

THE TUES. NEWS

1-15-2019

BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Coming Up

**Monday, December 10, 2018 -
Friday, March 1, 2019**

MySchoolDC Lottery Window for
PS - 8th

Visit myschooldc.org to apply

Wednesday, January 16

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

Thursday, January 17

Jefferson Academy Open House
6 – 7:30 p.m.
Jefferson Academy
801 7th St SW

Monday, January 21

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Brent Closed

January 22 & 23

PD and Records Day
No School for Students
Springboard Programming Available

**Tuesday, January 29 and
Friday, February 1**

TB Testing at Brent

Wednesday, January 30

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



MLK Peace March and Parade

Join the Brent Diversity Working Group to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. On Monday, January 21 at 10:30 a.m. we will meet at the Anacostia Arts Center with the posters designed by Brent students at our poster party. After watching the Peace Walk, we will join friends in a 30 minute march up MLK Boulevard. Event details

Photos: Scenes from Brent's International Night

at <https://mlkholidaydc.org>. To RSVP email danielle@websterious.com.

Everybody Wins Seeking Reading Mentors

Everybody Wins DC is seeking new reading mentors at all of its schools, including Brent and neighboring Ludlow-Taylor and

Tyler. There is currently a waiting list of students waiting to be matched with Reading Mentors at all schools. It requires just an hour weekly during lunch and there's no curriculum: simply reading with a student for the love of reading! If you're interested in learning more, contact Kelly Vielmo (Brent Parent and Tyler 4th-Year Reading Mentor) at kvielmo@gmail.com or 202-415-0820 or contact Everybody Wins at volunteers@everybodywinsdc.org.

Brent's On Time Arrival 2019 Campaign Launched – Terrific 1st Week

Brent experienced a significant decline in students arriving late to school during the first week of Brent's Attendance Committee's On Time Arrival 2019 campaign. This means fewer instructional minutes lost and more learning gained! Look for more tools and tips in upcoming weeks to ensure that your student arrives to school on time.

International Night a Success!

Thanks to all the families who participated in International Night. Performances, fashion show, arts and craft and family potluck created a special evening. A special thanks to Brent's Diversity Working Group and to Brent's music teacher, Joshua Krohn, for organizing the event. See photos.

TB Testing Postponed Due to Weather

TB testing will now take place on January 29 (skin prick) and February 1 (skin read). If you would like to be included in testing, please email Katherine Ferguson at katherine.ferguson@dc.gov.



Tues News Staff Spotlight Kaylee Wilsher 1st Grade Instructional Assistant

What is your teaching and educational background?

I grew up in Abilene, Texas and moved to Fredericksburg, Virginia to attend University of Mary Washington. I loved the eastern U.S. so much, I decided to stay! I am currently working on my Masters in Elementary Education from Western Governors University and am excited to be learning about all of the ways I can help kids learn and grow.

I worked in library educational programming for 4 years at the Quantico Base Library, serving Marine families. I ran a ton of programs including storytimes, book clubs, MakerSpace STEAM centers, and summer reading programs. I got a taste of teaching and I was hooked--I knew I wanted to be a teacher.

What is your role at Brent?

I am an educational aide and I currently work with the amazing first grade team. I float between all 3 classrooms, providing help in response to student needs. I also run several small groups for math and reading to help students get the individualized help they need to succeed.

Tell us about what a typical day looks like with the three 1st grade classes.

I move between the 3 classrooms every day for different subjects so that each class receives support. Ms. Harding-Wright and I plan when we're going to be in certain classrooms depending on what support students need that day.

- We start out with morning work and morning meetings, which always include fun greetings, shares, and activities. I love getting to know more about the students during this time.
- Then students have specials and we have planning time. When students come back, we move into writing followed by Brain Train. During this time, I am available to help students with their writing and then set up the laptops for Brain Train. (I really love reading student writing because I love seeing what interests them!)
- I have recess duty 3 days a week, which I enjoy because it allows me to spend unstructured time with students and get to know them. I'm usually talking to students, playing line tag, or holding one end of a jump rope.
- In December and January, I've been holding weekly lunch bunches with students and I'm planning to continue this throughout the

year. I love talking to the kids and learning about their likes/dislikes, and just getting to know them. I've had several kids from all 3 classes express interest in coming to future lunch bunches, so yay!

- After lunch and recess, I have a math small group and 2 reading Burst groups. I've been including student created games at the end of some small groups, and it's really engaged kids in learning and made our groups fun!

- I support a different class each day during phonics, and then go outside for 2nd recess with the kids. Afterwards, I do the same for social studies and closing meeting.

You are partnered with three terrific classroom teachers on the 1st grade team – Ms. Bisanz, Ms. Patterson and Ms. Hoisl along with the 1st grade focus teacher, the amazing Ms. Harding-Wright. Walk us through the team's collaboration process.

I'm really lucky to work with such a great team. Even though I am new and came in during November, I instantly felt like a vital member of the team. Each team member relies on each other's strengths when collaborating to make a great lesson or to find creative ways to help a student. Planning with my team always feels productive and fun--which feels like a blessed combination. Our collaborations are also amazing learning experiences that will help me become a better classroom teacher in the future.

What would be some of the words your students have used to describe you as a teacher?

Fun, kind, and caring!



Photo: Ms. Wilsher's cat, Mr. Bean.

What are your hopes and dreams for your students this year?

This year, I hope that each and every first grader here at Brent feels confident in their abilities and that they feel loved by their teachers. We work hard every day to help our students be their best selves, and I think the students can definitely feel that love.

**Principal's Corner
Welcome to Gretchen Giovanni, 5th Grade Teacher!**

The new year brought some changes to Brent's fifth grade! You may have seen a new face on the third floor; the team recently welcomed Gretchen Giovanni as a term teacher for the remainder of the school year. Ms. Giovanni took over for Sara Saxton, the fifth grade math teacher, following winter break, to allow Ms. Saxton to go out on parental leave. I am happy to report that Ms. Saxton welcomed her new baby girl, Amelia, just after midnight on December 28th. Mom and baby are doing well.

And, in an unprecedented twist, Melissa Lee, fifth grade Humanities teacher is also expecting a

baby girl later this spring. The way the timing looks at this point, Ms. Giovanni will be able to shift over to the ELA classroom in April, just as Ms. Saxton returns and Ms. Lee begins her own parental leave. It truly is an exciting year!

It has been a pleasure to welcome Ms. Giovanni. She is in her seventh year of teaching, and holds both general and special education licenses. She has experience working with fifth graders, in departmentalized settings, and in both gifted-and-talented and general education models. Ms. Giovanni and Megan Dunn, the fifth grade focus teacher, will be working together closely during this transition, and throughout the year, to ensure consistency and communication among the four teachers on the team.

The fifth grade students are also taking this opportunity to set new goals, adopt data-oriented practices, and polish some procedures -- all excellent moves for a fresh start. Please join our community in celebrating and supporting the entire fifth grade team and all its new members!

Sincerely,
Sara Ewbank
Assistant Principal
Brent Elementary School