Coming Up!

**Wednesday, March 17**
Diversity Working Group Meeting
8-9 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83529208450?pwd=Kz5LWUY2VzRpK1FqZ2JTT2NzMREFrUT09
Meeting ID: 835 2920 8450
Passcode: 481271

**March 29 - April 2**
School Spirit Week
Details announced in the Tuesday, March 23 issue of Tues News

**Wednesday, March 31**
Brent Community Meeting
6 - 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, April 2**
MySchoolDC Lottery Results Released
SY21-22 School Enrollment and Re-Enrollment Begins

**Monday, April 12 - Friday, April 16**
Spring Break
No School for Students

**Monday, April 26**
Term 3 Report Cards Mailed and Posted on Aspen’s Parent Portal

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**Diversity Working Group – Wednesday, March 17 Meeting**
This Wednesday evening, Brent’s Diversity Working Group is focused on school budgets. We’ll hear from two parents in Title I, DCPS elementary schools about the budget realities in their school communities and the hard decisions they are forced to make year after year. We’ll follow with a discussion of education budgeting in the District and the extent to which it is equitable. We hope this conversation helps add context around the many pressures school communities are facing now and next fall. Please join us from
8-9pm on Wednesday March 17th.

Calling All Brent Bears to get ready to show your spirit!
Brent’s Annual Spirit Week will be the week of March 29th-April 2nd. The spirit week schedule will be revealed in next week’s Tues News!

B.L.A.M. Standing Up For African American Rights
Created by fifth graders at Brent, B.L.A.M. is a group of students who have learned about racial justice, poverty, self-empowerment, and equity. B.L.A.M stands for Black Lives Always Matter and is working to help local non-profit organizations.

B.L.A.M has recently started a T-shirt fundraiser on the website Bonfire. The fundraiser’s profits will benefit Serve Your City, a “Washington DC non-profit that provides Black and Brown youth and families the same resources and opportunities that others in DC already have.”

If you would like to support B.L.A.M and our community, it would be greatly appreciated if you purchased a T-shirt for yourself and your family. The T-shirts will be available until March 20th, and orders will start shipping March 29th. https://www.bonfire.com/blam-t-shirt-fundraiser/

Volunteer to Welcome New Families to Brent
While it’s hard to imagine how school will evolve in the coming months, it will be even more challenging for families changing schools. Brent Buddies is an easy way you can help welcome our new arrivals to the Brent community. If you sign up to be a Current Brent Family Buddy, you will be assigned a family transitioning into Brent for the 21-22 school year. As part of the school registration process, you will be asked to call your incoming family via phone to make the initial introductions and welcome the incoming family to the community. After the initial connections we ask that you check in with your Brent Buddy every month or two. You will have an opportunity to share with them about your experience at Brent, but mostly your job will be to make our new friends feel welcome. To sign up, please add your information to the Brent Buddies Spreadsheet, found at www.tinyurl.com/BrentBuddies or emailing brentelementary@k12.dc.gov.
Brent 3rd Graders Meet with Congresswoman Eleanor Norton

Last week Brent 3rd Graders met with Congresswoman Eleanor Norton. The press release from the event is below:

Norton Meets with D.C. Third Graders About Capitol Fencing and Shares Their Writings

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) met this week with third grade students from Brent Elementary School, a public school in the District of Columbia located near the U.S. Capitol, to hear their concerns about the fencing around the Capitol complex. The students have been working on their persuasive writing and brainstormed Capitol fencing as an issue that they felt strongly about.

“I enjoyed my time with these astute future leaders,” Norton said. “I strongly oppose permanent fencing at the Capitol complex. I continue to press for the complex to be returned to the public, and we are making progress, as evidenced by the recent Task Force 1-6 report, which recommended against permanent above ground fencing at the complex. The fencing around the complex has seriously impacted the surrounding neighborhoods, especially the children who live here, as the Brent third graders showed. These budding advocates did an excellent job in meeting with me and in writing and sharing their experiences. They practiced and used their persuasive writing to push for the fences to come down in their neighborhood.

“Many children across the country have been stuck at home learning remotely during the coronavirus pandemic. On top of the restrictions posed by the pandemic, the children near the Capitol have also seen the closure of their outdoor spaces, where they used to run, walk, and play before the attack on January 6, 2021. I applaud the children’s courage in raising their voices, and the work of their wonderful educators like Abby Maslin, who are finding ways for their students to connect to current events and the world around them, despite the many challenges of remote learning.”

Norton has introduced the No Fencing at the United States Capitol Complex Act, which would prohibit the use of federal funds to install permanent fencing at the Capitol complex.

Below are excerpts from the students’ writing. The complete writings can be found here.

“When I was small I used to sled down Capitol Hill. My dad used to jog around it, along with many others, and my mum used to bike down the Hill to work. But now we can’t, because the barriers around the Capitol. It looks like a prison from the outside. And the barrier is taking away our nation’s Capitol from its people!” – Azania Neill

“Our people are intimidated and scared because the fence comes off as unwelcoming or ominous. The fence is a bad reminder of something awful that happened in our city, and is unsettling for many [citizens].” – Eliza Summers

“One time my family [walked] down to the fences and it felt like there was a prison in front of our house. It was not something to joke about. My body was so scared I wanted to run away.” – Max Lightner

. “Think of all the childhood memories people have made at the Capitol. Sledding, biking, walking around the Capitol grounds. I remember paying tribute to Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court steps when she passed away. I remember all those times the streets and sidewalks were filled with cars and people. Now the Capitol grounds are basically a ghost town.” – Nate Brindger

“It is the [cherry of] annoyingness on top of the ice-cream Sunday of [difficult] driving. ... It’s splitting the city in halves. People don’t want to go around it and it’s straight smack in the middle of the city.” – Alex Webster

“What if a kid wanted to become an artist someday. What if they wanted to paint a picture of the [Capitol]? All they would get in there painting is some trees, a little bit of the [Capitol] and the fence. That kid would feel ashamed of not being able to get a good painting of the [Capitol and] maybe even give up his dream. I mean there goes the next Leonardo da Vinci.” – Virginia Walker Hanna
Welcome to the new Jefferson Academy News feature! Tues News will feature news and stories from our feeder middle school, Jefferson Academy, several times each month. In this feature, Principal Dohmann reflects Jefferson Academy’s commitment to school goals during this challenging past year in his weekly principal letter.

Principal Letter from Principal Dohmann - March 14, 2021

A Note from Principal Dohmann

Happy Saturday JA,

I hope you’re having a nice weekend and enjoying the beautiful weather!

One year ago today (March 13, 2020) was our final day in the school building before the COVID-19 pandemic. What was initially supposed to be two weeks out of the school building has turned into a FULL YEAR of virtual learning with no clear indication of when we will return to “normal” school.

Our community has experienced so many losses and challenges over the last year, but I continue to be inspired by the resilience, love, and connectedness of this JA family. Our students, staff, and families have adapted to our new reality, overcome countless obstacles, and remained committed to our big goals:

We will be the BEST middle school in D.C. for all students.

All members of the JA community will LOVE school.

Our students have also amplified their voices to support social change, from the Black Lives Matter Movement to the 2020 Election to the continued fight for LGBTQ+ rights.

We had another opportunity to do this on Friday during our school-wide community meeting as we addressed the recent increase in violence against the AAPI community (Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders) in the U.S. and across the world. These vicious and racist attacks were addressed by President Biden in his primetime address Thursday night. You can read more about the attacks and President Biden’s remarks here.

During the community meeting on Friday, we watched a disturbing but important video narrated by basketball player Jeremy Lin, then we heard about the first-hand experiences of two long-time members of our community: 2014 JA alum and current Emory University student Yuanlong Dai and our amazing Art teacher Mrs. Green. We talked specifically about our responsibility to be allies to marginalized and victimized groups, as well as what it looks like to learn about someone’s culture in a respectful way.

It was a valuable learning experience for our students and staff, and we are so grateful to the members of the AAPI community we have at JA who shared their experiences. As adults, we also have a responsibility to be allies. Rather than listing out how we do that, I’ll allow the leaders in our community to share their knowledge through the highlighted community meeting responses below.

Have a great weekend!

Best,

Greg Dohmann
Principal

JA Student Leaders Speak Out

Kendal Newman - Yesterday 9:32 AM
It hurts to see how we are all people and that they are. I think that’s important to know that we are all people and that we all have feelings.

Chase Stevenson - Yesterday 9:28 AM
I think it’s important to remember that we are all humans and that we all deserve to be treated with respect.

