Coming Up!

**Wednesday, October 28**
Brent October Community Meeting
6 - 7:30 p.m.
Login Instructions on page 2 and at brentelementary.org

**Friday, October 30**
Brent Banner Parade
8:30 a.m.
The link to the Banner Parade will take the place of the regular morning meeting link for Friday.

Health and Fitness Day
Details on Classroom Canvas pages

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

**Friday, November 6**
Records Day
No school for students

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

**Wednesday, November 25 - Friday, November 27**
Thanksgiving
No School for Students or Staff
A Can’t Miss Event – Brent’s Virtual Banner Parade this Friday at 8:30 a.m.

Brent’s Annual Banner Parade will be held this Friday at 8:30 a.m. via an MS Teams Event! Teachers will add the link on their Friday canvas pages! The Brent Banner Parade is intended as a student-driven and centered event during which class identities and a symbol of diversity and unity (the banner) are put on display for the student and faculty community. It is about our entire student body recognizing each class and each child celebrating the class of which they are a part. It is inclusive, kid-centric, and fun. Families are most encouraged to attend and participate with their child.

Join the Community Conversation about Race Equity on Wednesday, October 28 from 6pm-7:30pm

Last fall, the PTA Board and Diversity Working Group collaborated on a community meeting where families discussed shared readings on diversity, equity, and inclusion in public schools. Many families also took part in listening sessions to share their thoughts on what it means to work towards anti-racism at Brent. In both settings, families requested continued dialogue on race equity. Those conversations were vital then, and they are vital now, as the pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racism rage on. Join the conversation from 6:00pm-7:30pm to engage with other families on how we all can work towards race equity at Brent. The conversation will complement the work faculty are doing through the “Becoming an Antiracist School and Community Working Group.”

Zoom Login Information Below:

Login information at brentelementary.org
Questions?
brentelementary@k12.dc.gov
202-698-3363

Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81837819312

Meeting ID: 818 3781 9312
Passcode: Brent2020!
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 a formal picture or one during deployment along with the information below telling us the Veterans Name, Branch of Service and Relationship to Brent Student. Please submit your photos no later than Monday, November 9.

See example below:

Veteran’s name, title or rank: Craig Heilman, Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy

Branch of Service and Years of service: Naval Flight Officer - 1998 - 2010

Relationship to Brent Student: Father of Elsa (4th Grade) and Grant (2nd Grade)

Thank you and we look forward to honoring our United States Veterans.
Dear Brent Families,

Last Friday, I hosted a Virtual Principal’s Coffee with about 20 participants in total. As you can imagine, much of the discussion focused on Term 2. To catch up those who could not attend or who were balancing other work and family obligations, this letter covers the big questions addressed, with updated/extended responses wherever possible.

Before jumping in, let’s acknowledge the elephant in the room: the ongoing negotiations between DCPS and the WTU, including a ruling from the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) that, among other things, invalidated the survey DCPS used to collect Term 2 staffing information, making our plans just that - plans. See the preliminary relief order here.

As a school, we recognize that these circumstances, along with DCPS’ approval processes, mean that much of the following is tentative from structures to timelines. Things can still change and while that is unsettling, we will continue to plan in detail and to share our thinking because it will best position us to confront any changes.

What is the status of Brent’s HVAC system?

Just over three weeks ago, DCPS and The Department of General Services (DGS) conducted a formal assessment of Brent’s HVAC system. We have not yet received their report. DCPS has posted Readiness Checklists specific to each campus. Brent’s can be found here.

Until then, based on DCPS’ HVAC Explainer document, we understand Brent has some spaces (much of the first floor) with central air and some spaces with individual systems (much of the second and third floors). The first draw in outside air and require the following points of inspection/work:

- Perform visual inspection of air distribution mechanisms in walls and ceilings
- Confirm registers and diffusers are not blocked or closed.

Questions? Contact Ms. Bettina at bettina.schewe@k12.dc.gov

Browse for books by visiting Brent’s Online Catalog at https://destinydiscover.com/

Login is just student information - (Username: Student ID# only, Password: Birthdate).

Students should put the books they would like to read on hold. That will trigger a notification to Ms. Bettina, who will get the items ready for pick-up.

- Evaluate air handling equipment for proper operation.
- Energize all HVAC systems and confirm proper indoor air temperature and humidity.
- Disinfect and clean air handling equipment.
- Review equipment control sequences to verify systems are operating in accordance with issued guidance and maintaining required ventilation, temperature, and humidity conditions to occupied areas.
- Integrate new sequences into existing controls to run systems before and after occupancy helping to flush zones, increasing filtration and dilution.
• Expand central HVAC equipment monitoring for real-time system health checks and critical alarming.

• When equipment parameters allow, install higher rated air filters one to two weeks prior to re-opening.

• Place a mobile HEPA filter in learning spaces (see below for more details).

For those HVAC systems that do not draw in outside air, mobile HEPA filters have been delivered and installed. True HEPA filters are proven to filter particulates down to .3 microns at a 99.99% efficiency. The unit are rated and tested for spaces up to 1,000 sq. ft. All of the HEPA filter units are equipped with a UVC light kit to provide an additional level of protection. For more information on the units please find the product data sheet here.

What other safety preparations are being made?
DCPS and the DC Department of Health have encouraged a layered approach to health and safety. Our safety preparations include:

• Face coverings. Personal face coverings (with extras) are welcome and we also have enough masks for all adults and students in the building.

• Signage and social distancing floor decals

• Comprehensive entry/movement/exit procedures designed with regard to DCPS health screening requirements

• Socially-distanced classroom

set up from furniture arrangement to individual supply ordering

• Plexiglass barriers for high-traffic areas

• Family meetings will be scheduled virtually as visitors will not be allowed during the school day.

• A daily deep-cleaning schedule

• Grab and go breakfast and lunch to be eaten in classrooms

• Bathroom break and hand washing schedules

• Hand Sanitizer stations throughout the building

• Single-use water bottles until DCPS installs touchless water coolers

• Dedicated health isolation room staffed by a medical professional and with access to rapid testing for those who are symptomatic

LSAT, WTU, and PTA representatives will be invited for a DCPS-mandated walkthrough of the building on Friday; questions and open actions will be published as part of next week’s Tues News.

How will teacher assignments and classrooms rosters look in Term 2?
While we are eager to welcome some students for in-person learning, we also recognize that the majority of our students and faculty will remain in a virtual learning posture for Term 2. Based on DCPS’ provided staffing availability, we crafted a plan that minimized teacher and cohort changes to every extent possible. However, that staffing plan is currently on hold. As DCPS and WTU continue their negotiations this week, our staffing plans are on hold; further, principals under an order that restricts us from sharing any details of our draft staffing plan. Clearly this creates a difficult situation for faculty, students and families as you work to make plans in absence of this information.

What will Term 2 schedules look like?
Similar to our staffing approach, we are focused on schedule consistency in Term 2. Here, consistency means stable blocks of time between Term 1 and Term 2 (the content of those blocks of time could change as we review successes and growth areas) and parallel schedules between in-person and virtual spaces (to allow students and adults to move between spaces in the case of quarantine or similar circumstances and to allow in-person and virtual students to engage with one another at various points during the school day).
In order to manage our entry process, it is possible that some start times will be staggered between 8:30-9:00am. Once we have clarity from DCPS about the required number of CARE classes (and thus the total number of students entering the building), we will make the final start time determination.

What will recess look like?
All students will have one or more recesses whether virtual or in-person. In-person recess will be zoned so that student cohorts remain together and do not mix with other cohorts. Ample equipment will be available to limit
sharing and all equipment will be sanitized after a cohort’s use.

In addition, faculty will be able to schedule outdoor classroom time either in one of the tents that will be erected for that purpose or in one of our outdoor spaces. Faculty member will likely consider low-material, low-tech lessons for these outdoor experiences.

**Knowing there is a prioritized lottery process, which students will be served in person, in CARE, and virtually?**

On Friday night, DCPS sent invitations to K-5 families and Brent made calls to ECE families who were offered the first round of Term 2 in-person seats. We are currently working with those families as they make a decision to accept or decline a seat and will move to the waitlist after the response period - two business days - has elapsed. All those who have accepted an in-person seat are required to attend TWO virtual orientations: October 29th at 5 p.m. and November 7th at 10 a.m. Meeting links will be sent directly.

Students who remain on the waitlist will be eligible, in the order of that waitlist, for CARE classrooms if and when they become available pending DCPS staffing plans.

About 316 students will continue in the virtual environment for Term 2. As has been previously mentioned, this number means that we will preserve our focus on growing the practices – from instructional strategies to groupings to communication - that support this learning experience.

**What is the schedule for the week of November 2nd?**

In his most recent community email, Chancellor Ferebee announced the following schedule and format for the week of November 2nd:

- November 2nd: Regular Virtual School Day
- November 3rd: Election Day, No School for Students or Staff
- November 4th: Regular Wednesday Schedule
- November 5th: Modified School Day with Asynchronous Tasks Replacing Live Learning
- November 6th: No School for Students, Records Keeping ½ Day for Staff

One of my most significant roles is to provide the information I have and to offer regular points of communication to note developments. If you have questions that this note and previous community meetings and emails don’t answer, please email me at norah.lycknell@k12.dc.gov. I will be sure to address them at the next point of weekly community engagement, this week the Community Meeting on Wednesday, October 27th from 6-7:30 p.m.

Finally, yet perhaps most importantly, I want to express my gratitude for our faculty and families who have brought forth diverse perspectives, extraordinary patience, constant flexibility, and a remarkable focus on what matters most: our students. These circumstances have obviously not been ideal, but the strength of our community has allowed us to act with intention and to develop the wisdom to keep growing and improving.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell