Coming Up!

Brent Meal Site Hours
Mondays - Fridays
10 - 2 p.m.
Free breakfast/lunch bag to go for all DC students

Tuesday, September 15
Virtual Back to School Night
6 - 7:30 p.m.
ASL Interpreters Provided
Check your child’s Canvas page for event link

Wednesday, September 16
Diversity Working Group Meeting
6:30 - 8 p.m.
Login here (Google Meet)
meet.google.com/cag-vxwy-jaa

Wednesday, September 30
Community Meeting
6 - 7:30 p.m.
ASL Interpreters Provided
Login information provided in September 29 Tues News

Friday, October 9
Parent Teacher Conference Day
No School for students

Monday, October 12
Indigenous Peoples’ Day 2020
No school for students, teachers and staff

Join us at Brent Elementary's
Back to School Night
Tuesday, September 15
6 - 7:30 p.m.

Schedule
6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Opening with Principal Lycknell

6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Grade-Level Presentations

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Q&A for classrooms, K-2 and 3-5 focus teachers, specials, and the student support team.

Login Information will be on your child’s Canvas page. Look for the information as a part of the Tuesday schedule.

Closed Captioning option available; ASL Interpreters also provided.

Calling All Brent Bears - Back to School Night Tonight - September 15, 2020 from 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Brent is excited to host our first ever virtual Back to School Night, tomorrow, September 15, from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Families can access the event through their child’s Canvas page (dcp.instructure.com). Look for the information as a part of the Tuesday schedule.

6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Opening with Principal Lycknell

6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Grade-Level Presentations

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. Q&A for classrooms, K-2 and 3-5 focus teachers, specials, and the student support team.
Diversity Working Group September 16, 2020 6:30 - 8 p.m.
At the September DWG meeting, the group will discuss annual activities and takeaways from Brent’s recent Listening Sessions with parents on becoming an anti-racist school. DWG is an open, curious group of parents, teachers, and administrators and are always looking for new members and new ideas!
The meeting link is below: meet.google.com/cag-vxwy-jaa

DCPS ReOpen Strong Update - Free Internet for DC Students
This week, Mayor Bowser launched the $3.3 million Internet for All initiative to provide free high-speed internet access for up to 25,000 disconnected low-income students and families from DCPS and public charter schools. This program is being managed by the DC Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) in partnership with the Deputy Mayor for Education and the Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE).

Eligible households will receive a call, text message, or email from DC Government asking if they’d like to join the program and for consent to share their name, address, phone number, and email with the internet provider that will be providing their service, either Comcast or RCN. Check out the schedule to learn when you may be contacted to receive this free service and learn more at www.techtogetherdc.com/internetforall.
Almost Seasons Greetings from the Tree Sale Committee,

Winter is coming and COVID cannot stop the TREES! The Committee is formed and hard at work planning a safe and spectacular sale.

We write to ask you to start thinking now about volunteering some time to support this fantastic, fun community event and critical fundraiser.

This year, we plan to maximize our proven ability to deliver trees, and we will need many more volunteers to ensure our success.

We are also evaluating additional ideas for sales, products, extended hours, sponsorships, a tree donation program, marketing tactics, and more to meet our goals.

We will communicate frequently to keep everyone engaged in our plans, and to let you know all the different ways you can support this community-wide event.

For now - take a minute to close your eyes and think about the fragrant smells of Fraser pine and hot chocolate - then grab a device and reach out to any of the committee members listed below to indicate your interest in volunteering.

Sincerely,

Craig Heilman - cwh.buster@gmail.com

Mary Claire York - maryclaireb@gmail.com

Dave Stritch - david.strich@gmail.com

Paul Taylor - pmt271@hotmail.com

Shelby Hunt - shelbyhhunt@gmail.com

Ben Whitcomb - bigbenwhitcomb@gmail.com
You are part of the 4th grade teaching team this year. What makes 4th grade and 4th graders special?

Fourth grade is my favorite! As a student and as a teacher, I’ve just loved this year for as long as I can remember.

Between ages 9 and 10, we start to gain an understanding of the world around us in a deeper sense. Fourth graders are very passionate about the issues they encounter and I really appreciate the enthusiasm they bring to discussions they feel strongly about.

I also love that as readers and writers who have had years of practice laying the foundation in these areas, they begin to really explore the world through books and push their own imagination through writing. On the math front, our curricula really gets students to think large and small—

At the end of last year, however, I had a strong desire to settle into a community that I could grow with. With the unknowns that Spring 2020 presented, I wasn’t sure where my plan would take me. When I learned about an opportunity at Brent, I was excited at the possibility of returning. It’s been overwhelmingly positive to come back and see familiar faces—even virtually. I feel really happy to be here!

Tell us about how the first couple of weeks of school went?
The start of this year has been... great! There were so many uncertainties about starting the year online, from meeting students virtually to using platforms with which I had no prior experience. Even with all of the challenges that the launch presented, I’m really delighted with how things are progressing.

Taking the time in the first week to conduct virtual home visits made a world of difference. I loved getting to meet families and hear from the students on an individual basis. (And I even got some great nuggets of wisdom from 4th graders about their perspective on embracing the unfamiliar.) I knew that I wanted to prioritize relationship building this year, especially in light of the online learning posture, so I was glad to have this opportunity for connection.

Over these first couple of weeks, we’ve introduced so many new procedures as far as navigating Teams and Canvas. It hasn’t always been easy and I expect there are more challenges ahead! Nonetheless, I feel excited about moving forward with this group of students, this team, and this community!

Eshalla Merriam
4th Grade Teacher
Tues News
Staff Spotlight

Welcome back to Brent! You completed your Inspired Teaching Fellowship at Brent a couple of years ago. Tell us about your educational and professional background and what brought you back to Brent.

I am so thrilled to be back at Brent! I first came to the school in 2017 as a teaching fellow after a few years of teaching at a local charter school. The Inspired Teaching program was an amazing opportunity, but I felt especially lucky about my placement. Brent’s community was very welcoming and I got to spend the year with an awesome teacher as my guide—Mrs. Werstuik!

Following my fellowship, I went on to continue teaching fourth grade here in Washington, D.C. I got to teach at both public and charter schools during this time, in addition to teaching departmentalized and self-contained classrooms. As someone who is interested in education policies and implementation, I was grateful that I was able to learn about so many different schools first-hand.

Photos: upper left, Ms. Merriam with partner Ted and, below, dogs Mabel and Shirely.
Dear Brent Families,

I will keep this Principal’s Corner short because we will see each other tonight at Back to School Night. To attend, you will log on through your child’s Canvas page (if you have more than one child, links for all sessions and classrooms are on a single chart – there is no need to navigate to more than one page).

This evening, you can expect to hear about the purpose and goals of our work and in this virtual term at the school and classroom levels. In the Q&A portion, you can also expect to offer questions and ideas relevant to your experience and the likely experiences of your grade-level or classroom. There you are encouraged to navigate to a variety of sessions, jumping in and out based on your family’s needs. Time constraints mean that we will not address every question or comment, but you have our commitment that future communications, whether in TuesNews, teacher emails, Principal’s Coffees or Community Meetings, will close the loop. Back to School Night is one point on the communication continuum but it is not the final one. We value an ongoing dialogue and see it as necessary to serving our students and community.

See you tonight!

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell