

# THE TUES. NEWS

September 5, 2017

## BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MUSEUM MAGNET PROGRAM

### Coming Up

#### **Wednesday, September 6**

LSAT Meeting 6:30 – 8 p.m.

#### **Friday, September 8**

Brent Picture Day  
Uniform Free Day

#### **Wednesday, September 13**

PTA Board Meeting  
6:30 – 8 p.m.

#### **Friday, September 15**

Principal Coffee  
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

#### **Tuesday, September 19**

Diversity Working Group Meeting  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

#### **Friday, September 22**

Professional Development Day  
No School for Students  
Springboard Available

#### **Sunday, September 24**

PTA Fall Picnic  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, September 27**

PTA General Meeting  
6:30 - 8 p.m.  
Childcare Provided  
ASL Interpreters Provided



*Photos: Recess play!*



#### **Picture Day – This Friday, September 8**

School pictures will be taken on Friday, September 8. Picture day orders were sent home the first week of school. More are available in the front office! Students do not have to wear Brent uniforms on that day and are encouraged to look their best.

#### **DCPS is hosting a Block Party this Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

To celebrate the beginning of School Year 2017-2018 and the launch of DCPS' new five-year Strategic Plan, join the DCPS Back-to-School Block Party on Saturday, September 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Ron Brown College Preparatory High School!

There will be food, special guests, opportunities to learn more about the future of DCPS, and of course, lots of activities for students. This event is free and located one block from the Deanwood Metro stop.

Join Muriel Bowser, DC Public Schools Chancellor Antwan Wil-

sons and Community members from across the city. All DCPS staff, students, families, friends, and community members are invited! Spread the word by sharing this event with friends. We hope to see you there!

### **PTA Results In!**

Thank you all for participating in the PTA Fall Event poll. As a result of the over 170 votes we received, the PTA is pleased to announce we are moving forward with the Brent Family Picnic and the Movie Night. More details to come, but in the meantime please mark your calendar for Sunday, September 24th for an afternoon of fun at Brent PTA Family Picnic. In addition, we also share information in the coming weeks regarding the Movie Night, tentatively scheduled for October. Again, thank you for your participation and look for future polls about upcoming PTA events.

### **Student Store Update**

The Student Store is expecting a shipment by September 15th. All outstanding orders will be filled then and if you haven't ordered because we are out of stock, you will be able to soon! The weather is cooling so make sure to order your long sleeve t-shirts, fleeces and athletic pants!

### **DCPS Attendance Policy**

At DC Public Schools (DCPS), it is the goal to ensure that every student achieves academic success by being present at school every day and on time. Students who have regular school attendance learn more and are more successful in school. DCPS has shifted focus from monitoring only unexcused absences to all absences by tracking In-Seat Attendance (ISA).

Some absences are unavoidable, but when children miss too much school - excused or unexcused - they can fall behind.

### **Is Attending School Required?**

Yes, attending school is required by law! All students who reach five years of age on or before September 30 of the current school year must attend school every day until they meet high school graduation requirements or reach their 18 birthday.

### **What Is Truancy?**

Truancy is the unexcused absence from school by a minor (5-17 years of age) with or without approval, parent knowledge or consent.

### **Which Absences Are Excused vs. Unexcused?**

Excused absences are when school-aged students are absent from school with a valid excuse and parental approval. Excused absences include: student illness (a doctor's note is required if a student is absent for more than 5 days); death in the student's immediate family; observance of a religious holiday; medical reasons such as a doctor's appointment (a doctor's note is required). Unexcused absences are when school-aged students are absent from school without a valid excuse, with or without parental approval. Examples of unexcused absences include: family vacation, doing errands and parent's illness.

When your child is absent from school, please provide a written note to the front office or email Denise Diggs at [denise.diggs@dc.gov](mailto:denise.diggs@dc.gov).

### **What Happens if My Child Accrues Unexcused Absences?**

Brent follows the DC law on school

attendance. This law pertains to students in grades K - 12th. At three unexcused absences, parents will receive an official attendance notification letter. At five unexcused absences, parents are required to attend an attendance intervention meeting and work with staff to develop an attendance intervention plan to improve attendance. At ten unexcused absences, families are referred to Child and Family Services for educational neglect. At fifteen unexcused absences, families are referred to DC Truancy Court.

### **Hurricane Harvey Efforts A Message from DCPS Chancellor Antwan Wilson**

Dear DCPS Family,

It has been devastating to watch Hurricane Harvey's effects on the Houston, Texas area on television, on social media, in the newspaper, and maybe even through friends and family. Like me, you may have wanted to help, but didn't know how. DCPS is currently coordinating donations in schools and Central Office for uniforms and supplies for Houston students, but I wanted to also ask for your help in writing to the young people in Houston.

Given the ongoing nature of the situation, it is difficult to tell how many people will ultimately be impacted, though they are expecting that thousands of children will be relocated throughout the state. For young people without a home, in a new city and a new school, it can be a frightening feeling, and every small gesture counts. We would love it if your schools and your classrooms could collect cards, letters, or notes to send to displaced

students to let them know that we are thinking of them, and that people in our city support them.

If you would like to help, please write cards or notes to let students displaced from the hurricane know they have our support. Please bring those notes your school's main office and we will send them to the Texas Education Agency.

Thank you for your help in this effort as we all keep Houston in our thoughts.

Sincerely,

Antwan Wilson  
Chancellor



### **Principal Update**

#### **Dear Brent Community,**

At Brent, we seek to reflect and revise core practices. We ask our students to engage in this practice as a critical lever to learning, identifying the ways they can improve something as small as refining the way they express an idea to something as big as an action that impacts a peer. Our faculty adjusts lessons from one day to another to zoom in on a misunderstanding that emerged and replace it with new learning. As a school, we constantly notice the places where change can facilitate growth.

In the first six weeks of school, the core practices of reflection and

revision most obviously emerge in our procedures and routines that define the way we operate. Arrival and dismissal are key parts of these procedures and routines because they communicate how we start and end our day safely, joyously and, at our best, seamlessly. With that in mind, we have a few adjustments to make and ask for your attention and partnership in executing them.

#### **Outdoor Arrival and Dismissal**

We have noticed that some of our students are having difficulty transitioning from play to parking spots. To help with this transition, we will be ringing a bell or blowing a whistle at 8:39 to call all students to line up.

At 8:40, we will use our community signal (Calling All...Brent Bears) as a point of unity. Please join us in enthusiastically engaging in that community signal when you hear the call. Concurrently, we ask that all families step out of parking spots to help our students and teachers organize their lines and prepare for entry for the day.

At dismissal time and after, please refrain from re-entering the building through the playground doors and instead use the main entry for any school business, whether a bathroom trip or searching for an item in lost and found. This action will help us keep our building safe and secure through the aftercare period.

#### **Inclement Weather/Indoor Arrival and Dismissal**

Rainy (or snowy) days can be a challenge for a large community with limited multipurpose room space. To facilitate this process, we ask that all drop offs (except for ECE and Kindergarten fami-

lies) take place outside of the main doors or just inside the vestibule. Saying goodbye before the multipurpose room will help to limit the number of people there, and extra Brent adults will be stationed to help students of all ages safely make their way to that space.

We have a revised arrival map (also our dismissal locations) to help our classes gather and travel to their classrooms. Please find that map linked to our website. ECE classes will still arrive in the library, and will travel to their classrooms last, once the hallways have been safely cleared of other students.

Even on rainy days, don't forget that on-time arrival means that students are in line by 8:40.

For inclement weather/indoor dismissal days, students whose classrooms are on the second floor will gather in the multipurpose room for pick up. First floor classes will be picked up directly from classrooms. An indoor dismissal map is also linked on our webpage.

Though we aim to grow through these revisions, we recognize that they can only be successful when all community members take part; even then, we expect small adjustments to meet our community's needs, a reminder that growth is not about perfection but about a process of constant improvement.

Sincerely,

**Norah Lycknell**