Coming Up!

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

**Thursday, September 24**
Room Parent Orientation and Connection
8-9 p.m.
Google Meet link: https://meet.google.com/faa-fgkn-cem

**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

**Urgent – Room Parents Needed**
Thanks to everyone who volunteered to be a room parent this year. We are still looking for room parents for the following classes:

- Miller ECE
- LeBon kindergarten
- Bisanz 1st grade
- Hoisl 2nd grade
- Berg 2nd grade
- Lascowski 2nd grade
- Meneghello 2nd grade
- Mascari 3rd grade
- Arbuckle 4th grade
- Merriam 4th grade

Please contact erin.baldwin@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

We will be having a virtual orientation this Thursday to discuss the role and connect with fellow room parents!

**Thursday September 24**
8-9pm
Google Meet link: https://meet.google.com/faa-fgkn-cem

Photos: Scenes from the recent math book distribution.
Join Virtual Parent Meet Ups in Week 6
Parenting in 2020 is hard stuff, but together we can do this! In-person events are not yet an option, so the Diversity Working Group is organizing more virtual grade-level parent meet ups. Equal parts happy hour and support group, these 45-minute, 8 p.m. Zoom meetings will be the week of October 4 (week 6). Login information will be distributed in the September 27 issue of Tues News and on the website.

Virtual Grade Level Meet-ups
Login information provided in September 27 Issue of Tues News and on the Website
ECE (PS3 &PK4) - 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.
2nd Grade - Monday, October 5, 8 – 8:45 p.m.
3rd Grade - Monday, October 5, 8 – 8:45 p.m.
4th Grade - Wednesday, October 7, 8 – 8:45 p.m.
5th Grade - Thursday, October 8, 8 – 8:45 p.m.

Join us for another chance for us to see each other’s faces and to hear from each other about successes and challenges from the first weeks of school. A parent facilitator will support the discussion and we will break into smaller groups to give people a chance to share experiences candidly with one another. If you have questions, discussion topics or want to help, please contact Danielle Drissel at Danielle@websterious.com or 202-262-5568.

A Note from Stephanie Young, Brent’s Social Worker
We’re all doing our best to negotiate the inevitable stress that these unprecedented times continue to supply in abundance. I would like for everyone to know that we’re all in this together, and that DCPS and other DC government agencies have some terrific resources that some folks may not know about.

First, DC’s Department of Behavioral Health has a 24 hour hotline (1-888-793-4357) that is staffed with trained mental health professionals who are able to help residents navigate the many stressors associated with COVID. Services are available in both English and Spanish, and are free and confidential.

Second, DCPS has created the Parent University series of talks (workshop series). These are curated events, and topics run the
gamut: Of particular interest for our community may be: “How to Talk to your Children about Race”, “How to Help Parents Manage Stress,” and “How to Use Microsoft Teams.”

This summer I listened with interest to a talk entitled “How to Keep Kids Safe Online,” which was hosted by a Common Sense Media staff member. It was chock full of great advice, and I’ve been meaning to take a second listen and take notes!

These talks are recorded so you can listen when it’s convenient for you. Find past events here https://dcps.dc.gov/page/parent-university.

Families can also register to participate live and ask questions here - RSVP for an upcoming session: https://bit.ly/dcpsparentursvp

**September 10 LSAT Meeting ReCap**

The Brent Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) met on September 10th. Ann Heilman-Dahl & Sarah Werstui & Josie Malone & Greta Peisch were elected Co-Chairs and Josie Malone & Greta Peisch were elected Co-Secretaries. Topics discussed included LSAT meeting procedures, LSAT goals for this school year, becoming an anti-racist school and community, and a DCPS request for proposals for in-person student support centers. The next meeting will be held by videoconference on October 7th. The LSAT is seeking nominations for the Community Representative position, to be held by someone who is a resident of the Brent’s boundary, works within the Brent’s boundary, or is a member of one of the Brent’s official partner organizations. The nomination period is open until October 7th. Email nominations for Community Representative to gretchen.phillips@gmail.com.
Welcome to Brent! You were recently teaching in Spain. Tell us about your educational and professional background and what brought you to Brent.

