Coming Up!

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

Sunday, November 22
Brent’s Second Time Around Pop-Up Sale
2 - 5 p.m.
Will be rescheduled to a later date

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
Thursday, 12/3 4 - 7 p.m.
Friday, 12/4 4 - 7 p.m.
Saturday, 12/5 9 - 5 p.m.
Sunday, 12/6 9 - 5 p.m.

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

Report Cards for K - 5th Posted in Aspen Parent Portal
All families should have received from DCPS 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.
Families can access the 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://dcpes.dc.gov/page/parent-portal. If you did not receive login instructions or need support accessing your child’s report card, please...
ECE In Person Class Overview

This week, Brent will begin in-person instruction with our first in-person classroom, a mixed-age ECE classroom co-taught by Eleanor Marindin and Julia Sadowsky with coverage supported by Bettina Schewe.

The chart to the right is week one, designed as transition week that mimics the Early Childhood Transition Week typically held at the beginning of the school year.

Below the transition week chart, please find the classroom schedule for the in-person ECE classroom. Wednesdays will be a half day. After care programming will not be provided.

Brent Playground Update

Beginning Monday, November 16, 2020, DC Public Schools will implement an adjusted playground use policy for our elementary school playgrounds. Since 2016, it has been DCPS’ policy that school playgrounds are closed to the community during school hours. The only modification we are making to this policy is that the playground will not be available for use before the school day begins, as well. This change will allow us to continue to keep our students attending CARE classrooms safe and healthy during the school day.

In most cases, this means members of the public will still be able to enjoy school playgrounds between the hours listed below.

Monday through Friday from 5 p.m. until dusk, but no later than 8:00 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

In the meantime, you can also find a list of Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) parks and playgrounds that will be open during the school day for public use at this link.

Playgrounds and outdoor structures will be cleaned every other day per CDC guidelines using power washers and soap. DCPS Central Office will provide both supplies to schools to ensure these spaces are regularly cleaned. We will continue to closely monitor our playground’s public use to make sure it remains a clean and safe space for all and are committed to updating this usage policy as public health and safety protocols allow.

While we understand you may have concerns about allowing any public use of our playground, we believe our school is an important resource for our entire community beyond just teaching and learning. We feel it is necessary to ensure the playground remains available to our community members in some capacity. At the same time, our top priority always remains the
health and safety of Brent students, teachers, and staff.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at brentelementary@k12.dc.gov or at 202-698-3364.

READING SPOTLIGHT
National Adoption Day

A Most Unusual Day by Sydra Mallery
“Something rather extraordinary is happening in Caroline’s life today . . . her family is adopting a new baby sister! A warm and loving story about school, family, siblings, and adoption, for anyone eagerly awaiting the arrival of a new sibling.” (From the Publisher)

Just Right Family: an adoption story by Silvia Lopez
“Meili, who is six years old and adopted from China, learns that her parents are going to adopt a baby from Haiti. Meili isn’t happy. Their family is just right as it is. But as Meili begins to accept the idea of a sibling, she realizes the importance of being a big sister and finds that a new addition can be just right for their family too.” (From the Publisher)

A Kid of Their Own by Megan Dowd Lambert
“Rooster Clyde has just settled in and found his voice when everyone demands that he take his hard-earned crow down a notch so as not to disturb newcomer Rowdy... The farm community learning to deal with a young member of the group is the main story in text and is paired with a wordless story in illustrations that shows Farmer Jay and Farmer Kevin getting ready for their adopted child to arrive on the farm.” (From the Publisher)

Paper Chains by Elaine Vickers
“Katie has always known she was adopted, but recently she’s been wondering about her birth parents and her birthplace. She worries that saying this out loud—even to her best friend—could mess up the

OPEN HOUSE
WELCOME!
Come learn more about our instructional program, modernized building and more!!!

