Coming Up!

**Tuesday, October 6**
DCPS ReOpen Strong Virtual Information Session
bit.ly/dcpsreopenstrong
5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 7**
Ward 6 Parent Group Walk to School Day
7:30 - 8:15 a.m. Lincoln Park
Flyer on page 4

October LSAT Meeting
Closed to elected members
7 - 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Parent/Caregiver Meet-Ups
ECE (PS3 &PK4)
4th Grade
8 - 8:45 p.m.
https://tinyurl.com/community4brent

**Thursday, October 8**
Virtual Parent/Caregiver Meet-Ups
Kindergarten
1st Grade
5th Grade
8 - 8:45 p.m.
https://tinyurl.com/community4brent

Coming Up (cont.)

**Friday, October 9**
Parent - Teacher Conference Day
No school for students

**Monday, October 12**
Indigenous Peoples’ Day 2020
Brent Closed

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Photos: ECE Teacher Ms. Bailey with Pepper and 3rd Grade Teacher Ms. Maschari with Bennett engage in Fall fun!

Brent Celebrates Fall!
Join us in showcasing Brent families celebrating Fall! Send us your pictures of your family’s Fall activities. We will feature your pictures on the website, in Tues News and on social media. Send
your pictures to brentelementary@k12.dc.gov.

DCPS Re-Open Plans
DCPS Term 2 plans were released yesterday. Visit https://dcsreopenstrong.com/updates/dcps-will-reopenstrong-for-term-2/ for details

DCPS is hosting two community information sessions on, October 6 at 5:30 p.m. and on October 14 at 6:00 p.m. These virtual events will take place on Teams. Visit bit.ly/dcpsreopenstrong to participate.

Virtual Parent/Caregiver Meet Ups this Week
Now more than ever, community is key! So the Diversity Working Group and the classroom parents organized virtual grade-level parent/caregiver meet ups. Equal parts happy hour and support group, these 45-minute, 8 p.m. Zoom meetings are a great way to connect and share. Parents and caregivers of our second and third graders joined virtual meetings on Monday. More meet ups are scheduled for later this week. Virtual Grade Level Caregiver Meet-ups
ECE (PS3 & PK4) - Wednesday, October 7, 8 – 8:45 p.m.
4th Grade - Wednesday, October 7, 8 – 8:45 p.m.
Kindergarten - Thursday, October 8, 8 – 8:45 p.m.
1st Grade - Thursday, October 8, 8 – 8:45 p.m.
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Login information at https://tinyurl.com/community4brent and in the Events section of the Brent website. If you have questions, discussion topics or want to help, please contact Danielle Drissel at Danielle@websterious.com or 202-262-5568.

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Library Lovers Club on Tuesdays from 3:15 - 3:45 pm (1st and 2nd Grade)
This club is geared toward 1st and 2nd graders who love story time. We will read and talk about books, do follow-up activities, and explore our school library catalog and other online book resources. Library Lovers Club will be held virtually on Tuesday afternoons from 3:15 to 3:45 pm.
To sign up, please contact Ms. Bettina at bettina.schewe@k12.dc.gov. The club will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis. Thank you!

Book Lovers Club on Wednesdays from 3:30 - 4:00 pm (3rd through 5th Grade)
This club is geared toward 3rd through 5th graders who love to read. Participants will decide on the books that we will read and discuss. We will also take a closer look at the resources that our school and the Public Library system have to offer. Book Lovers Club will be held virtually on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:00 pm.
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Brent ES Meal Site Updates
Effective Thursday, September 24th DCPS meal site locations will expand meal service to allow all DC youth ages 18 and younger to receive free breakfast and lunch meals until December 31st. Additionally, to limit the number of trips families need to make to the meal sites, DC youth ages 18 and younger, or parents/guardians on their behalf, may receive up to 3 breakfast and 3 lunch meals at a time. For a comprehensive and up to date list of DCPS meal site locations, as well as information regarding additional food resources and weekly grocery distribution, please visit coronavirus.dc.gov/food.

Thank you to all parents for demonstrating interest by filling out last week’s survey!
Starting the week of October 12, Ms. Bettina is offering two virtual clubs.

From Bettina Schewe, Brent’s Media Tech
Book Clubs
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Join the #GoodTroubleWalk – a Walk to School Day Tribute to John Lewis
Register to Vote • Have your Ballot? Walk to a Ballot Drop Box Together
• Join a Public Art Project •
Pledge to Engage in Good Trouble • SEE Your School Friends!

eat brgz
&
BRENT ELEMENTARY TUESDAY’S
Free Grilled Cheese w/ Any Order over $10!
Plus, 10% of proceeds go back to Brent Elementary PTA.

1. Place an online order at eatbrgz.com/menu or using the QR code
2. At checkout, use Promo Code: BRETNT
3. Dine-in on our patio, takeout, or delivery.
4. Enjoy!!