I started my career right here in DC in 2008 teaching 4th grade at Mann Elementary. I earned my bachelor’s degree at University of Connecticut and moved down to DC for grad school. In 2008 I earned my Masters in Elementary Education at American University. In 2017 I moved abroad and taught at the American School of Madrid for the past three years. There, I was a Learning Support Teacher for grades 3 and 4. I loved stepping out of the homeroom and working across the whole grade level. I was very excited to come to Brent knowing there were many similarities to the work I have been a part of in the past and the collective goals for the community and staff.

Tell us about how the first couple of weeks of school went?

My first few weeks have been very unique. I am so thankful for such a great community welcoming a new teacher to the school in a time where being new is a little harder. The kids have been great. It is so fun to hear their stories and connections. I can’t wait to learn more about everyone.

You are part of the 4th grade teaching team this year. What makes 4th grade and 4th graders special?

It seems like every time I change schools, I still find myself on a fourth-grade team. I was drawn into the grade immediately. From the beginning I found an easy connection with students, a love for the curriculum and joy in the work I do. Fourth graders have such a fun sense of humor, they are witty, kind and curious. I appreciate their honest thinking and ability to see the world as a bit of a bigger place.

What is your role as the 4th grade focus teacher?

My role as the 4th Grade Focus Teacher includes whole group and small group teaching. I am able to respond to individual student needs in a differentiated and consistent way alongside their homeroom teacher. I also enjoy my part in collaborating with the grade level team to plan for instruction and to grow our thinking about teaching and learning. I also play a large role in the specialized instruction for various learners across the grade and manage social and academic goals. I think it is incredible to have this level of support at each grade level at Brent.

How do students describe you as a teacher?

Funny, strict, kind. Somewhere in the middle of those traits is a person who can show compassion while also laying a foundation for routine. I have had kids say how much they love my “teacher looks” which makes me laugh because I am certainly pretty serious when I give those. In the end kids love to
know what the boundaries are and can feel safe to loved at the same time.

**How are you building connections with students in virtual learning?**
The great thing about kids is their unending energy towards sharing. I am so thankful for those kiddos who have already unmuted and shared their connections with me about places we both have visited or pets we have. Virtual home visits were such a wonderful way to meet families and I hope to call-in more often. Even though some kids will see me live more and some may see me less, all fourth graders will hear from me each week in some way. I can’t wait to get to know you more.

**What are your hopes and dreams for your students this year?**
Joy, connection and growth. My hope is for all kids to see themselves as a student who has grown, and when things feel hard, I hope they realize they just haven’t done it yet.

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**Principal’s Corner**

Dear Brent Families,

In her situational update last week, Mayor Bowser announced that DCPS is working toward a goal of some in person learning by November 9th. Like the general public, our school community relies on these situational updates for the most current information about the school schedule and format.

Under the direction of the Mayor and Chancellor Ferebee, DCPS also recently solicited proposals from individual school communities to provide in-person facilitation of virtual learning before November 9th. Characteristics of proposals that may be considered for approval include:

A focus on students furthest from opportunity as determined by the local school. The in-person program must serve at least 20 students. Because of the costs associated with the next bullet point, we have imagined a program that keeps to this minimum.

Services provided at no cost to families. Here, DCPS reserved funding for some Title 1 schools or has recommended community partners that can provide services for free. Brent does not qualify for either of these options. We are instead using a Distance Learning Support Fund within our PTA Budget.

Working with already-registered already School Program Providers. We have identified Innovation Learning as a potential partner because they are on this list, have historical knowledge of the Brent community and have the capacity for expedient implementation.

Both the LSAT and PTA have reviewed our general approach and I will provide a community update with more details, including a timeline, once we received a response to our proposal. If you have any questions or ideas, please let me know.

Despite some of the unique, though appropriate, limitations we face because we are not a Title I school, we share DCPS’ value on equity and goal of prioritizing students furthest from opportunity for in-person learning.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell