Coming Up!

**Wednesday, November 11**  
Veterans Day  
No school for students

**Wednesday, November 18**  
Jefferson Academy Middle School Open House  
6 - 7 p.m.  
tinyurl.com/JAFamily20

**Friday, November 20**  
Report Cards Posted in Aspen, instructions to access Aspen released on Tuesday, November 17

**Sunday, November 22**  
Brent’s Second Time Around Pop Up Sale  
2 - 5 p.m.  
Front Brick walkway  
Masks and social distancing required

**Wednesday, November 25 - Friday, November 27**  
Thanksgiving Break  
No School for Students or Staff

**Thursday, December 3 - Sunday, December 6**  
PTA Holiday and Christmas Tree Sale

**Wednesday, December 23 - Friday, January 1**  
Winter Break  
Brent Closed

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**Accessing Your Child’s Term 1 Report Card Through the Aspen Parent Portal**

This week, DCPS will be emailing families with login instructions for accessing the Aspen Parent Portal. For elementary school students, the portal will serve solely as the application to view the term 1 report card and attendance data. Once families receive the login information, families can access portal here: https://aspen.dcps.dc.gov/aspen/logon.do. For support on how to navigate the portal, please see the videos at this link: https://dcps.dc.gov/page/parent-portal
Please Buy Some Trees! The Sale is Live!

The Tree Committee is excited to announce that the presale has started. Can’t wait for the holidays? Neither can we. Start now, and buy a tree.

This year you can also donate to have a tree or gifts purchased and delivered to a local family through our partnership with Everybody Home DC. Let’s take care of our community! (Local businesses have already donated $6,000 to this effort!)

You can purchase trees, delivery, Hanukkah kits, poinsettias, wreaths, and roping at www.brentholidaysale.com.

AND don’t forget to VOLUNTEER to work the sale. Sign up here. - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1S_PwMQpKi-hJemZUB6RYyuZBq1g6lYJhrSfk-5gNa9UU/edit#gid=0

The Tree Team (Mary Claire York, Craig Heilman, Shelby Hunt, Paul Taylor, Ben Whitcomb, Lindsay Gorman) thanks you for your generous support!
LSAT Meeting Summary
The Brent Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) met on November 4th for a closed meeting. Principal Lycknell provided an update on the DCPS reopening plan and the next steps for resuming some in-person learning at Brent. Additionally, LSAT members provided a debrief of the Building Readiness Walkthrough and reactions to the teachers’ Collective Action that took place on Monday, Nov. 2nd. As a result of discussions, the LSAT is reaching out to leadership groups at Brent and at other schools in Ward 6 to gather additional information about goals and priorities for reopening, in order to provide targeted advocacy and support for families and faculty.

W6PSPO Advocates for DC Public School Students
The Ward 6 Public School Parent Organization (W6PSPO) is a grassroots group founded in 2005. Its mission is “to promote cooperation among the parent organizations of the public schools in Ward 6 in order to improve the education received by all children attending our schools.” Monthly meetings are open to all and there is active participation across Ward 6 DCPS elementary and middle schools. The next meeting is November 17. For more information check out their website at www.w6pspo.org or contact Brent’s W6PSPO rep, Danielle Drissel at danielle@websterious.com.
Dear Brent Families,

What a week. Among all of its ups and downs, the waiting, and the constant streams of cable news and social media, I am perhaps most captivated by the fact we reached a threshold of participation not seen since the 1900 presidential election: about 67% of eligible voters cast a ballot. This level of participation reveals, in part, that the citizens of this country, no matter the party or political persuasion, are more eager for our voices to be heard than at any other time in the last century; that we crave and demand a space to contribute to the direction of our collective future.

These conclusions apply to our Brent and larger DCPS community as well. At a time when many of us feel physically and emotionally disconnected, we want space to share our ideas, our worries, and our questions. We want to have a voice in and impact on the decisions made on our behalf.

Early last week, Chancellor Freerebee announced a pause in the plans to return to some in person learning on November 9th. The Chancellor’s announcement was quickly followed by another – all elementary schools were mandated to open, with any available staff members, at least one CARE classroom in each school, drawn from the prioritized lottery already run, by the week of November 16th. These announcements recognized two truths: DCPS needed more time and space to execute in person learning and some students and families urgently need school-based support.

Over the week of November 16th, we will launch an in-person learning classroom with 9 ECE students led by Julia Sadowsky and Eleanor Marindin. There are a few things that are important to know about this first step. Ms. Sadowsky and Ms. Marindin volunteered for the roles, a critical point as we seek to honor the needs of our faculty. We are starting with ECE because we could open this class without significantly impacting our virtual program, could serve 100% of the prioritized students at that grade, and could assert that an in-person teaching environment is more appropriate than a CARE class for our youngest learners.

The pandemic has made future planning challenging. But at Brent, we see the Chancellor’s announcements and the flexibility it gives school communities as an opportunity to move forward with care and intention, listen to the needs of our student, faculty and family stakeholders, proceed step-by-step, pay careful attention to the lessons we learn at each step, and adjust along the way. And so, we will take the following steps to capitalize on this opportunity:

- Hold listening sessions at each grade level with families, with faculty, and with families and faculty together to gather ideas, questions,
and concerns about the models of learning at Brent. In partnership with our community leadership groups, this effort will launch at the Community Meeting on November 25th.

Engage our faculty in a strategic planning process that addresses both our immediate and long-term actions around in-person learning.

Incrementally offer points of in-person engagement through Term 2, whether in-person classrooms, CARE environments, social gatherings, or something as yet unimagined. Facilitated by volunteers, this approach is one that recognizes that a methodical pace often leads to stronger execution.

Continue to reflect on and augment our virtual practices. Even as we take steps toward in-person learning, we also understand that many or most of our students and teachers will remain in this stance. Our teachers and families have moved mountains to fulfill the demands of a virtual environment; that work has been and will continue to be incredibly important. I will continue to rely on your emails, this weekly TuesNews letter, and Community Meetings to communicate our progress. I know that the perspectives on in-person learning are many and varied. It can be even be tempting to shape those perspectives into a debate. But it’s not a debate. It’s a complex puzzle that requires nuance. And by bringing a sense of empathy and humanity to the conversation, every individual can seek to be heard even as we also seek to hear others. I look forward to figuring this out together.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell

Norah.lycknell@k12.dc.gov