Coming Up!

**Tuesday, February 16**
100th Day of School

**Wednesday, February 17**
DWG February Meeting
A discussion on Tema Okun’s characteristics of white supremacy culture
8 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87587074059?pwd=N3ZMajNqcituNVFR6STJrRGR5YnhnZz09
Meeting ID: 87578704059
Passcode: 639099

**Friday, February 19**
Deadlines for video submissions for the Brent Black History Month Living Wax Museum
Register here:
https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7ka-gKk6zMoqSt5md8rwKMvLH3fem-Po9IqoAllwLfyFUNVpESUgwUkJCOUhLVTTVQlJEMTlNWVE1Ni4u

**Saturday, February 20**
Lego Challenge
10-11:30 a.m. Register Today
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1G5zhHdc4bbG21Ftzoobgd1p42Db22Ta0nMevT143t4zc/edit

**Tiny Minds can only grow with the help of your Big Heart!**

It’s hard to believe a year has passed since our school closed, virtual learning commenced, and masks, quarantines, and social distancing became the new norm. Our community, along with so many others, have faced countless challenges these past 12 months and as we look around it’s evident to see many still struggling. **We need your help!!!**

Today we launch the **Annual Fund** for the 2020-21 school year; a year we will never forget. Every year the Brent PTA and parent volunteers raise critical funds through three major fundraisers: the Christmas Tree Sale, Spring Gala and the Annual Fund. **These three fundraisers alone** fund nearly all non-personnel expenses at Brent.

In normal years fundraising dollars from the PTA help to offset restrictive DCPS / government budgets so Brent can focus on paying highly qualified teachers and staff and sustain programs in areas like athletics, recess and specials (art, science, music, atelier). Dollars raised each year by this community have also been integral in funding Brent’s focus teacher model, a huge differentiator for our school. Brent’s focus teachers have been integral in allowing Brent to open on an in-person classroom at every grade, exceeding the DCPS reopening schedule and serving approximately 120 students in person (50% of students that wanted on in person spot).

But, 50% of us are still not back! Space is an issue and operating expenses to keep the building safe and clean over time will take a toll. So please we need your help and the help of your communities. **Take a moment to Give to the Annual Fund today.**

**Copy and paste** this message into your email, text or social media so that friends, family and your communities that might help further advance the steps we need to take to get us there.

1. Open camera on your phone
2. Snap pic of QR Code
3. Touch link on phone

- or -

This work is not complete until every teacher and every student is back at school safely and comfortably!

We are counting down the days until we can all be together again.

With thanks,
Your friends on the Brent PTA

Please contact the PTA directly at BrentelementaryPTA@gmail.com with any questions you visit www.brentelementary.org/brentfund to learn more.
Saturday, February 20
Community Book Exchange for Grades 2nd and 3rd
1:30 - 3 p.m.
Garfield Park
Sign up for the Grade 2-3 Playdate at: https://cutt.ly/KkuXKIO

Thursday, February 25
Jazz & Friends
National Reading

Friday, February 26
Black History Month Virtual Wax Museum
Brent PTA Trivia Night
8pm
https://fundly.com/brent-trivia-night

Saturday, February 27
Community Book Exchange for 4th and 5th
1:30 - 3 p.m.
Garfield Park
Sign up for the Grade 4-5 Playdate at: https://cutt.ly/gkuX3qH

Sign Up the Brent LEGO Challenge Today!
It is not too late to sign up for our fundraising LEGO Challenge on February 20th, 10-11:30am. Join other Brent families for this friendly virtual competition modeled after the reality TV show Lego Masters. Teams can be made up of Brent Bears and their parents or caregivers. Registration is $50 and all proceeds will go to support the Brent Annual Fund. Labyrinth Games & Puzzles will be judging the competition. Teams will sign on to Zoom at 10am to hear instructions for their challenge and will have an hour to work on their project. At 11am, each team will present their work. The winning team will receive a gift basket provided by Labyrinth. Be sure to complete the registration form found here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1G52HDe4bbG21Ftzobgdi1p42D-b22Ta0nMevT143t4zc/edit

If you don’t want to participate in the challenge but are interested in joining to see what the teams build, we can purchase a viewing ticket for a $20 donation and get access. Please email Margaux at margauxmanleylima@gmail.com for more details.

REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR TRIVIA NIGHT & DONATE TO BRENT!!
Register Here: https://fundly.com/brent-trivia-night

Despite the cold and ice, some of our Brent Bears still managed to get out and spread some much needed Capital Hill love!

Check out these chilly yet resilient little Brent Bears dropping off Valentine’s to friends, neighbors and their favorite businesses to show their support for Brent.

All cards were picked up from Brent so a HUGE thanks to our community for their determination, creativity and support. If you still have a few cards at home pop them in the mailboxes of your favorite friends, family or neighbors.

These Valentines helped to launch the 2020-21 Annual Fund by asking neighbors to give to Brent. If you didn’t happen to get yours you can still do your part to help! Be on the lookout for more information about the Annual Fund in Tues News, Social Media and in your class emails.

Suggested donation of $50 per household or $75 to pre-select your team. Teams will discuss answers for each round via Zoom breakout rooms.

The site allows you to choose one ticket at a time but you are welcome to go back in and purchase multiple items or simply choose Donate and email emportolese@gmail.com with the ticket items you would like your money to go towards.

Join the Brent Community for our first ever Trivia Night Friday, Feb 26th at 8pm. This meeting of the minds is sure to be a “fun’d thing” to do during a cold winter night! Purchase Wild Cards in packs of 1 or 3 to help your team get closer to the prizes or enhance your evening with the VIP Refreshment Package! This is a great chance to connect with other parents like we normally would at drop-off and in-person events! See you there!

Proceeds from Trivia Night will support PTA fundraising efforts which offset about a third of Brent’s non-DCPS operating budget. PTA funds cover a large por-
tion of the school’s non-personnel expenses, allowing the school to use DCPS funds for additional staff like focus teachers and movement coach. Additionally, PTA funds support professional development for teachers, smart boards and other classroom supplies and community events.

CommUnity Book Exchanges for Black History Month Continues This Saturday
Brent celebrates Black History Month with grade-level book exchange play dates. The events will be held in Garfield Park on Saturdays in February. Attendance for each event is capped at 10 families to promote distancing. Sign up now to reserve a spot at your grade level’s playdate!

Black History Month Living Wax Museum
In honor of Black History Month, students at Brent Elementary School will present a Virtual African American Living Wax Museum. The virtual wax museum will be done completely at home with the student dressing up and someone recording their performance. The theme for this year is “The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity.” The Virtual Wax Museum will take place on Friday, February 26, 2021, with an all-school viewing. All submissions of videos should be emailed to dayon.hairston@k12.dc.gov by February 19. Please read this letter for more information and sign up here:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7ka-gKk6zMoqSt5md8rwKMvLH3feMPo9IqoAlwLffyFUNVpESUgwUJCOUhLVTVVQlJEmTINWVE1Ni4u

DWG Book Study: Courageous Conversations – Tuesday, February 18 from 11 - noon
As a part of the Brent Diversity Working Group’s ongoing efforts to foster conversation and growth around conversations about difficult subjects such as race, racism, ethnicity, and privilege, we’re engaging in a conversation and shared reading of Courageous Conversations About Race by Glen Singleton. Our hope is that through a robust discussion and deep study of the text we’ll learn to deepen and sustain conversations about racism across the community.

Objectives:
- Build foundational common knowledge of race, equity, and skills for engaging in conversations about these topics
- Identify text to self connections
- Build community and identify applications to the Brent Community
Please read chapters 4 & 5. The text can be ordered at East City or borrowed from Brent (email BrentDiversityWG@gmail.com if you’d like to check out a copy).

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84544396517?pwd=K1d5TUpvakUrSFFLWNQeDQ0Y0tMUT09
Meeting ID: 845 4439 6517
Passcode: DWG

Please reach out to BrentDiversityWG@gmail.com if you’re interested in joining us or if you’d like to learn more. We’ll meet regularly on zoom and plan to read 2 chapters, discuss, and engage in some of the ideas generated from reading and experience. Even if you weren’t able to read the chapters, you’re welcome to come join in the discussion.

DWG February Meeting Announcement
In lieu of DWG’s February meeting, we instead encourage you to attend Integrated Schools DC virtual discussion on white supremacy culture. Hope to see you then!

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Read Tema Okun’s characteristics of white supremacy culture ahead of time and think about which characteristics are present in your school-based or community organizations.

Join us on February 17th at 8 PM via Zoom for a discussion. We’ll share how perfectionism, sense of urgency, defensiveness, quantity
over quality, worship of the written word, only one right way, paternalism, either/or thinking, power hoarding, fear of open conflict, individualism, I’m the only one, progress is bigger/more, objectivity, and/or right to comfort show up and how we can counteract them.

Audrey Reese is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87587074059?pwd=N3ZMajNqcituNVF6STJrRGR5YnhnZz09

Meeting ID: 875 8707 4059
Passcode: 639099
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,87587074059#,,,,*639099# US (Washington DC)
+13126266799,,87587074059#,,,,*639099# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 875 8707 4059
Passcode: 639099
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbVoXY4Xq3
Dear Families,

For the 4th year in a row, classes at Brent Elementary are participating in the Jazz and Friends National Reading! On Thursday, February 25th, 2021 we’ll be joining schools across our city and nation in readings to support transgender youth. D.C. Public Schools is working to make our schools safe and inclusive for our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) students, staff, and families.

This year’s reading showcases three different affirming texts, including: *I am Jazz* by Jessica Herthel & Jazz Jennings; *When Aiden Became a Brother* by Kyle Lukoff; and *My Rainbow* by Trinity and DeShanna Neal. Jazz Jennings was one of the first transgender children to talk publicly about her identity and the challenges she has faced.

There are many resources available to help you initiate and continue this conversation at home. Visit [www.welcomingschools.org/resources/challenging-questions/](http://www.welcomingschools.org/resources/challenging-questions/) for guidance on how to respond to commonly asked questions. HRC Foundation’s Welcoming Schools is the nation’s premier professional development program providing training and resources to elementary school educators to welcome diverse families, create LGBTQ and gender inclusive schools, prevent bias-based bullying, and support transgender and non-binary students.

According to a 2017 HRC Foundation report based on 5,600 transgender and gender-expansive youth, less than a quarter of transgender and gender-expansive youth feel like they can definitely be themselves at school or at home. You can read more at [https://www.hrc.org/blog/hrc-and-uconn-survey-finds-significant-challenges-for-trans-and-gender-expa](https://www.hrc.org/blog/hrc-and-uconn-survey-finds-significant-challenges-for-trans-and-gender-expa). However, when gender-expansive youth feel affirmed, their risk of depression, anxiety and other negative mental health outcomes is greatly reduced ([http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/142/2/e20181436](http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/142/2/e20181436)). DCPS has developed a brochure with resources available at [bit.ly/DCPSLgbtq](http://bit.ly/DCPSLgbtq).

By working together, we can help to ensure that all students feel loved and supported. For more information contact the Office of Youth Engagement at (202) 442-5065 or dcps.lgbtq@dc.gov. You can also visit [dcps.dc.gov/page/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-and-questioning-student-engagement](http://dcps.dc.gov/page/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-and-questioning-student-engagement).

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell, Principal