails to fellow class parents with reminders/updates about teacher needs, classroom news and PTA news.

The Specials teachers also love to have room parents. Are you a fan of the performing arts and like to help make the music happen at Brent? Then Mr. Krohn would be thrilled to have your assistance throughout the year. Did your child rave about last spring’s Mercado? Ms. Marchese would gladly put your arts and crafts skills to work preparing Mercado items.

The following teachers already have room parents for this year:

- Ms Miller (ECE)
- Ms Montgomery/Laskowski (ECE
- Ms Sadowsky (ECE)
- Ms Copeland (K
- Ms Santora/Homayoun (K
- Ms Isaacson (1st)
- Ms Yokum (1st)
- Mr. Berg (2nd)
- Ms. Hill (3rd)
- Ms. Kraemer (3rd)
- Ms Maschari (3rd)
- Ms Bettina (Library)
- Ms Gibson (Art)

If you are interested in volunteering to be a room parent or would like more information, please contact me at christina.muedeking@gmail.com. It would be great to hear from you.

*Photos: Brent students view the historic solar eclipse.*
Ben Champa  
PTA President  

Tues News Parent Spotlight

On behalf of the entire Brent Community, thank you for serving as PTA president. First, tell us about your children who attend Brent!

Thank you! I am really looking forward to this upcoming year. My wife Jessica and I have two children who attend Brent. Penelope just started 2nd grade and loves all things dance and Harry Potter related. Nate is in Kindergarten and is a fan of all things sports and Hamilton (the clean version). They are both very proud of their school and community and are getting a great foundational education that Jes and I hope will set them up to be lifetime learners.

What brought you to DC?
From a young age, I was interested in Congress and politics, so I came to Washington to be a staffer on the Hill. I had a chance to work for two Senators over 4 years, but ultimately decided that I was not cut out for politics. However, while working on the Hill, I had a chance to discover Capitol Hill as a neighborhood and fell in love with it. After Jessica and I got married, we rented a place near Stanton Park. A little over a year later, we purchased our current house near Garfield Park. When we moved in, we assumed we would live there 5 or 6 years and then move somewhere else to raise our children. 14 years later we are trying to figure out how we can stay for another 14. Over the years we have had a chance to see the transformation of the neighborhood and Brent first hand and are thrilled to be in the middle of it.

Why did you get involved in the PTA?
Growing up my family was a strong supporter of the public school system. My mom was a teacher and one of my sisters is currently a 4th grade teacher outside of Atlanta. The elementary school I attended was backed by an active PTA, so I saw first hand how that can directly benefit a student’s educational experience. My Brent PTA journey is a common one. I knew I wanted to get more involved and I was interested in the post-Brent education options in our neighborhood, so I joined our Middle School Committee. Over the next year I worked with Ivan Frishberg and the other members of the committee to support Jefferson.

What motivated you to take a leadership role this year?
Last year at PTA General meeting, former PTA President Jason Townsend spoke about how Brent as a school, and a community, has been built by administrators, teachers, and families who have come before, but the school is also continuing to evolve. This year has brought several exciting developments to Brent, including a second 5th Grade class and our large Kindergarten class. In addition, the Brent community is welcoming a new principal and several new teachers. With last year’s PTA President, Diana Williams, moving with her family to California I saw an opportunity where I could step up and build upon the work she, Jason, Kevin Moore, and the other past presidents of the PTA started. I am lucky to have a chance to work with a talented PTA board that is willing to give their time and energy to the school. Together with the support of our Brent families, I look forward to helping evolve our PTA to continue to meet the needs of our school.

You mentioned that Brent is welcoming a new principal, Norah Lycknell, both a highly regarded and experienced leader in the DCPS community. How is the PTA working to support a successful transition?

First, I want to thank DCPS for matching a leader of Ms. Lycknell’s caliber to Brent. During my time in the Brent community, I have seen the progress that the school has made toward being able to educate every student who walks through its doors. I believe that with the addition of Ms. Lycknell, Brent will accelerate its progress toward this goal. I had a chance to meet with Ms. Lycknell this summer and I believe that her vision is the same as the Brent community’s. The PTA Board held our first meeting with Ms. Lycknell earlier this month. From that meeting, we have a sense of how the PTA can support her vision throughout the year.
What are the major PTA goals this year?

As our school continues to grow, the PTA needs to continue to grow with it. So our goals this year are focused around becoming a more effective organization to support our 420 plus students and their families throughout the year.

First and foremost, we will continue to be focused on the needs of all students who walk through the doors of the school. Examples of PTA funds used to support this goal include providing additional teaching resources in the classrooms and the Rising Tides tutoring program.

The PTA also understands that in order to be as effective as possible we will need an engaged community, so we are focused on improving our communications to the Brent Community throughout the year. Over the course of the year you will see the implementation of a communications strategy that will effectively use the tools available to us to ensure the Brent community stays up to date with what is going on at the school. As an example, we will be broadcasting the PTA General meetings on Facebook Live starting with our first meeting on September 27. Our goal is to allow members of the Brent Community to stay up to date with the goings on at the school and PTA, even if they are unable to attend in person.

The PTA is also focused on improving the grounds of the school with the hopes of creating an environment that will ensure that students are engaged and inspired when they are outside. The good news is that while most members in the Brent community have not been trained to provide support inside of the building, everyone is qualified to pull weeds, spread mulch, and improve the grounds. Supporting our grounds committee is just one of the ways you can support the school in non-financial ways.

How should families new to Brent connect with the PTA and get involved?

First, I want to welcome all of the new families to Brent. I think you will find that your family has joined an outstanding community that will support your learners throughout their academic journey. If you are new to Brent, or if this is your 10th year, there are several ways to connect with the PTA and get involved. I would ask you to engage with the PTA. PTA Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month and are open to the public. PTA General meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of most months starting on September 27. They are a great way to learn more about what is going on at the school and learn about how you can contribute. One of the topics of the first meeting will be an introduction to our committees, which offer a great opportunity to get involved in a variety of ways. Some positions are needed for just an afternoon, while others take more time but offer individuals a chance to see the contribution they have made to the school.

If you have any questions about how you can contribute, thoughts about how the PTA can better serve the Brent Community, or other feedback on the PTA, please feel free to email me at benchampa@gmail.com.

Music Notes by Mr. Krohn

Thanks to a wonderful partnership with Delta Airlines the performing arts at Brent has been very fortunate to honor our nation’s veterans by having students perform for them when they arrive in DC on an Honors Flight. Mr. Krohn is looking for students in 2nd and 3rd grade to honor these veterans on September 13 at DCA by performing patriotic songs. Mr. Krohn will be rehearsing these students starting this Thursday, August 24 from 8:00 - 8:35 a.m. in the music room (room #206). We will rehearse each Thursday until the performance. If your child/children are interested in honoring our veterans through song, please email Mr. Krohn at joshua.krohn@dc.gov no later than Wednesday, August 23.

My School Bucks – Register for an Online Lunch Account Today

Visit myschoolbucks.com to register your student for online lunch payments. Attached to Tues News is a flyer about MySchoolBucks which contains your child’s school ID. You will need this ID to register your child’s lunch account. This year, elementary school lunches cost $2.70. Students who are classified as paid or who have not filled out a Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) application must pay for lunch. Payment is required for lunch meals consumed prior to receiving a free status. FARM applications can be found in the front office and at dcps.dc.gov.

DC One Card New Student and Replacement Requests

If your child is new to Brent and does not have a DC One Card or your child is missing his/her DC One Card, please either email Denise Diggs at denise.diggs@dc.gov or complete the attached form and turn it in to your child’s homeroom.
teacher. DC One Cards are needed for field trips so please ensure your child has a DC One Card. DC One cards also serve as library cards in the District.

**Parent Volunteers for the Front Office Needed**

Brent’s long time front office manager, Andrea Casula, retired over the summer. If you are able to spare an hour or two to help out in the front office between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., please email Denise Diggs at denise.diggs@dc.gov.

**Brent’s Front Office is Hiring!**

The front office is need of an administrative associate. This a great opportunity to support a wonderful and amazing elementary school. If you are interested in this position or if you know of a great candidate, please email Norah Lycknell at norah.lycknell@dc.gov.

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**Principal Notes**

Dear Brent Community,

As he was being picked up from aftercare in the main office, a Brent fourth grader was overheard reflecting on his day: “It was phenomenal!” His words perfectly capture a day filled with reunions, the foundations of new friendship and communities, gleaming classrooms and, of course, the eclipse!

The first day also launched our first six weeks of school driven by our Responsive Classroom philosophy and three key goals: using positive teacher language to establish high behavior expectations, getting students excited about schoolwork by offering engaging academics, and teaching the classroom and academic routines that enable a collaborative learning community to thrive. These same objectives guide the creation of our whole school culture as we take tours of the building to highlight how we move respectfully, use guided discovery at recess to slowly unveil an inclusive space, and steep our conversation in the four Brent Bear values – we are brave, empathetic, active and responsible.

Even as we seek to live all four values, this year we will focus on the value of responsibility. We will ask for student input about what responsibility, looks like, sounds like and feels like. We will teach students to be responsible for themselves by introducing structures and routines to reinforce responsibility such as using a buddy system (ECE-2nd) and a pass system (3rd-5th) to travel safely in our building or establishing clean up processes in the cafeteria. We will ask for students to be responsible for one another by emphasizing a caring space, establishing opportunities for student leadership, and resolving conflicts and mistakes through repair. We encourage you to reinforce this language at home, asking your children “what did you do to show responsibility today?”

As always, please reach out with any wonderings whether about a particular part of our days or to inquire about the whys behind our decision-making.

To a phenomenal year!

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell
Principal
Norah.lycknell@dc.gov