Mikhail Osborne - Yesterday 9:39 AM
I think it’s important to remember that we all deserve to be treated fairly.

Alaiel Wilkeyesou - Today 9:34 AM
I think it’s important to remember that we all deserve to be treated fairly.

Sharon Farmer - Yesterday 9:33 AM
I think it’s important to remember that we all deserve to be treated fairly.

How to Be An Ally

Jasmin Ford - Yesterday 9:41 AM
I think it’s important to ask questions and not just accept what others say. I think it’s important to listen to each other and try to understand each other.

Hanee, Daniel (DCPS) - Yesterday 9:42 AM
I think it’s important to ask questions and not just accept what others say. I think it’s important to listen to each other and try to understand each other.

Lee, Christina (DCPS) - Yesterday 9:44 AM
I think it’s important to ask questions and not just accept what others say. I think it’s important to listen to each other and try to understand each other.

Locken Brittan (DCPS) - Yesterday 9:55 AM
I think it’s important to ask questions and not just accept what others say. I think it’s important to listen to each other and try to understand each other.

Nero, Larisha (DCPS) - Today 9:41 AM
I think it’s important to ask questions and not just accept what others say. I think it’s important to listen to each other and try to understand each other.

Dena Zakim - Yesterday 9:58 AM
Are there any protests in DC?
Dear Brent Families,

During her situational update yesterday and informed by the Department of Health, Mayor Bowser announced several modifications to COVID guidelines for gatherings, recreational activities and entertainment, grocery stores and schools. Points of emphasis in the school guidance included both ongoing and new* practices:

- Correct use of face masks
- 6ft of physical distancing (with a note that DOH will review the expected changes to CDC guidance)
- Use of cohorts without mixing students and staff
- No caps on cohort sizes*
- Meals in classrooms
- Staggered drop off and pick up
- Limited shared equipment and supplies
- Limit floating staff
- Fewer restrictions on middle school and high school sports*
- Asymptomatic testing for at least 10% of the student population*
- Notification systems in case of a positive test
- Daily symptom screening at home and/or at school

Mayor Bowser and DOH Director Nesbitt emphasized these practices as “guidance on best public health practice not regulating requirements.” The sequence from guidance to practice is represented in the following graphic with each agency or institution interpreting and contextualizing information.

As I have noted before, school staff and DCPS central office often receive CDC and DC DOH guidance at the same time of the public and those announcements, even potentially significant ones like a lift on cohort caps. We are compelled to wait for corresponding DCPS policy and will then consider the possibilities for Brent.

Outside of Tues News, we will provide all the updates we can – on shifting policies, outdoor learning and summer programming – at our next community meeting on March 31st from 6pm-7:30pm. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell
BRENT'S MARCH DIVERSITY

WORKING GROUP MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2021
8 - 9 P.M.

DWG invites all community members to join us for the Wednesday, March 17 meeting. This meeting is focused on school budgets. We'll hear from two parents in Title I, DCPS elementary schools about the budget realities in their school communities and the hard decisions they are forced to make year after year. We'll follow with a discussion of education budgeting in the District and the extent to which it is equitable.

Email BrentDiversityWG@gmail.com with any questions.

Join Zoom Meeting
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pwd=K25LWUY2VzR3pK1FqZ2JTTzNzMEFrUT09
Meeting ID: 835 2920 8450
Passcode: 481271

SUMMER 2021 - DPR SUMMER CAMPS

90+ camps across all 8 wards, with social distancing safeguards in place

Save the Dates - DPR’s Core Summer Camp Registration Week

- Monday, March 22 - 12:00pm - registration opens for:
  - Sports Camps (ages 3-12), Aqua Day Camps (ages 6-13),
  - Therapeutic Recreation (ages 5-13)
- Tuesday, March 23 - 12:00pm - registration opens for:
  - Little Explorers Camp (ages 3-5)
- Wednesday, March 24 - 12:00pm - registration opens for:
  - Discovery Camp (ages 6-10)

Summer Camp Sessions:
Four 2-week sessions from Monday, June 28 - Friday, August 20, 2021.

Camps will operate in accordance with DC Health Safety Guidelines
E.G. social distancing, small group sizes, no shared toys/equipment, and enhanced cleaning