Coming Up

March 24 - May 29
Distance Learning

URGENT - SY 20-21 Enrollment
online link:
https://forms.dc.gov/f/DCPSEnrollmentForm_English

Friday, May 22
Parent-teacher Conference Day

Friday, May 29
Last Day of School

Key Contact Information
Main Office Mobile Line
202-590-7458

Brent General Email
brentelementary@k12.dc.gov

Website
brentelementary.org

Facebook
facebook.com/
BrentElementarySchool

Brent Faculty Appreciation

Last week, Brent’s faculty was overwhelmed with all of the love and appreciation the community shared with them virtually. We would like to send a big thank you to each and every Brent Bear that shared a chalk message, video message, drawing, or virtual flower bouquet throughout the week. We know our faculty is special, and all of your messages made sure they knew that too! (Photos throughout Tues News.)
Grade Level Close Out Meetings

In the last two weeks of distance learning, grade-level teams will have the opportunity to share with parents high-level information about the academic focal points from the year, highlights or major successes and challenges, and recommended areas for summer emphasis. Please if you are not able to attend the live session(s), they will also be recorded and linked via the grade level newsletters for families to view at another time.

From Brent’s Social Worker

Stephanie Young, Resource for Supporting Children During COVID-19

During this challenging time, Brent’s social worker, Stephanie Young, continues to review family and child support literature and provide guidance for Brent’s families. This resource, How to Support Children During COVID-19, from The National Child Traumatic Stress Network is a brief three page document covering key topics including:

- How to start the conversation
- Correct inaccurate information
- Encourage your children to ask questions, and answer those questions directly.
- Validate emotions
- Help your children/teens to self-regulate


If you or your family need support from Stephanie Young, please reach out to her via email stephanie.young@k12.dc.gov.

Optional Survey for Families - Class List Placement Perspectives SY20-2021 – Deadline May 18

Brent staff are starting the process for class assignments for SY20-21. The design of class lists is an opportunity to anticipate a classroom community that matches both individual and collective strengths and needs. Our class list process is intentional, complex and nuanced. It relies on the keen understanding and expertise of our faculty members. We take parent
feedback into consideration through an annual Class Placement Perspectives Survey. This optional survey accessed here - [https://tinyurl.com/yapatmlb](https://tinyurl.com/yapatmlb) - is designed to capture parent perspectives and feedback as our teachers craft class lists for the coming year. The deadline for responses to this survey is Monday, May 18. Please direct questions to the Brent main email box at brentelemtery@k12.dc.gov.
Brent Bears Read! Week & Catch Up Day (Friday, May 15th)
This week we celebrate Brent Bears Read! week, which is all about reading, books and libraries! Together we will bring out the reader in all of us, while we share favorite books and story characters through fun activities, explore the Public Library, and make summer reading plans. All information and optional activities for the week, including for Catch Up Day on Friday, can be found in this packet: https://tinyurl.com/yan4pze4. Have fun, enjoy and share!

Scholastic Online Book Fair Is Open Through May 17
Brent’s online book fair is in full swing, and will be open through May 17. It is a great opportunity to stock up on summer reading material that can be enjoyed away from the screen! Just visit https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/brentelementaryschool3 or search for Brent’s fair with the Scholastic Book Fair Finder and click on “Shop Now” to get started. Please note that a sign-in or registration is NOT required to take full advantage of the fair. Books will be delivered to your house or any other designated address. Book-only orders over $25 will ship for free. In addition, every purchase benefits our school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Bettina (bettina.schewe@k12.dc.gov). Happy Reading!
Join the PTA Board!
The PTA is recruiting for vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and community liaison (see position descriptions below). If you’re interested, please contact any of the following nominating committee members by Tuesday, May 12th: Kiana Moore (kiana.j.mooore@gmail.com), Tara Goldberg (taragoldenberg@gmail.com), Josie Malone (josiejmalone@gmail.com), Adi Segal (adisegaladi@gmail.com), Clair Portolese (cmporto- telese@gmail.com), Catherine Bisanz (catherine.sprague@k12.dc.gov), or Norah Lycknell (norah.lycknell@k12.dc.gov)

Interested, but have questions, grab a drink and join the PTA for a zoom call to learn more.

Join us for happy hour Tuesday, May 12th 6:00-6:30 PM (Join here)
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/891705329
or +13126266799,,89170532924,,1# ,752108#)

Open positions:
The co-vice presidents/presidents-elect shall assist the presidents in carrying out their duties and responsibilities; perform the duties of the presidents in the absence or inability of those officers to act; perform other duties as assigned.

The secretaries shall record the minutes of all general membership meetings of the PTA and the executive board; make available to the public for review the approved minutes of the general membership meetings and the approved minutes of the executive board meetings; maintain a membership list; have a current copy of the bylaws; perform other duties as assigned.

The treasurers shall have custody of all the funds of the PTA; keep a full and accurate account of receipts and expenditures; make disbursements as authorized by the co-presidents, executive board, or association in accordance with the budget adopted by the PTA; review all checks and vouchers monthly or, if there is no separate bookkeeper, have all checks and vouchers reviewed monthly by one of the two co-presidents, to assure that expenditures are in accordance with the budget. The bookkeeper is hired by the co-presidents and approved by the executive board; present a financial statement at every meeting of the executive board and the PTA, and whenever the executive board requests; make a full report on the PTA’s finances at the meeting at which new officers officially assume their duties; be responsible for the maintenance of such books of account and records as conform to the requirements of Article XI, Section 3, of these bylaws; perform other duties as assigned.

The community liaisons shall serve as a resource to the executive board about the concerns and interests of parents; serve as a resource to families about PTA activities and issues; perform other duties as assigned.

LSAT Nominations
All Brent parents are invited and encouraged to nominate yourself or someone else for the Brent Local School Advisory Team (LSAT)! Brent’s LSAT is a group of parents, teachers, administrators and a community member that meets once a month to advise the principal on critical school issues and priorities - including curricular matters, school budget, enrollment, staffing, school culture and parent and student engagement. Joining the LSAT is an exceptional opportunity to get a better understanding of how school decisions are made and how DCPS works AND to have a positive, long-lasting impact on the school. There are four parent openings for the next school year -- three for two-year terms and one for a one-year term. If you have any questions about joining the LSAT, feel free to contact Jean Blackerby Strich (current LSAT Chair) at jean.blackerby@gmail.com or any current/former member of the LSAT. If you are interested in nominating yourself, please send a statement of interest that includes your children and their grades and why you are interested in joining the LSAT to Jean Blackerby Strich at jean.blackerby@gmail.com by Wednesday, May 20.  The date of the election will be announced soon.

Sign Up To Welcome New Families to Brent
Registration is underway for the next school year, and we need your help to welcome new families to the Brent Community. Brent Buddies is a simple easy way to welcome our new arrivals. If you sign up to be a Current Brent Family Buddy, you will be assigned a family that is transitioning into Brent. Current Brent Family Buddies are asked to call their assigned incoming family via phone to make the initial introductions and welcome the incoming family to the community. Once social distancing is over, we would also love our Current Brent Family Buddies to meet up with their incoming families at an organized school function such as the Family Picnic. 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 bren-telementary@k12.dc.gov.
Can’t wait for the Holiday Tree Sale - Join the Organizing Committee!

Greetings Friends,

We hope you and your Brent Bears are well and in good spirits! As this school year winds down, we can’t help looking forward to next school year and the opportunity to see everyone - especially at the Brent Holiday Tree Sale, which is a fantastic and fun community event and a significant fundraiser.

We need some generous and talented volunteers to help us organize and manage the event! (The time commitment is approximately 2-3 hours a month between now and September, 6-8 hours in October and November; and all day Thursday - Sunday the weekend of the sale, December 3rd - 6th.)

Below is an overview of what types of roles you could play utilizing your skills or learning some new ones to help grow our tree business. We believe we can meet or exceed the $50,000 raised last year!

So join us! We think you’ll find the work an enjoyable team effort with warm camaraderie and cold beverages. Email us if interested.

Sincerely,

2020 Co-Chairs
Craig Heilman
cwh.buster@gmail.com
Mary Claire York
maryclaireb@gmail.com

Tree Committee Jobs:

Supply Chain, Procurement, and Finance - This involves vendor management, ordering, coordinating payments and managing the master spreadsheet. Some pricing strategy, revenue, demand forecasting, and margin calculations are also required to help us maximize profitability.

Marketing and Website Administration - We have pretty good marketing materials built over the years including signage, door tag ads, and posters; our outreach also includes utilizing Brent’s social media channels and other “influencers” in the community. We have plans to do more marketing this year and can use good ideas and additional expertise. The website administration involves getting information on the Brent store site and managing the associated online store transactions.

Recruiting and Sponsorships - This includes all the communications and schedule management to recruit and assign duties to our volunteers. A persuasive emailer and community connector would do this well. We think we have a good opportunity to generate some sponsorships this year from civic-minded businesses.

Delivery and Training - Delivering is a big value add that differentiates us from competitive tree sales. This role involves all the associated pre-coordination and day-of management. In addition, this role would ensure all our volunteers get some onboarding training, so they can be efficient and effective. We’ll be developing more training materials this year.

Sales - It is so much fun to help families pick out their trees. If you have an eye for the finer points of Fraser Fir and want to see faces light up, then this role is for you. It requires managing the sales team to ensure coverage and good customer service.

Operations - Chainsaws, stand construction, unloading, clean up, general problem solving….an important job for anyone looking to brag on the battery life of their cordless drill and who has the great leadership skills honed by months of homeschooling.

May Movement Challenge - Week #2!