BRENT GROWN-UPS
OCTOBER VIRTUAL MEET UPS!
LET’S RE-CONNECT & WELCOME NEW FAMILIES TO THE COMMUNITY.

Mon., Oct. 5: 2nd + 3rd Grades
Wed., Oct. 7: ECE + 4th Grade
Thurs., Oct. 8: K, 1st + 5th Grades

Find your grade’s night & zoom link here:
https://tinyurl.com/community4brent
Dear Brent Families,

Up to this point, we have focused our decision-making on Term 1, understanding that things could change. Mayor Bowser’s press conference yesterday (visit https://dcsreopenstrong.com for the video and the PowerPoint) and the Chancellor’s communication to families highlighted the changes for Term 2 and the first steps to in-person learning. If you have not yet viewed those materials, please do so before reading on. It’s important to understand the full context. My goal here is to address what the DCPS plans mean for Brent now and as our planning evolves.

Teaching and learning will take three forms in Term 2 and while some students will return to the Brent building, most will continue with distance learning:

In-Person Learning: Students furthest from opportunity, defined as those who are experiencing homelessness, receive special education services, receive English Language Learning Services and/or are designated as at risk, will have priority access to in-person learning, a focus that supports equity in our schools. These seats, and any remaining seats open to all students, will be assigned through a randomized and DCPS-run process. Once we receive the list, Brent will reach out to families to accept or decline a seat. We will make sure to receive a response before moving down the list.

Brent will host one classroom per grade level (PK3 and PK4 will be considered as separate even as we maintain our mixed-age model). We have modeled out our classroom spaces and expect to host 8 students in PK3, PK4 and first-fifth and 10 students in Kindergarten; these numbers require DCPS’ final approval but are strong estimates in that they are dictated by square footage and social distancing requirements. In-person learning classrooms will open on November 9th. Students will attend school five days a week with a half-day on Wednesdays. Because of cleaning requirements, aftercare will not be offered.

CARE Program: The CARE program provides in-person supervision for groups of students as they engage in distance learning. Access to this program will also be through a randomized process, though the guidelines for that process have not been communicated. DCPS has identified a range of staffing options from school staff to personnel from other DC government agencies to new hires. Based on the composition of our staff, we expect most CARE counselors will be external to Brent. In the coming weeks, we will work with DCPS to determine our number of CARES spaces though we will fall significantly under the announced threshold of 75% of students in person because of our building capacity. This program begins the week of November 16th for students in PK3 to 1st grade, and the week of November 30th for students in grades 2-5. Students will attend school five days a week with a half-day on Wednesdays. Because of cleaning requirements, aftercare will not be offered.

Virtual Learning: Most Brent students will remain in a fully virtual learning posture. While by no means the ideal we wish for, our teachers, students and families have worked hard to create a meaningful environment and will continue to apply new learning to strengthen this space. Based on a recent survey, DCPS will assign teachers and staff to in-
person or virtual roles in the coming weeks. Schools do not yet have that official data. It is likely that teacher assignments, class composition, and some features of the schedule will change for all students. You can expect Term 2 class lists and schedules in the first week of November. Within the boundaries of DCPS student and staff assignments, we will make decisions that lift up lessons learned, relationships, community, and a shared responsibility for student growth.

Right now, families have one action step: make sure your child’s immunizations are up to date and forms have been submitted because these immunizations are required for in-person learning. Other than that, it’s a bit of a waiting game until October 23rd and October 30th when in-person seats and CARE seats will be respectively offered.

Without a doubt, there are still so many questions to answer. We are ahead of the game with space and safety routine planning – the thing we could anticipate no matter the Term 2 model – and will start a weekly TuesNews column to share those plans along with updates about the promised DCPS facility work. We are jumping into setting a transitional plan that honors what our students accomplished in Term 1 and will best tolerate potential changes in Term 3 and Term 4. We are waiting for student and staff numbers to finalize Brent’s day-to-day Term 2 plan. Like so much of this year, it’s a work in progress. But we will take care to communicate that progress and the purpose behind our decisions through TuesNews, community emails, community meetings and Principal’s Coffees. In that vein, we will host a Community Q&A on Tuesday, October 13th at 7pm with login instructions in next week’s TuesNews.

It may feel tempting to ask about Term 2 plans during Parent-Teacher Conferences this week. The information we have is shared here and teachers do not know anything beyond it, either about school plans or their personal plans. Instead, please take the time to talk about what is most important: our Brent Bears.

I know this year hasn’t been easy for anyone and that even within that statement, there have been a huge range of experiences within our community. Thank you for hanging in there, for finding a way when the path ahead is murky, and for working with us as we collectively seek to make the best of a tough situation. Thank you to our teachers and staff for bringing their whole selves to the virtual learning space. And thank you to our students for reminding us to find joy in small moments and a sense of hope in the future.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell