**Coming Up!**

**Monday, December 14 - March 1, 2021**
Myschooldc Lottery
visit myschooldc.org to apply

**Wednesday, December 16**
Early Childhood Developmental Milestones Workshop
10-11 a.m.
MS Teams login at www.brentelementary.org

Diversity Working Group Meeting
8 - 9 p.m.
https://american.zoom.us/j/97709684359?pwd=eUg5SzVjRGVXSUFWNUpEMG0xcmhCdzo9

**Wednesday, December 23 - January 1, 2021**
Winter Break. Brent is closed. Staff availability to resume on Monday, January 4, 2021

**Monday, January 4 - Friday, January 8, 2021**
All students in virtual learning setting.

**Monday, January 11, 2021**
First Day Back for in-person students

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**Brent’s Virtual Multicultural Night – January 12, 2021**
We’d like to continue one of our school’s cherished traditions—Multicultural Night! This year, we hope our community can come together virtually on Tuesday, January 12 at 6:30 pm to share recipes, performances, clothing, and crafts celebrating our diverse backgrounds. To do this, we need your help!

**Recipes**
Please share your favorite traditional recipes here - https://tinyurl.com/yc3lqj52

We plan to circulate this collection of recipes prior to the event so that...
our families can try them at home.

**Performances**
We are also planning to have a virtual talent and fashion show! Please send a video of your student(s)—or the whole family—singing, dancing, playing a song, or wearing cultural dress to Mr. Krohn at joshua.krohn@k12.dc.gov. Any video sent to Mr. Krohn will be compiled into one large video that we will live stream on Zoom for Multicultural Night. Please keep the video to 2 minutes or less.

The deadline to submit videos is December 31. The easiest way to send your videos is to upload your videos either to YouTube as a private video or by placing them in a DropBox folder. Depending on the size of the video they can even be emailed as an attachment.

We look forward to seeing you then!

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**BRENT'S DECEMBER DIVERSITY**

**WORKING GROUP MEETING**

**DECEMBER 16, 2020**

**8 - 9 P.M.**

DWG invites all community members to join us for the December 16th DWG meeting from 8-9PM. We will get updates on our various projects, and continue planning for a fun-filled 2021. We also plan to hold informal discussions on Brent's reopening, and how equity and inclusion can be addressed and built into DC's reopening plans.

Email BrentDiversityWG@gmail.com with any questions.

Join Zoom Meeting: https://american.zoom.us/j/97709684359?pwd=eUg5SzVjRGVXSUFWNU9EMG0xcmhCd209

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**Early Childhood Developmental Milestones Workshop**

We are excited to announce that DC Public Schools Early Stages program will be facilitating a workshop on “Early Childhood Developmental Milestones” *specifically for Brent Families.*

**Who:** This workshop is open to all ECE families at Brent.

**What:** This workshop provides an overview of typical developmental milestones for children between the ages of three and five in the following domains: communication, gross motor, fine motor, social emotional and cognitive development. It will also include sample activities for each domain that families can do at home to help support their child reaching developmental milestones. The workshop will end with time for Q & A.

**When:** The workshop will be held on Wednesday December 16th and begin 10:00 a.m., it will end between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m. based on attendee participation and the number of questions families have.

**Where:** Meet us in Microsoft TEAMS. Login information at brentelementary.org.
Brent's Virtual Multicultural Night
Tuesday, January 12, 2021
6:30 p.m.

We’d like to continue one of our school’s cherished traditions—Multicultural Night! This year, we hope our community can come together virtually on Tuesday, January 12 at 6:30 pm to share recipes, performances, clothing, and crafts celebrating our diverse backgrounds. To do this, we need your help!

Share your favorite traditional recipes

Please share your favorite traditional recipes here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PopmpR9GRztxIsm7Wp-dU5ymMJJq4l2fvs9FiguZxU/edit
We plan to circulate this collection of recipes prior to the event so that our families can try them at home.

Performances - A virtual Talent and Fashion Show

Please send a video of your student(s)—or the whole family—singing, dancing, playing a song, or wearing cultural dress to Mr. Krohn at joshua.krohn@kl2.dc.gov. Any video (two minutes or less) sent to Mr. Krohn will be compiled into one large video that we will live stream on Zoom for Multicultural Night. The deadline to submit videos is December 31. The easiest way to send your videos is to upload your videos either to YouTube as a private video or by placing them in a DropBox folder. Depending on the size of the video they can even be emailed as an attachment. We look forward to seeing you then!
On Monday evening, Brent’s Reopening Community Corps (RCC) met, in full membership*, to discuss data, plans, and ideas related to Brent’s plan for opening in-person seats in term 2 and term 3.

Brent currently has in-person classes at 5th grade, 4th grade, kindergarten, and ECE. Brent is also on track to have at least one group of students at every grade level in an in-person class by the end of term 2. This opening exceeds the pace required, and expected, by DCPS and is being achieved entirely with volunteers from among Brent faculty. Opening classes has been delicate, careful work, and I am proud of the path we have taken to arrive at this point: prioritizing the safety of our people, researching our options closely, moving toward opening each room deliberately. We’ve neither rushed nor stalled and have managed to maintain hold of the reins for our own process.

It has also become clear that, even as we proceed in opening classes, a substantial proportion of Brent students will continue in a virtual stance for the duration of this school year. Limitations of space and staffing ratios alone hem in the in-person options, and procedures related to health and safety further limit our capacity. This fact meant that the RCC’s discourse necessarily involved negotiating questions of prioritization for in-person spaces. Tackling those questions meant:

- looking closely at listening session notes and survey responses to capture, aggregate, and understand needs and desires of families within and across grade levels, learning from those currently in-person about the experience of opening classes (especially unanticipated lessons), and grappling with imprecise definitions and information from outside sources to create shared understanding within the Brent community.
- One particular area of discussion was the next phase of term 2 reopening, which will include classes in 1st grade, 2nd grade, and 3rd grade, and the processes by which families at these grade levels are being involved in and informed about the plans. This group will include at least one hybrid model, an in-person structure that we are eager to see in action. These classes are currently scheduled to open in January and families will receive specific communication prior to Winter Break.
- Another focus of the meeting was the needs of our younger learners: students at kindergarten and 1st grade in particular. While circumstances and capacity in these grades is no less limited than at other grades, the RCC’s examination of parent survey responses and listening session notes indicates a particular call for creative thinking and opportunity-building. A subcommittee was created and delegated the task of examining options for kindergarten in particular.

As a final item, the RCC acknowledged the need for emphasis on opening in-person spaces to be matched and balanced by a continued focus on the virtual learning environment. So many of Brent’s student and faculty will continue in virtual learning, in either a full or partial format, that the role of online learning cannot be overemphasized in our future planning. This is an agenda item for the coming RCC meeting and will continue to be a topic into the new year, including during January’s Community Meeting.

I am extremely grateful for the time and careful attention that members of the RCC have given to these conversations to date, and will no doubt continue to give. Brent is best able to do this work with the active engagement of faculty and parent representatives, and I am appreciative of their insight and efforts on behalf of the community. It is yet another way in which we are better together.

Sincerely,
Norah

*Please see December 8th TuesNews for membership list.