In week #1 we recorded over 600 miles for the May Movement Challenge!! Join for Week #2 of the Brent community challenge to collective hit 3,000 miles during the month of May. This is for ALL family members/staff (not just students) and you can track miles either by joining a Brent Strava Team or manually entering your weekly totals. If the beautiful weather isn’t enough incentive, there will be 10 gift certificates to select Capitol Hill businesses of choice ($25 each) given away to a mix of the most active participants.

Goal: Collectively achieve 3,000 miles by running, biking and other exercise (20 minutes of “other” exercise = 1 mile) during the month of May.

Tracking: Join the Brent Bears team on Strava: https://www.strava.com/clubs/boltingbrentbears or submit a weekly form to track activity: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdZj3m_MoRX02kp4b-6slWwe_bqkJ8yJL66m85hGBV-pelPvyH7Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

Week #1 special spotlight on the Medsker/Thomas family who cycled over 100 miles and the Bains, Meier and Kirrane families who each ran at least 75 miles. Wow! Together we’ve covered enough mileage to get from Brent Elementary to Louisville, KY. Let’s see where Week #2 takes us. Every mile counts so let’s get moving!
Brent’s Class List Process - In Detail

With just three weeks left in the school year, Brent has started the critical work of class placements for next school year.

Purpose

The design of class lists is an opportunity to anticipate a classroom community that matches both individual and collective strengths and needs. While class composition is just one element of a student’s Brent experience, it is an opportunity to prioritize equity, balance, fit, safety and a just-right challenge for every student. We seek a sense of place and connection for each student, something that begins with class placement but truly develops as that class placement develops into a community over the course of a school year.

Process

Our class list process is intentional, complex and nuanced. It relies on the keen understanding and expertise of our faculty members.

Each grade-level team spends an extraordinary amount of time over a multi-week period in the class development process. The teams, with input from specialists and other faculty, addresses a variety of factors including a child’s social and emotional development, approach to learning, demographic categories, academic strengths and areas of growth and effective learning partners – in total, we formally analyze 15 categories. This year, staff will also review engagement and academic progress during distance learning. We strive to create socially, demographically and academically diverse classes at each grade level.

Once each class list is composed, our teams match the list to the traits of the receiving teachers. These traits were self-designated and reviewed by colleagues and school administration. We match lists to traits as opposed to names so that the qualities of a teacher guide our thinking.

Perspectives

Our teachers carry a breadth of knowledge as they advocate for individual and collective needs as part of the class list process. We take parent feedback into consideration through this optional Class Placement Perspectives Survey - https://tinyurl.com/yapatmlb. To ensure equity of access and voice for all families, this survey will be the sole mode of input. Brent will collect and review survey responses before passing on the information to grade level teams; information that directly pertains to an individual will be read and then edited for grade-level consumption. The Optional Class Placement Perspectives Survey closes on Monday, May 18, 2020.
**Publishing**

At the end of the school year and over the summer, Principal Lycknell will review all class lists with current grade-level teams and incorporate newly-enrolled students. Information on the date of class list publishing for families is forthcoming.

Please do not hesitate to reach out via Brent’s main email, brentelementary@k12.dc.gov if you have any questions about the class list process.

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**Principal’s Corner**

Dear Brent Community:

Welcome to Week 8! This week we will pass the two-month mark from the most recent time we saw one another together in person, but your teacher appreciation celebrations helped us feel connected and seen. Thank you so much for the sweet words, photos, and videos!

This week’s Heart Map theme for students is Memories. Having been in grade level meetings with teachers this past week, I know that many teams have been walking down memory lane themselves in preparation for one-on-one conversations, grade level close out meetings, and end-of-year celebration activities: sorting through photos for slide shows and documentation, pulling up student work and goal-setting documents, and recalling hopes and dreams activities. It has been a bittersweet exercise to remember that our whole year hasn’t been remote, even as we prepare remote ways to bring it to meaningful closure. If you participate in or support the Heart Map initiative this week, it can be a good entry point for helping young people understand that memories can reflect many types of emotions, sometimes multiple at once, and that’s OK.

In your grade level’s weekly email, you saw scheduling information about the Weeks 9 and 10 events mentioned above: one-on-one conversations and grade level close out meetings. We know that these structures introduce a change into what has become a fairly predictable routine, but also feel that they represent important opportunities to wrap up the school year and say good-bye. Many teachers are taking advantage of Parent-Teacher Conference Day (May 22nd), at least in part, with the hope that doing so will make scheduling easier for families. Please take a moment to include these events into your schedules.

This week, although mainly a week for continuity, also marks the launch of our preparations for Intervals 4 and 5 (also known as summer). Knowing that this summer is bound to be different for families, we are preparing to provide more fully-articulated options than we have in previous years. We know that summer learning loss can be problematic in a good year; the unique circumstances of this situation create both challenges and opportunities to guard against loss. Please look out for information on this topic soon, and know that we are thinking ahead for what your needs may be.

All my best,

Sara Ewbank
Assistant Principal
Brent Elementary School