Coming Up!

Tuesday, November 3
Election Day
No school for students and staff

In-person community meeting canceled.

Wednesday, November 4
LSAT Meeting
Closed to Board Members Only

Friday, November 6
Records Day
No school for students

Supply Distribution
2 - 5 p.m.

Saturday, November 7
Supply Distribution
9 - noon

Wednesday, November 11
Veterans’ Day
No school for students

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

Wednesday, November 25 - Friday, November 27
Thanksgiving Break
No School for Students or Staff
Brent Elementary - School Building Readiness Checklist – Friday, October 30, 2020

Brent’s school building readiness building walkthrough for reopening took place last Friday, October 30. This walkthrough is part of DC Public Schools’ commitment to a safe and successful return to in-person learning for our students and staff. DCPS required that all schools conduct a comprehensive building walkthrough to review building readiness for school reopening. This walkthrough provided opportunity for key stakeholders within a school community to participate in a building walkthrough to 1) observe building readiness based on the checklist categories established by DCPS that are guiding a safe reopening, 2) understand what the reopening operations plan means for students and staff in Term 2, and 3) build confidence in DCPS to #ReopenStrong.

A detailed summary of the walkthrough can be found on Brent’s website at brentelementary.org. Pictures from the walkthrough can be found on the front page.

Schedule Changes this Week
Due to the delay in the start of limited in-person instruction, Wednesday and Thursday, will no longer be professional development days and will return to regular instructional days. On Wednesday, students should login to Canvas to check must-dos and other activities. On Thursday, students will follow a typical grade level schedule. Friday remains a schedule records day and professional development day for teachers.

Supply Distribution - for All Grades
For Term 2, we will have two distribution days, Friday, November 6th from 2pm – 5pm and Saturday, November 7th from 9:00 am – noon. Masks and social distancing will be required.

From DCPS RE-Open Strong and Chancellor Ferebee
Please join me on Wednesday at 5:00pm for a Community Telephone Townhall on the DCPS Reopening Plan. The Bowser Administration and DC Public Schools will be providing an update on the Term 2 DCPS Reopening Strong Plan on Wednesday at 5:00PM ET.

Teletownhall dial-in details below:
Dial-in: 844-881-1314
*No Passcode Required*

The event can be streamed live on Channel 16, Twitter, and the Mayor’s Live Event Page (mayor.dc.gov/live). You can view the presentation at any of these locations during the call.
Don't forget to Vote AND Volunteer for the Holiday Tree Sale!

It's election day, and we are all doing our civic duty as Americans. Now, we need YOU to do some community duty as Brent Bears and sign up right now at this link https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1S_PwMQpKi-hJemZUB6RYvuZbqIg6lYJhrSfk-5gNaq9UU/edit?usp=sharing for the year’s biggest fundraiser. We are just one month away from the sale, and with all the school programming changes and associated resource needs, this year’s sale is more important than ever before. So sign up twice if you want to! You can work multiple shifts. There are lots of great jobs detailed below, and GREAT NEWS!

Our Donate a Tree Program - new for this year - is a go! You, a friend or family member, or a local business sponsor can buy a tree to be donated to a Brent family that may not otherwise get one. The tree will be delivered with some gifts and decorations. In addition, we have partnered with Everybody Home DC - a Capitol Hill based charity that has served the community for more than 50 years - to help us deliver donated trees to even more families in the greater Southeast area.

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

While you can buy a tree for donation now, you can buy your tree and select a delivery time when our presale goes live on the website (brentholidaysale.org) on Monday, November 9th.

And one more time: please and volunteer. We’ll reach back out to you to schedule specific days and times. Please email us at brentholidaysale@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

Job Categories:
- Unloading - It all starts on Wednesday, December 3rd from 2pm - 6pm, when a semi-truck shows up with our trees. We pitch together to unload and put in stands and then celebrate our labor.
- Set-up - 8 am - 12 pm, Thursday, December 4th. Volunteers organize the lot, set up equipment, post signs, unbale trees, mark traffic flows, and set up the checkout/delivery/tree baling areas. If you like to organize this job is for you.
- Staging & Assembly - Thursday and Friday December 4-5th. This year we plan to double our deliveries, and we need to make sure the right trees go to the right houses based on our pre-orders, as well as associated wreaths and ornaments. If Amazon can deliver, so can we.
- Sale - Thursday afternoon through Sunday evening, we need to staff a sale! Jobs include cashier (contactless square payment system), cutting and baling the trees, selling non-tree products like wreaths and poinsettias, and working the lot to help with traffic flow, sales, and customer service.
- Delivery - Friday through Sunday. This involves loading trees curbside, driving a delivery truck and delivering trees to customer residences in the greater Capitol Hill neighborhood. If you want to see people smile, be the one that delivers their tree!
- Take Down: help on Sunday evening breaking down stands, checkout tables, and equipment, moving remaining trees out of the way, clearing the playground, and helping us celebrate all the money we raised to support our kids.

Other Ways to Help:
- Deliver promotional materials such as yard signs and door flyers in the weeks prior to the sale
- Lend your pickup truck to the delivery crews.
- Repost and retweet our promotional messages on social media.
- BUY a tree from Brent!
Jonodev Chaudhuri Visits the First Grade!
Last Monday, first graders were joined by Mr. Jonodev Chaudhuri! Mr. Chaudhuri is the ambassador for the Muskogee Creek Nation of Oklahoma. Our firsties enjoyed seeing traditional clothing and instruments, listening to and singing native songs, and hearing a story from the Muskogee people. Mr. Chaudhuri also spoke about the importance of Indigenous Peoples’ Day, and the many contributions of indigenous people in our lives today.

Reading Spotlight

Native American History Month

Johnny’s Pheasant by Cheryl Minnema
“An encounter with a pheasant (which may or may not be sleeping) takes a surprising turn in this sweetly serious and funny story of a Native American boy and his grandma.” (From the Publisher)

Bowwow Powwow = Bagosennijige-niimi’idim by Brenda J. Child
“The best days of summer end at the powwow, but Windy Girl takes the revelry of the gathering one step farther, into a dreamworld where the dancers and singers are dogs.” (From the Publisher)

Fall in Line, Holden by Daniel W. Vandever
“At a very strict school in Indigenous Nation, everyone but Holden stays in line until they reach the door at the end of the school day.” (From the Publisher)

Dragonfly Kites = Pimithaaa-gansa by Tomson Highway
“Joe and Cody, two young Cree brothers, along with their parents and their little dog Ootsie, are spending the summer by one of the hundreds of lakes in northeastern Manitoba. Summer means a chance to explore the world and make friends with an array of creatures. But what Joe and Cody like doing best of all is flying dragonfly kites.” (From the Publisher)

Blue Birds by Caroline Starr Rose
“Alis and her parents make the long journey from England to settle the New World. But it doesn’t go as planned and Alis, her parents, and the others of their small community soon find themselves at odds with the Roanoke tribe. As tensions rise between the settlers and the Native peoples, twelve-year-old Alis forms an impossible friendship with a Roanoke named Kimi. Despite language barriers, the two become as close as sisters, risking their lives for one another until Alis makes a decision that will change her life forever.” (From the Publisher)
Mission to Space by John B. Herrington
“Astronaut John Herrington shares his passion for space travel and his Chickasaw heritage as he gives children a glimpse into his astronaut training at NASA and his mission to the International Space Station. Learn what it takes to train for space flight, see the tasks he completed in space, and join him on his spacewalk 220 miles above the earth.” (From the Publisher)

Unstoppable: How Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School football team defeated Army by Art Coulson
“In the autumn of 1912, the football team from Carlisle Indian Industrial School took the field at the U.S. Military Academy, home to the bigger, stronger, and better-equipped West Points Cadets. Sportswriters billed the game as a sort of rematch, pitting against each other the descendants of U.S. soldiers and American Indians who fought on the battlefield only 20 years earlier. But for lightning-fast Jim Thorpe and the other Carlisle players, that day’s game was about skill, strategy, and determination. Known for unusual formations and innovative plays, the Carlisle squad was out to prove just one thing -- that it was the best football team in all the land.” (From the Publisher)

American Indian Rights Movement by Sarah Machajewski
“American Indians have faced injustice from the moment Europeans came to the Americas to claim land and resources. This volume traces the history of injustice against American Indians, from losing their land, to moving to reservations, to having their culture stolen from them. Readers will learn how the movement for rights began, and the challenges and successes activists faced... The book concludes by challenging readers to think about how they could help advance American Indian rights today.” (From the Publisher)

Celebrate Veterans Day
Dear Brent Families,
In honor of Veterans Day, we would like to celebrate veterans in our community by featuring them in a virtual slide presentation. The presentation will be available for view on November 11. We would like to honor your family member, friend, (parent, sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparent, cousin, neighbor, etc.) who is a veteran. Please email scarlett.deshaw@gmail.com a picture of the veteran family member in uniform either during deployment or after, along with the information below telling us the Veterans Name, Branch of Service and Relationship to Brent Student.

When:
Sunday November 22nd
Time & Place:
2:00 - 5:00pm at Brent Elementary In Front of the Main Doors
[Masks required and socially distanced guidelines will be in place]

Why Secondhand?
Any items that don’t sell will be sold to THREDUP, you can learn more about their THREDUP and their initiatives at www.thredup.com.

All proceeds will go directly to Brent and to helping our school and community during these unprecedented times. Happy Holidays and happy shopping.
Dear Brent Families,

Yesterday Chancellor Ferebee announced that in-person learning for Term 2 will be delayed from the stated date of November 9th. At Brent, the primary implication of this announcement is that all students and teachers will continue in a virtual stance until a revised plan is in place. We will focus on growing our virtual practices to meet the needs of our students even as we continue to prepare the operational routines necessary for the eventuality of an in-person model.

**Schedule for This Week**

Brent will now follow its regular Wednesday and Thursday (live learning) schedules. Log on to Canvas on both days and follow the posted links as usual on Thursday, which is also the last day of Term 2 and of the Trimester 1 for grades 1-5 specials. Friday remains a PD and Records Keeping Day and there will be no school for students.

**Trimester Specials Change**

As the trimester ends, students in grades 1-5 will have their final art, music, or science class on Thursday. On Monday the 9th, students will start a new special as follows:

Music: Patterson, Berg, Wilsher, Merriam
Art: Bisanz, Meneghello, Maslin, Leary
Science: Hoisl, Laskowski, Mascari, Arbuckle

5th Grade teachers will communicate their specials rotations directly with families.

**Report Cards**

Term 1 Report Cards for grades K-5 will be posted directly into Aspen, our attendance and grading system on November 20th. Login instructions will follow in the November 17th edition of Tues News.

**Chancellor Town Hall on Wednesday**

For further clarifications around how DCPS is moving forward with instruction, please join the DCPS Community Town Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 5pm. You can contact the chancellor and his team at ceo.infor@k12.dc.gov to ask any questions around the DCPS revised reopening plan.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell
Norah.lycknell@k12.dc.gov