Brent’s 10th Annual Math Night This Thursday, October 19!

Brent’s annual Math Night will be held this Thursday, October 19 from 6 until 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. The event is open to all families and their children in K-5. Families will come together and celebrate the wonder of mathematics through games and math demonstrations. Pizza will be served at 6 p.m. Bring personal water bottles. It will add up to a great night!

Math Night (Thursday, October 19 at 6 p.m.): Sign up to help and bring your own water bottle!

Mr. Mangiaracina, the Brent science teacher, could use a few more volunteers to help with setting up Math Night, handing out pizza, and cleaning up. Please sign up at http://bit.ly/2flmTX0. Also, please bring your own refillable water bottles for this event. This is a great opportunity to talk to your kids about saving money,
energy, and natural resources by reducing, reusing, and recycling waste. The water fountains at the school will also be available for use.

Lost and Found
We currently have an over-abundance of clothing, hats, lunch boxes, and other miscellaneous items in our lost and found. Please check the lost and found area!

PTA Annual Fund Drive - Update
We’ve finished the first week of the PTA’s Annual Fund Campaign and raised $11,317. Our goals are to raise $120,000 and have 90% family participation. If you haven’t given, you can contribute by putting a check in the PTA lock box in the front office or donating online at http://bit.ly/BrentFund. And ask your employer about matching your contribution!

Tonight is Brent’s Family Pizza Night. Come eat pizza and support the PTA Annual Fund. Taoti Creative is not only hosting the event but will match ticket sales with a donation to the PTA!
When: Tonight Oct. 17 6:00 – 8:00
Where: Taoti Creative, 530 8th Street, SE on the roofdeck
What: pizza, popcorn, water & juice included. Additional drinks available for donation.
Cost: $15/person or $35/family at door – advance sales ended Monday night.

Attendance Reminder
As we move toward the holiday season, please be reminded that per DC attendance regulations, school absences due to family travel are not excused. After a student accrues five unexcused absences, Brent is required to hold an attendance intervention meeting with the family and develop an attendance improvement plan. After ten unexcused absences, Brent is required to make an educational neglect referral to DC’s Child and Family Services Agency. If you have any questions regarding the attendance policy, please contact Denise Diggs at denise.diggs@dc.gov.

Author Emma Otheguy at Brent
Emma Otheguy, author of “Martí’s Song for Freedom/Martí y sus versos por la libertad”, visited Brent last Thursday. She read her bilingual picture book biography of the Cuban poet and freedom fighter José Martí to several classes. The book includes excerpts of Martí’s poems, which Ms. Otheguy read in Spanish followed by the English translation. This gave the listener an impression of the beautiful sound of the Spanish language originals. After the read-aloud, Ms. Otheguy answered the many questions that the students had about José Martí, the writing and the publishing process, and about the author herself, to name a few. Thank you, Ms. Otheguy, for providing this wonderful experience to our students. See photo.

Health and Fitness Day - Friday, November 17
Calling all parent volunteers!! On Friday, November 17, Brent will be holding its third annual Health & Fitness Day. It will be an exciting day full of fun activities and events. We are calling on our fabulous community of parents to help make this day a huge success.

If you are interested in volunteering for this awesome event, please let us know by Friday, November 3th. Please use the following link to sign up to help out on this fun filled day https://goo.gl/forms/X4jodM1OvY5xJ8xt1 Volunteers will be asked to assist teachers in various classrooms, transition kids between activities, and set up various activities. Volunteering duties would be between 8am-12pm.

Also, if you know of anyone that may be interested in leading a demonstration at the whole school morning meeting (our theme is “How do you stay healthy?”), or someone who is interested in leading a health and fitness class with a small group of students, please contact us by Friday, October 20th. We are very excited about Brent’s third annual Heath & Fitness day. We hope to see many of you there!

The Health & Fitness Committee

Recess and Weather!
We have had a sunny start to our school year, but rain and clouds dampened our weather week. We will go outside for recess whenever possible. Play and physical activity is important. If it’s sprinkling? We’ll go outside! If it’s chilly but tolerable with a coat? We’ll go outside. Please send students with weather-appropriate gear like
rain jackets (with hoods), sweaters or, when winter arrives, a coat, hat, gloves and boots. Layers are always helpful so students can regulate their temperature and movement depending on the day. Please remember to label your child’s coats, jackets and gloves so they can easily be re-united!

Tell us how the start of the school year is going for your class!
The start of this school year has been amazing! We just reached the end of our six weeks and the Hard-working Astronauts have done a great job setting up and following rules and expectations. The beginning of this year has also gone so smoothly because of the support of the Brent community, including the PTA and all the parents in my class. The support of supplies and time from all members of the community has made being a new teacher here an easy transition, and I look forward to the rest of the year and everything our class can accomplish!

What would be some of the words your students have used to describe you as a teacher?
If my students were to describe me, I think they would say I was caring, silly, fun, hopeful and kind. I want students to feel happy and cared for in my classroom, and so I aim to embody characteristics I want them to also have. In ECE, it is important to lead children through example, and that is my goal everyday, to be a great role model for them.

What are your hopes and dreams for your students this year?
This year I hope that my children grow to love school and learning, and that we can grow and bond as a classroom community. I want to see all my children succeed in everything that they aim to do this year, and that they take risks they might not usually take. I hope to see my children push themselves out of their comfort zones and try playing with new friends and taking on more responsibilities in the classroom and in their everyday lives.

Principal Update
Dear Brent Families,

This week we will continue our exploration of our Comprehensive School Plan, highlighting our second instructional goal: planning with precision in mathematics. This goal will be supported by the following strategies:

- We will design and develop well-planned and purposeful learning experiences that challenge students and reflect preparation for potential student misunderstandings.
- We will design and deliver small
group instruction to address skill deficits and strengths, using common core standards as our foundation for mastery.

- We will design and deliver re-teaching to address misunderstandings demonstrated on written work and/or in class discussions.

- We will support this work by developing systems to ensure student fluency with the math facts required at their grade level.

Much like our literacy goal, these strategies have student work at their foundation, allowing us to seek understanding about what students are able to do and what they will be able to do next. We will use this student work to track student mastery of grade-level standards at the end of every unit and across the year, noting where re-teaching is necessary or where stretching to the next grade level’s standard (or beyond) will be most advantageous to student learning.

We will measure our progress by tracking Eureka assessments, student work data, classroom observations and iReady growth (an adaptive assessment given at the beginning, middle and end of year). We track toward our end-of-year goals to decrease PARCC levels 1 and 2 by 6%, increase PARCC levels 4 and 5 by 6%, increase the percentage of students on grade-level in iReady and meet an end-of-year standards proficiency of 80% for 90% of students.

Overall, by planning with precision we are seeking to ensure that all students fully meet the expectations outlined by the common core standards. We are also establishing a process through which mathematics differentiation in the classroom serves all learners at all levels.

Stay tuned next week for our final goal: strengthening social emotional learning!

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell

Photos below: Students observing worms and grubs in their natural habitat.