RSVP TODAY
melissa.winter@k12.dc.gov

- Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020 6-7pm
- Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 6-7pm
- Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 6-7pm
- Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021 6-7pm
- Wednesday, Mar. 3, 2021 6-7pm

Meetings will be hosted via Teams @ tinyurl.com/JAfamily20

202-729-3270
FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @JATROJANS
perfect family she has now.” (From the Publisher)

*I can Make This Promise* by Christine Day

“All her life, Edie has known that her mom was adopted by a white couple. So, no matter how curious she might be about her Native American heritage, Edie is sure her family doesn’t have any answers.” (From the Publisher)

All titles are available at Brent’s and/or the Public Library. Happy Reading!

Veterans Day Reading Spotlight

*At the Mountain’s Base* by Traci Sorrell (32 pages) At the mountain’s base sits a cabin under an old hickory tree. And in that cabin lives a Cherokee family — loving, weaving, cooking, and singing. The strength in their song sustains them through trials on the ground and in the sky, as they wait for their loved one, a pilot, to return from war. (From the Publisher)

*Hero Mom* by Melinda Hardin (24 pages) Children compare their moms to superheroes while the watercolor illustrations depict each mother’s job in the armed forces. (From the Publisher)

*Crow Call* by Lois Lowry (32 pages) Nine-year-old Liz accompanies the stranger who is her father, just returned from the war, when he goes hunting for crows in Pennsylvania farmland. (From the Publisher)

*Tuesday Tucks Me In* by Luis Carlos Mantalván (40 pages)

Based on the New York Times bestseller, *Until Tuesday*, this picture book tells the story of the amazing service dog who helps former U.S. Army Captain Luis Carlos Montalván overcome his combat-related wounds. (From the Publisher)

*My Red Balloon* by Eve Bunting (32 pages) A boy who has been waiting for his daddy to come home from overseas takes along something very important: his red balloon, which will help his father find him among the crowd at the pier. (From the Publisher)

*Who Were the Tuskegee Airmen?* by Sherri L. Smith (112 pages) This book details flight missions and the training sessions of the Tuskegee Airmen, and focuses on the lives of the brave men who helped pave the way for the integration of the US armed forces. (From the Publisher)

*World at War, 1944* by Mary Pope Osborne (208 pages) When the magic tree house takes Jack and Annie back to World War II, Europe is in trouble! It is June 1944 and the brother-and-sister team must go behind enemy lines and crack a code that could save a lot of lives. Can they save everyone before the great battle of D-Day begins? (From the Publisher)

These books are available in the Brent library, DC public library collections, or your local bookseller.
We’re Sprinting to the Holiday Tree Sale!
Pick Up Yard Poster, Donate Gifts, and Volunteer

We are just two weeks away from the Brent Tree Sale! But, you don’t need to wait! The presale is live now: www.brentholidaysale.org
Order now and select your preferred delivery window.

Help us advertise. Come by Brent this Thursday or Friday and pick up a poster to hang prominently on your front gate.

Donate Children’s Gifts. We’re excited about our new Donate a Tree Program and can’t wait to deliver trees to local families. We are also conducting a children’s gift drive to fill the space under the donated trees. If you can, when you come pick up a poster, drop off an unwrapped gift.

We still need volunteers. Please sign up: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1S_PwMQpKhJemZUB6RYuZbgIg6IYJhrSfk5gNa99UU/edit?usp=sharing. This year’s sale dates and times are:

Thursday, December 3rd - 4pm - 7pm
Friday, December 4th - 4pm - 7pm
Saturday, December 5th - 9am - 5pm
Sunday, December 6th - 9am - 5pm

Please email us at brentholiday-store@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The Tree Committee - Mary Claire York, Craig Heilman, Shelby Hunt, Paul Taylor, Dave Stritch, Lindsay Gorman, Ben Whitcomb
From the LSAT and PTA Leadership

It’s no surprise, because you always blow us away, but it’s still important to recognize the extraordinary efforts you’re making to make each moment count for all of our students. Many thanks to every Brent staff member, from teachers and partner teachers, to staff, to school leadership. You’ve had to reinvent everything from Reading Workshop to supply distribution, from PE to the banner parade, and you’ve done it all with humility and grace.

Brent Bears are brave. Thank you for leaning into trying new things and leading our children with courage during an extremely difficult and uncertain time. Thank you for being brave and embracing the learning that comes with doing things differently this year. We see each of you learning, reflecting deeply, applying new skills, stretching your practice, and standing up for what you believe is best.

Brent Bears are empathetic. We truly appreciate the ways you build in opportunities for social emotional learning throughout the school day. Thank you for leveraging your knowledge of a variety of learning strategies to meet students needs and helping us as parents as we navigate virtual learning. We value the care and dedication you bring to your jobs each day and the positive impact it has on our children.

Brent Bears are active. Thank you for finding ways to bring movement to learning, teachers. When our students get the wiggles, you have a plan for helping them move! We appreciate the flexible ways you help our students stay active, even when they’re learning virtually.

Brent Bears are responsible. Thank you for supporting our students in being independent, responsible leaders. You model this through your communication, operational efficiency, and listening abilities. We appreciate the way you show up for our children despite

We appreciate your values and continued pursuit of excellence. Thank you so much for all that you do, always, but especially in light of this year’s unique and fluid circumstances!

With gratitude,
The parents of the Brent LSAT and PTA

Remember to Complete the DCPS Trendency Survey Today!
DCPS is partnering with Trendency Research to understand more about your experiences with learning from home. It is important to us that your perspectives are considered as we plan for the remainder of the school year.

As a reminder, your responses to the Trendency family survey will be kept strictly confidential. No identifying information will appear in the survey results, and all answers provided will be reported in the aggregate.

Sign up to share your opinion with us. New survey questions will be released every few weeks and sharing feedback should take less than 90 seconds of your time: Questions in English: bit.ly/DCPS-November-Survey
Preguntas en español: bit.ly/DCPS-noviembre
Note: When you create your Trendency account, the activation link may go to your Spam folder.

Please email ceo.info@k12.dc.gov for assistance or questions about this survey.

Thank you for your willingness to provide the feedback we need to move forward.
Dear Brent Families,

Term 1 report cards have been published in the Aspen Parent Portal. DCPS emailed families with login instructions for accessing this portal. For elementary school students, the portal will serve as the primary application to view Term 1 report card and attendance data.

With login information in hand, 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. If you would prefer a paper copy of your child’s report card, please email brentelementary@k12.dc.gov and we will send it right away.

DCPS report cards often take significant patience and understanding to decode, perhaps this Term more than ever. Virtual learning contributes to complexities around grading particularly around measuring student engagement (beyond baseline attendance, students are not always in control of their engagement decisions), work habits as named (geared toward an in-person environment), and skills, both those represented and those that are not. With the guidance of a grading committee, we determined the following grading standards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REPORT CARD SECTION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number Grades: 1, 2, 3, 4</td>
<td>Number grades are provided for all subjects on Term 1 schedules. A distinct difference from previous grading periods, teachers used number grades to reflect the observed level of student effort through participation, engagement, assignment submission, and student/student or student/adult collaboration. It is, therefore, possible for a student to receive a high effort grade (3,4) even with beginning or developing letter grades; correspondingly, it is possible for a student to receive a low effort grade (1,2) even with a developing or secure letter grade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter Grades: Beginning (B), Developing (D), Secure (S)</td>
<td>Letter grades are provided for some of the skills/standards within the subjects on Term 1 schedules. Students are assessed only to the point of proficiency expected by the end of Term 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Introduced/Evaluated: N, NM, or Gray Shaded Box</td>
<td>Not all taught skills are addressed in this grading process as we are limited by the DCPS form. Similarly, some listed skills – and even subject such as the specials students did not take in the first trimester – have not yet been addressed this year. In those cases, you may see a N, NM or gray shaded box to indicate that students have either not yet confronted that subject or skill OR could not be evaluated with the information gathered in the virtual learning setting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>Brief comments are provided for all students and reflect individual social-emotional progress, strengths and weaknesses from Term 1 and learning goals headed into Term 2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students with IEPs will receive Progress Reports via Adobe Sign by close of business on Wednesday, November 17th. ECE students will receive GOLD reports in December according to planned GOLD cycles.

If you have any questions about Brent’s overall approach to report cards, please reach out to brentelementary@k12.dc.gov. If you have questions that are specific to your student’s progress, please reach out to your classroom or special subject teacher.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell