Coming Up!

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

Monday, October 5
Virtual Parent/Caregiver Meet-Ups
2nd & 3rd Grade
8 - 8:45 p.m.
https://tinyurl.com/community4brent

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

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

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

Monday, October 12
Indigenous Peoples’ Day 2020
Brent Closed

5th Grade Author Visit with Jewell Parker Rhodes
The Adaptive Alpacas (5th grade) got a real treat this Friday during a visit from the author of Ghost Boys, a novel fifth-graders studied during the first three weeks of school. Ms. Rhodes shared her experiences with race, as well as the inspiration for her story and
some tips for kids who aspire to be authors one day, too. We are delighted she was able to join us. She left us with the message that everyone has a role to play in the fight for equal rights.

Health and Fitness Day
Health and Fitness Day is coming (virtually) on Friday, October 23rd and we want to know how YOU have been staying healthy and fit at home! Please share a photo or short video (15 seconds or less, please) telling or showing your favorite ways to stay healthy. We can’t wait to discover how our community of Brent Bears is taking good care of their bodies and brains!

Please email your photos and videos to abigail.maslin@k12.dc.gov.

Brent Community Meetings Time – Brief Survey
Before we schedule October community meeting times, we want to briefly survey the community to find times that best work with family schedules. Please take a moment to answer the brief survey (two questions) at – https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7kagKk6zMoqSt5md8rwKMtfb7NrzZPZrk_7gQDX4rM9UMLVYOZGMjQ2OTA2STBTVVFWRUUhDVTJCMS4u

LSAT Seeking Nominations for Community Representative
The Brent Elementary School Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) is seeking nominations for the Community Representative position, to be held per DCPS by someone who is a resident of Brent’s boundary, works within Brent’s boundary, or is a member of one of Brent’s official partner organizations. If you know someone who fits those criteria and cares about Brent, please nominate them. The commitment is for 1-2 hours per month during the school year. The nomination period is open until October 7th. Email nominations for Community Representative to gretchen.phillips@gmail.com.

Third graders went on their first virtual field trip to the Smithsonian’s Natural History Museum!

Third graders study the different types of exhibits in the fossil exhibit to better understand how information is being presented. We will be learning more about museums in the coming weeks as we prepare to be our own museum curators when we design museums about different Washington D.C. neighborhoods. See photos.
Calling all Brent Bears! Brent Community Meeting Wednesday, September 30 6 - 7 p.m.

BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MUSEUM MAGNET PROGRAM

This Brent Community Meeting will feature two categories of breakouts -

Supporting Virtual Learning At Home: Techniques and Strategies for a Smoother Experience (setting up routines and work spaces, responding to refusal, & maintaining motivation and joy)

Affinity Groups: Shared Experiences, Challenges and Possibilities (families with one child, parents and guardians who are essential workers, or families with children who receive services through special education and 504 services & accommodations)

Login information at brentelementary.org
Questions? brentelementary@k12.dc.gov 202-698-3363
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020
LINCOLN PARK
EAST CAPITOL & 13TH ST SE
7:30-8:15AM

*Please wear a mask & your school gear and keep physical distance*

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!
Join Virtual Parent/Caregiver Meet Ups in Week 6
Caring for kids and ourselves in 2020 is hard stuff, but together we can do this! In-person gatherings are still restricted, so the Diversity Working Group and the classroom parents are organizing more virtual grade-level parent/caregiver 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 at https://tinyurl.com/community4brent and in the Events section of the Brent website.

Virtual Grade Level Caregiver Meet-ups
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 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.
**September Diversity Working Group Read-Out**

During our September 16th meeting, DWG finalized our activity plan for this school year. We are really excited and have a lot of fun plans to connect with each other across differences. We also began read-outs on the listening sessions from this summer on becoming an anti-racist school. For our October meeting, we will continue de-briefing to help inform both our future activities as a group, as well as our own personal growth and development. We encourage all families to join us! At our meetings, we create community by discussing difficult topics in a safe, non-judgmental space. If you have any questions, please email BrentDiversityWG@gmail.com.

**Library Book Return**

There is a book return bin in the entrance to the school. Books can be dropped off Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Safe a trip by dropping off books when you pick up new ones. To request print books, browse Brent's Online Catalog at https://destinydiscover.com, and put them on hold, or ask Ms. Bettina (bettina.schewe@k12.dc.gov) for recommendations.

**Virtual Book Clubs**

Is your child missing library time? Ms. Bettina will offer virtual library clubs for 1st through 5th grade students. To gauge interest and to determine the best times for clubs, please complete this form (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=7kagKk6zMoqSt-5md8rwKmnh0l2VIoslvVdyP3a6GIVUNTM3RYoOdXQ0cV-DRDMkQsQTNFMFJVVl4u) by October 4.

**Caroline DeWerd**

School Psychologist
Tues News Staff Spotlight

**Welcome to Brent Ms. DeWerd! Please tell us about your education and professional backgrounds?**

I began my career as a practicum student with Miami-Dade Public Schools and as an Intern with DC Public Schools. During this time, I worked with students ranging in ages from PreK to high school. After finishing my internship last year, I started working full-time for DC Public Schools as a School Psychologist for the district. I view myself as an advocate for children and families and am dedicated to improving outcomes for all students. I am eager to connect with staff members, students, and their families to build relationships with the Brent community through my new role.

I have my Bachelors in Psychology from University of Minnesota, and Masters of Science in School Psychology from Barry University, in Miami, Florida.

**The psychologist position at Brent is a half-time position. What support do you provide in your role?**

As a part-time School Psychologist at Brent, I will be working to support students academically, behaviorally, and emotionally, when needed. As a team player, I work to identify and address student learning and behavior problems that interfere with school success. I also collaborate with both school staff and families in developing plans that offer educational supports and/or services necessary for students to be successful in school.

**What does a typical day look like for you in virtual learning?**

My days vary, especially in the virtual setting, however, my day is typically split up into different categories. Currently, I have my time split into RTI (Response to Intervention (RTI) - a multi-tier approach to the early identification and support of students with learning and behavior needs).
During RTI activity, I am dedicating my time to support Tier II social emotional learning (SEL) with students that are struggling with the socialization aspect of virtual learning. These interactions with students may be one-on-one to help with self-regulation or coping skills, or in a small group setting to develop social skills. My meetings consist of preparation and participation in Analyzing Existing Data (AED), Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), 504, and other team or faculty meetings. These meetings help bring together thoughts, ideas, questions, concerns, and supports for both student and staff success during this time of virtual learning. Consultations and documentation involve consulting with teachers and other staff members about specific data discussing next steps for student success. They also involve time used to document in required databases (i.e., Accelify, SEDS, etc.). As for evaluation and report writing, I am writing up comprehensive psychological evaluations and reviewing independent evaluations to determine if a student is in need or continues to be in need of Special Education services.

What are your hopes and dreams for the Brent students you work with this year? This year I am looking forward to getting to know the Brent community, and supporting its staff and students to grow into strong, healthy, and thoughtful learners. During this time of distance learning, it is even more crucial that we allow for our students to feel valued and important. I hope to be a part of this process by being a positive support system to the students at Brent. Specifically, I hope that students will feel comfortable taking risks and tackling challenges as they learn and grow this year, and I dream that someday the students will remember this year as one of great learning and growth. I will continue to have high hopes towards my own goals in order to bring the students a sense of enthusiasm and the belief that they too can attain their goals, regardless of the circumstance.

Photos: Top: Left to right, Ms. DeWerd’s sister, mother and Ms. DeWerd at a family wedding. Bottom: Ms. DeWerd with boyfriend at Great Falls.

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Back in Stock!

Brent T-Shirts & Dri-Fit T-Shirts are in stock.

Support the PTA and show your Brent pride!

Order today for Friday, October 9
Office pick-up (9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Visit the Brent school store at brentelementary.org to place an order today!
Dear Brent Families,

First, please join us at tomorrow evening’s Community Meeting. I will provide opening remarks, our parent leadership groups will update the community their work and there will be a question and answer portion. The second part of the meeting will give parents an opportunity to select and participate in break out groups on selected topics.

Second, parent-teacher conference day is next Friday, October 9th. Teachers emailed sign-up sheets last week so be sure to add your name to the list if you have not yet already.

While the one to one virtual home visit during the first week of school created the foundation for ongoing communication between teachers and families, this parent-teacher conference day is another connection point for families. During in-person instruction, teachers use this time to provide more context about an individual student’s growth, supplementing formal records like assessment results and report cards. These conversations normally include examples of student work, class engagement frequency and observations of peer to peer relationships.

These goals will also be true for virtual conferences but, because of the unique format of student learning, we also see it as a chance to learn about our students’ growth from parents, particularly in these areas aligned to the DCPS Term 1 grading policy:

- Engagement: student participation, independence, stamina, attention and work completion
- Practice and Application: skill development as revealed through classroom assignments
- Assessment: formal evaluations of skills, knowledge, progress and mastery

No matter the setting, the most important goal of parent-teacher conferences is to allow both parents and teachers to walk away with a clearer understanding of the whole child.

Please note that teachers will not be focusing on logistics or scenarios for DCPS’s return to in-person instruction. There will be additional community meetings and vehicles for feedback and discussion in the upcoming weeks.

Finally, conference days give me the opportunity to host discussions with families, often a space to invite your questions or feedback. This year, I am still available. Please email me (norah.lycknell@k12.dc.gov) to set-up a time to talk.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell