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 Begins

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

Thursday, April 22
Diversity Working Group Book Discussion
11-noon
Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84544396517?pwd=K1d5TUpvKUrSFLUWNQeDQoY0tMUT09
Meeting ID: 845 4439 6517
Passcode: DWG

Brownies Create Art Installation to Celebrate Cherry Blossom Festival
Be sure to check out the Brent Brownies Cherry Blossom Parade installation “Brent Brownies Welcome Spring” on the front fence of Brent Elementary. The installation is part of the “Petal Porch Parade” and will live March 20th — April 11th 2021. Full Map of Petal Porch Parade: https://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/event/porch-parade/
DWG Book Study: Courageous Conversations

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’ll be 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. Please read chapters 8 & 9. 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).

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
Join us outside 112 Duddington Pl SE for a socially distanced, outdoor conversation or join us virtually via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84544396517?pwd=K1d5TUpvakUrSFFLUWNOe0Y0tMUT09
Meeting ID: 845 4439 6517
Passcode: DWG

Please reach out to BrentDiversityWG@gmail.com 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.

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!).
Thanks to everyone for your contributions so far but we still have a ways to go....

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. Often times 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.brentelementary.org/brentfund](http://www.brentelementary.org/brentfund).
Or by using the QR Code below:

With much love and gratitude,

Your Brent PTA
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 BEARS,

We invite you to celebrate the beauty of spring in Washington D.C. with us!

To participate, create a cherry-blossom inspired piece of art. Place your work in a location where it can be viewed by passerby.

Share your art with us on social media using #brentinbloom and register your art to be included on the "Brent in Bloom Map" at bit.ly/brentinbloom.

CREATIVELY YOURS,
MS. GIBSON & MS. SADOWSKY

#BRENTINBLOOM
Updated Travel Policies

Travel Policy for In-Person Families

DC Health issued updated travel guidance on March 19, 2021 and DCPS recently updated their corresponding policies.

High Risk States and Territories

Under current DC Health criteria, most states remain categorized as “high risk.” DC Health regularly updates the list (the next update is due on April 5th and will remain in place until we return from Spring Break on April 19th), which can be found here, and states can be added or removed.

If any member of a household travels to a high-risk state OR if a household receives a visitor from a high-risk state and there is no known COVID exposure, all members of the household must:

- Limit daily activities (or self-isolate if experiencing symptoms) and get tested for COVID-19 within 3-5 days after returning from the high-risk state.
- Provide negative COVID-test results before entering any DCPS school building or office.

Household members who travel to or receive travelers from a low-risk state with no known close contact exposure are not required to quarantine or test unless experiencing symptoms.

Brent community members are responsible for notifying the main office if visitors or travel fit into this category. Email brentelementary@k12.dc.gov with the last date of travel or the date of visitor’s arrival and negative COVID test results for all members of the household. Further documentation may be requested on a case-by-case basis.

Fully Vaccinated Travelers

A person is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after completion of a COVID-19 vaccination series.

If any fully-vaccinated member of a household travels anywhere or if a household receives a fully-vaccinated visitor from anywhere and there is no known COVID exposure, no quarantine or test is required unless experiences symptoms.

Any travel to high-risk states that includes children under 16, because they cannot be vaccinated, requires the steps described under the section “High Risk States and Territories.”

Brent community members are responsible for notifying the main office if visitors or travel fit into this category. Email brentelementary@k12.dc.gov and include the date that travelers ended their 14-day isolation period. Further documentation may be requested on a case-by-case basis.

Travelers Who Have Tested positive for COVID-19 Within the Last 90 Days and For Whom the 14-Day Isolation Period Has Passed

Household travelers or visitors who fit into this category are not required to quarantine or test unless in case of a known close contact exposure during travel or unless experiencing symptoms.

Brent community members are responsible for notifying the main office if visitors or travel fit into this category.
Dear Brent Families,

Two weeks ago and in anticipation of new Term 4 guidelines, I shared the following policy-making sequence:

Recently both the CDC and DC DOH released updated guidance for schools. DCPS released corresponding Term 4 policies over the weekend (https://dcpsreopenstrong.com/schedule/term4/) . The most significant policies are captured in this DCPS chart to the right:

At Brent, it is our Term 4 (defined by three starting points: April 19th, April 26th and May 3rd) goal to serve 100% of students who elect faculty led in-person experiences, whether full-time classes, hybrid classes or facilitated outdoor gatherings. As we plan toward this goal, we are negotiating the following constraints, familiar to us from other planning points this year yet with different emphasis given Term 4 policies and goals:

Virtual Learning: We must allocate staff to accommodate all learners who choose the virtual stance or who are hybrid and require virtual learning for at least half of the week. We must be conscious of changes that virtual learners might experience as we grow in-person learning experiences, especially those who have already changed to virtual learning.

Cleaning: Our three custodians must be able to fulfill a schedule of deep cleaning protocols for all student-occupied spaces.

As one step in this accelerated planning process, we need to calculate the demand for in-person learning from those families currently in the virtual stance. If you currently have one or more virtual learners in grades K-5, complete this brief survey (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7kagKk6zM0qSt5md8rwKMsc6v4ZrZwNAnDxARp-dL_AhUNkI7Q9gwMTdaN1dT0-DRZOFFGskRoFvNOS4u) for each child before the end of the day on Thursday. A 100% response rate is essential to reaching our Term 4 goal.

At tomorrow’s community meeting from 6:00-7:30 I will go in more detail about our Term 4 goals, policy shifts, constraints and grade-level possibilities.

Sincerely,
Norah Lycknell