Coming Up!

Thursday, March 11
DWG Book Club - Courageous Conversations
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84544396517?pwd=K1d5TUpvakUrSFFLUWNQeDQ0Y0tMUT09
Meeting ID: 845 4439 6517
Passcode: DWG

Friday, March 12
Progress Reports Mailed

Sunday, March 14
Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 29 - April 2
School Spirit Week
Details announced in the Tuesday, March 16 issue of Tues News

Friday, April 2
My School DC 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

Remembering Sunny
A year ago this week, Osvna “Sunny” Taloa Fish-Boston passed away on March 10th, and we faced the loss of her bright spirit as part of our kindergarten and Brent community. We mourned together and, as the world started to ripple with other losses, we coped with new and incomplete
ways of grieving. This Friday we will remember Sunny by wearing purple or something with unicorns, a gesture that recognizes two of Sunny’s favorite things. Families can make the choice to take part or not, knowing that remembering will be important to some and that others may not have known Sunny very well. In classrooms, students might be asked to share their memories of Sunny, have a moment of silence as recognition, and have their questions answered. As we often do in tough times, we will allow our students to take the lead. If you feel like your child may need individual support, please reach out to Brent’s social worker, Stephanie Young, at stephanie.young@k12.dc.gov.

A Message from DCPS Student Health Team

Dear DC Public Schools Community,

In early December, we announced that the DC Public Schools, in partnership with DC Health and following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, would provide free asymptomatic at-school testing for COVID-19 for students attending in-person programming. Under this plan, teams of roving nurses from DC Health provide onsite, at-school asymptomatic testing for DCPS students on a routine basis. Through this partnership, the goal was for all students with a signed consent form to be tested at school approximately every 10 days.

As our nation’s medical experts learn more about COVID-19, testing guidance continues to evolve as well. With that, we’re writing to provide an update on DCPS asymptomatic testing plans for students going forward. DC Health, aligned with the CDC, now recommends weekly asymptomatic testing using a random sampling of 10 percent of the student population, selected from students with signed asymptomatic testing consent forms. This means that for a school with an in-person programming enrollment of 100 (and all of them have signed consent forms), 10 students would be selected at random each week and be tested.

Accordingly, and in partnership with DC Health and Children's National Medical Center (CNMC) Children’s School Services (CSS), we will also shift the role of administering student asymptomatic testing to our School Nurses starting Monday, March 15.

Our school nurses play a critical role at our school buildings and they know your children. Because of these relationships and school nurses’ familiarity with their school community, we are confident this shift will create a stronger and more reliable testing program. Utilizing resources at the school level also allows schools to create a testing schedule that works best for their cohorts and school community. Beginning this week, the DCPS Health Services team will hold trainings for schools and the CSS team will begin training school nurses as we implement this new protocol.

Please refer to the family FAQ for general questions around testing frequency, consent forms, and other questions. You can also reach out to the DCPS COVID-19 Safety Hotline at (202) 442-5656 or by email at DCPS.CovidSafety@k12.dc.gov.

If you would like to sign a COVID-19 asymptomatic testing consent form for your child who is attending in-person programming, please contact your child’s school directly to submit the form available at this link.

These changes apply to asymptomatic student testing only. Schools will continue to provide on-site rapid testing for symptomatic individuals.

Thank you to our parents and families who are taking advantage of this pilot program to date — your experiences have informed how we’re moving forward. We believe these updates to our testing protocol will increase confidence in reopening our schools and will continue to reinforce the strong health and safety commitments of DC Public Schools.

In partnership,

DC Public Schools Student Health Services
I once had a history professor who was critical of the study modern history so much as it pertained to the decade or two before the present. She often reminded her students that until the historical dust settled, the depth of human experience could not be understood.

One year ago this Saturday, we held our last typical day of school at Brent. March 13th was a flurry of learning and play, nerves and photocopies. We tried to keep things as steady as possible for our students while also preparing to meet instructional demands we had never before conceived.

All jokes/realities aside about the last year feeling like one long day, the dynamics of March 13th have been repeated again and again. Our entire Brent community – students, faculty and families – has repeatedly tackled shifts in the definition of school. There have been points of enormous innovation and stretches of unbelievable struggle.

The historical dust has not yet settled, and we cannot possibly grasp the full impacts, negative and positive, of this time. But as we strive for the conventional rhythms of school, we do so with a sense of pride and hope: we made it this far and can and will push further.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell