Coming Up

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

Wednesday, May 27  
Brent Community Meeting  (Virtual)  
8 - 9 p.m.  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85086894215  
Meeting ID: 850 8689 4215  
Password: 989595

Friday, May 29  
Last Day of School

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

Brent General Email  
brentelementary@k12.dc.gov

DC Government Information  
https://coronavirus.dc.gov/

Website  
brentelementary.org

Facebook  
facebook.com/BrentElementarySchool

Twitter  
twitter.com/brentelementary

Instagram  
Instagram.com/BrentBears

Congratulations to Brent’s 5th Graders!  
Best of Luck in Middle School!  
Keep making us proud!

Join us for the last Community Meeting of SY2019-2020!  
We will have our last Community Meeting of the 2019-2020 school year this Wednesday, May 27th at 8pm. We are pleased to welcome to this community meeting new families who will be joining Brent for the 2020-2021 school year. The bulk of the meeting will be led by school administration and leadership, discussing DCPS’ current summer and fall plans and the ways that we will work toward those plans for a strong learning experience at Brent. In addition, we’ll seek approval for the Brent PTA FY21 Budget, the slate for the incoming PTA
Board, present the Diversity Working Group’s incoming Board, and discuss Brent Buddies and support for Brent families as we cope with COVID-19 and its effects.

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New Families – Welcome to Tues News
For incoming families for SY20-21 – welcome to Tues News! Each week during the school year, Brent puts out a Tuesday Newsletter, known as the “TuesNews.” This newsletter provides valuable school-wide information about upcoming programs, classroom highlights, weekend activities, and other essential information. Please plan to set aside time every Tuesday evening to read over this newsletter.

An End of the Year Thanks to the Tues News Content Community
Thanks to the Tues News Content Community who worked hard all year to keep our community informed, connected and inspired. This year at Brent magnified the essential function of communication to our community. Thanks to our parent community leaders who added “meeting the Tues News deadline” to their very full daily task list. A special thanks to Brent’s K/ECE Focus Teacher and Atelierista, Julia Sadowsky, who collected wonderful distance learning images and created reflections of our community’s resolve to remain true to our mission and values wherever our learning takes place. The Tues News we all worked to craft in distance learning was elevated by Ms. Sadowsky’s work. And a shout out to Ms. Marindin for her masterpiece, Brent Bear Park, a truly meaningful and beautiful collection of our students’ work.

Medication Pick-Up
Student medications in the health suite may be picked-up by appointment only. Please email brentelementary@k12.dc.gov or call/ text Brent’s main mobile to schedule an appointment.

Loaned Student Technology
DCPS has announced that students in grades PS3 – 4th who are returning to Brent for SY20-21 may keep loaned laptops and ELI devices over the summer. Students in grade 5 or who are not returning to Brent next year, must return those devices. Please email brentelementary@k12.dc.gov or call/ text Brent’s main mobile to make an appointment to return the devices.

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 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 Buddies and support for Brent families as we cope with COVID-19 and its effects.

Brent Buddies helps new families get a terrific start to the school year!
Brent Buddies is a simple way to welcome our new families. To sign up, please add your information to the Brent Buddies Spreadsheet, found at www.tinyurl.com/BrentBuddies or emailing brentelementary@k12.dc.gov.
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 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](http://www.tinyurl.com/BrentBuddies) or emailing brentelementary@k12.dc.gov.

**Framing Thinking: ReOpen DC Recommendations**

Earlier this Spring, Mayor Bowser gathered a ReOpen DC Advisory Group. Their recommendations can be found here - [https://coronavirus.dc.gov/reopendc](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/reopendc). It is important that we all understand the components of the Four Phases proposed as they will help to structure how DCPS thinks about opening on the distance learning to in-person learning continuum.

**DC Government and DCPS Communications**

Our city leaders provided several important updates over the last week. To watch Mayor Bowser’s Press Conference on schools, click here - [https://youtu.be/tbhR_EUPmas](https://youtu.be/tbhR_EUPmas). To read Chancellor Ferebee’s May 22nd letter to the DCPS Community, click here - [https://www.dropbox.com/s/cckcho8qf9w8mo/05.22.2020%20Chancellor%27s%20Letter%20To%20DCPS%20Community.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/cckcho8qf9w8mo/05.22.2020%20Chancellor%27s%20Letter%20To%20DCPS%20Community.pdf?dl=0).

**DCPS Summer Learning**

Virtual DCPS Summer Learning is now scheduled and will take two forms relevant to Brent students:

Reading Intervention for K-5: Based on needs that appeared during the school year and by invitation only, families will receive registration information directly from DCPS.

K-5 Enrichment: Registration for summer learning began on March 10. Students who have already registered for the program will be given first priority for seats. Families do not need to re-register, but will receive a link to confirm their seat. Go to [dcpst.gov/summerlearning](http://dcpst.gov/summerlearning) to register for Summer Learning or to be added to the waitlist.

More information about the announced Summer Bridge programming from August 10th-August 21st and for rising 3rd graders is forthcoming from DCPS.
Brent Summer Learning

Resources for summer learning will be provided to families in two ways: via email from the grade level and via the website as of June 1st (www.brentelementary.org), in order to allow learning to continue throughout the summer months. These resources include sample schedules for families that may find daily structure useful, and recommended activities, sites, videos, routines, and work for use during summer. Additionally, specials teachers have developed a packet with resources and links specific to PE, Music, Art, Science, Library, Spanish, and Game Time, and there is also a folder for social-emotional resources that may be helpful for the home setting. Our hope is that these resources provide a sense of continuity and support, even once the school year has ended. Questions or requests for guidance can be directed to Sara Edwards at sara.edwards@k12.dc.gov. Families can send pictures of summer learning activities to brentelementary.org. These pictures will be featured in Brent’s Summer communications.

From the PTA

The PTA has set up an end of the year gift fund for our amazing focus teachers, specials teachers, and staff. https://paypal.me/pools/c/8pkPgf98zI

We recognize that some classes have already collected resources to recognize their teachers, so please feel free to take that into account as you consider a donation. Our goal is to ensure that all staff (custodial, administration, focus teachers, specials teachers, etc) are recognized for their contribution and receive a gift to close out the school year. The fund follows the standard DCPS rule of a maximum $10 donation per family for each teacher/staff member. There are a total of 24 focus teachers, specials teachers, and staff members at Brent, so $240 is the maximum donation per family. As always, contribution to the fund is voluntary and any amount is appreciated. The maximum ceiling is not a suggested donation, but rather a mechanism to ensure that we stay within DCPS guidelines.

For the 2020/21school year, the PTA is planning to create a general gift fund for all teachers and staff. This will continue to ensure that everyone receives gifts, but also ensure parity in the gift amounts that all teachers receive. Hopefully, it will be easier for parents too!

Please make any donations by Wednesday, May 27.

PTA Board Candidates for SY20-21

Thanks for all you do to support our teachers and staff throughout the year! The PTA thanks the nominating committee for recruiting a superb slate of incoming PTA candidates.

co-VP
Charrise Robinson, mom to Savanna (rising 4th grader)

co-Secretaries
Erin Baldwin, mom to Alexander (rising 1st grader) and Eve (rising pre-K4)
Katherine Holt, mom to Daniel (rising pre-K4) and Hanna (future Brent Bear)

co-Community Liaisons
Francine Asche, mom to George (rising 3rd grader), Harold (rising 1st grader), and Ike (rising pre-K4)
Margaux Manley Lima, mom to Catalina (rising 1st grader) and Marina (rising K)
Dear Brent Community,

Happy last week of school! That phrase doesn’t quite have the same ring to it as in typical years when the place in which our children spend most of their time changes significantly between the last day of school and the summer. Now, most of us have been home and are staying at home. That fact can cause us to let a big moment pass. To help our children approach this alternative summer – whether you’re planning on virtual camp, virtual summer learning, or all play – with positivity and purpose, we need to allow space for many of the same mental routines as we do at the conclusion of a full year of in-person learning: reflection, celebration, closure and transition.

Over the last few weeks, Brent faculty members have collectively planned for and executed these routines. The three iterations of Heart Maps provided a space for reflection. Grade-level and classroom events like dance parties, zoom games, and meet ups set a tone of celebration. One-one-one conferences also touched on reflection and celebration but toward giving students and families a sense of closure. Grade Level Close Out Meetings and summer learning plans offered a point of transition.

These routines are also important at home. To reflect, your child might create a top ten list of memories from the year or do a family show-and-tell of a piece of work or object that represents their growth (here, it is important to stretch past distance learning). To celebrate, your family might enjoy a themed dinner, hold an end-of-year zoom call with family or friends, or go on a special hike. To provide closure, your child might sort through school belongings or, if warranted, deconstruct their learning area. To transition, you might hold a family meeting where you name and discuss summer plans, goals and schedules.

Adults also need these same routines. So much of our way of doing things is organized around the structure and expectations of a school year. Please join us for the Community Meeting on Wednesday at 8pm when we will offer early reflections on the school year, provide an overview of summer learning, and share how we are thinking about the transition into the fall.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell