Coming Up!

**March 29 - April 2**
School Spirit Week
Monday - Rainbow Day
Tuesday - Pajama Day
Wednesday - Hat Day
Thursday - Mixed Up Day
Friday - Brent Pride!

**Wednesday, March 31**
Brent Community Meeting
6 - 7:30 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86235752986
Meeting ID: 862 3575 2986
Passcode: Brent2020!
ASL Interpreters Provided

**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
Brent’s Annual Spirit Week is March 29th through April 2nd!
Get ready to show your fellow Brent Bears your spirit with 5 exciting themes: Rainbow Day, Pajama Day, Hat Day, Mixed-Up Day (April Fools), and Brent Pride Day (All Green Everything and bring a bear with you!).

Volunteer to Welcome New Families to Brent
While it’s hard to imagine how schools will evolve in the coming months, it will be even more challenging for families to change 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.

If you have any questions regarding enrollment, please reach out to our Registrar, Ms. Winters at Melissa.winters@k12.dc.gov.
Dear Parents, Guardians, Family, and Friends,

Last month, the Brent PTA launched The 2020-21 Annual Fund by hosting FUN’d February. Thanks to all that showed up for the Lego Challenge and Trivia Night. Because of you, we raised over $10,000 for our wonderful little school. To our organizers, sponsors and volunteers, thank you for bringing some fun, creativity, and much needed connection, into our homes during these difficult times. We appreciate you all so very much and can’t wait until we are all together again. For those that don’t know, the Brent Annual Fund is the largest of three PTA fundraisers - The Christmas Tree Sale, Annual Fund & Spring Gala & Auction. In normal years, the Annual Fund launches in the Fall, after back to school picnics and events, and on average raises upwards of $100,000!

But this year is anything but normal. It’s completely upside down. Oftentimes a disconnection between head and heart. We see so many still struggling while others spirits are starting to lift. All the while, our school has been working overtime to run, support and manage effectively three schools (virtual, in person and hybrid). However, the headwinds are real. Space and resources are limited and we have had to figure out new and creative ways to get all teachers and kids back in the building safely. So, while it’s difficult to think of fundraising in a year like this, Brent needs our help! If we are going to pull through this we need to act now.

Here are the facts:
- PTA fundraisers cover nearly all non-personnel expenses so Brent can allocate budgeted dollars to pay for highly qualified teachers and staff.
- Because of the generosity of our community in years past we have been able to lean on cash reserves this year but funds are taking a toll.
- Costs to run and operate the school safely are increasing.

Where fundraising dollars can immediately help:
- Considerations for bringing more cohorts back to school before the end of the year.
- Kindergarten and ECE summer bridge programs for our youngest most impressionable learners.
- Summer bridge programs for children furthest away from opportunity.
- Tutors for children falling furthest behind - Children that were not offered an in person and would have liked one.
- Proper graduation for fifth grade.
- Sustainability for programs already in place like athletics, recess and specials (art, science, music, atelier) and focus teachers Brent’s focus teachers have been integral in allowing Brent to open an in-person classroom at every grade, exceeding the DCPS reopening schedule and serving approximately 120 students in person (50% of students that wanted an in person seat).

While there is no pressure to give, we hope you will consider. Normally, the recommended giving amount ranges between $500-750 per child but this year do what makes sense for your family. If you are a family who has a child or more back at Brent perhaps consider giving more than you would otherwise to support our school and the kids that still want a seat back. Every contribution counts, no matter how big or small. Unlike in years past, the Annual Fund will only run for these next two weeks so don’t delay. Give to Brent’s Annual Fund Today by following this link www.brentlementary.org/brentfund.

Or by using the QR Code below:

With much love and gratitude,

Your Brent PTA
Update from Brent Parent Advocates
We are a group of parents advocating for the District/DCPS to ensure that Brent has the resources needed to safely and equitably provide 5 days of in-person instruction, with a teacher, for all of its students who wish to return to in-person learning by Fall 2021. We are working alongside other parent and school groups, and the school administration, on behalf of our children.

We are advocating for:

1) All teachers to be on the vaccine eligibility list (this has happened - success!);
2) Identifying additional space (preferably indoor, exploring outdoor) to fit all Brent children who wish to attend school in person;
3) Ensuring the budget matches our space, staffing, and health needs;
4) Equity in all decision making (along this point, we have been working to connect with other Ward 6 schools).

We welcome all voices in this discussion. If you are interested in learning more or joining us, please email Rebecca Saxton-Fox, rsaxtonf@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed!!!
If you like party planning, helping your school or seeing how you might get involved but not overcommit...we’d love to have you! Please email Claire Portoless Gala Chair -or- Tara Goldenberg PTA to learn more: cmportoless@gmail.com / taragoldenberg@gmail.com
BRENT MARCH
COMMUNITY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31
6-7:30 P.M.

Login information below:
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86235752986
Meeting ID: 862 3575 2986
Passcode: Brent2020!
ASL Interpreters Provided
Dear Brent Community,

At Brent and as part of DCPS, we stand together against racism and xenophobia. We mourn and will take action against the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes and hateful acts, including the recent murders in Atlanta, even as we understand that such actions have been historically underrecognized and under prosecuted.

In a piece titled Standing Together Against Xenophobia (https://smithsonianapa.org/stand/) from June of 2020, the Smithsonian Asian Pacific Center describes the othering that has occurred since the start of the coronavirus pandemic and as part of the historical dehumanization of Asian Americans in our country. The Center encourages us “to build bridges across difference, by bringing awareness to issues which undermine our shared humanity, and by fostering a sense of belonging and solidarity across communities.” Schools and families are essential to this work and we can take advantage of the following resources, and more, to name instances of xenophobia, to seek understanding and to shift the trajectory of our human experiences:

Learning Together: https://smithsonianapa.org/learn/
Min Jee’s Lunch, a Teaching Tolerance/Learning for Justice text: https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/fall-2020/min-jees-lunch

DCPS’ Protocol for Responding to Instances of Bias and Hate: https://t.e2ma.net/click/dpq47g/t59yaz/1jq36oc

Let’s Talk About It: Bias and Coronavirus (DCPS) https://t.e2ma.net/click/dpq47g/t59yaz/x4r36oc

Preparing to Discuss Xenophobia, Race, and Anti-AAPI Violence in the Classroom (DCPS) https://t.e2ma.net/click/dpq47g/t59yaz/dxs36oc

Protocol for Processing Recent Racial Incidents and Articles (DCPS) https://t.e2ma.net/click/dpq47g/t59yaz/tpt36oc

Being Anti-racist Also Includes Acknowledging the Asian-American Experience (Kim Saira on Instagram) https://t.e2ma.net/click/dpq47g/t59yaz/9hu36oc

Responding to Anti-Asian Violence and Georgia Shootings (Learning for Justice) https://t.e2ma.net/click/dpq47g/t59yaz/pav36oc


Addressing Anti-Asian Racism with Students (Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center) https://t.e2ma.net/click/dpq47g/t59yaz/lvw36oc

The long history of racism against Asian Americans in the U.S. (PBS NewsHour) https://t.e2ma.net/click/dpq47g/t59yaz/1nx36oc

Asian American Racial Justice Toolkit (Grassroots Asians Rising) https://t.e2ma.net/click/dpq47g/t59yaz/hgy36oc

How You Can Support Asian American Communities Right Now (#HateIsAVirus) https://t.e2ma.net/click/dpq47g/t59yaz/x8y36oc

As a community, we recognize and respond to tragedies like the one in Atlanta for they deeply affect those whose identities were directly threatened. We must also shape learning experiences, from formal curriculum to informal conversations, that stretch beyond any single event and become part of the fabric of our Brent community.

Sincerely,

Norah