

THE TUES. NEWS

1-17-2017

BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MUSEUM MAGNET PROGRAM

Coming Up

Wednesday, January 18

Jefferson Academy Open House
6 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, January 19

Professional Development Day
No School for students

Friday, January 20

Inauguration Day
School Closed

Wednesday, January 25

Winter Concert: PS - 1st
6 - 6:45 p.m.
ASL Interpreters Provided

Thursday, January 26

Winter Concert: 2nd - 5th
6 - 6:45 p.m.
ASL Interpreters Provided

Monday, January 30

Basketball Feeder Night at
Jefferson Academy
Girls @ 4:45 p.m.
Boys @ 6 p.m.



Congratulations to All Our Brent Spelling Bee Winners and Participants!

This year 28 students from Grades 3-5 (four from each classroom) competed in the Brent Annual Spelling Bee on Friday, January 13th. Nadia Wheelock won the 2017 Brent Spelling Bee Championship. Last year, Nadia was the 2nd Place Winner. Like many Brent students, Nadia studied her word lists with friends and family every chance she got. This helped her to succeed through 16 rounds as she spelled difficult words such as obsequious, exuberant,



soliloquy and the championship word- "precocious". The competition was quite intense. Nadia and Jude Martin, the 2nd place winner, challenged each other alone for 8 rounds almost exhausting the total word list. The Top Winners were: 1st Place-Nadia Wheelock, Age 9, Gr. 4 (Winters/Williams); 2nd Place-Jude Martin, Age 10, Gr. 5 (Wilson); 3rd Place - Karli Bryant, Age 9, Gr. 4 (Screen) and Alternate-- Ella Turner, Age 9, Gr. 4 (Screen).



Photo: First week of Seussical rehearsals

Brent's 3 top winners will now advance to one of the Cluster Competitions to be held during the week of February 21st. There they will face top spellers from other DCPS schools. Our Brent Spelling Bee Team including the alternate will participate in an intensive Spelling Bee Prep Program to get ready. Winners from all the Cluster Competitions will advance to the City-wide Competition. Good Luck to the Brent Spelling Bee Team!

Gastroenteritis Outbreak at Brent

Last Thursday evening, you received communication regarding the high rate of Gastroenteritis at Brent. I wanted to update you on the steps Brent, DCPS, DC's Department of General Services and DC's Department of Health have since taken to respond to this situation and ensure a safe and healthy school for our students and staff.

In accordance with Thursday's letter, as of Friday we decreased the threshold for determining illness, and called home at the first sign of symptoms in students. It is our intention to maintain this threshold this week, until we can be certain that the sickness has passed. We also increased our diligence in enforcing student hand washing and disinfecting surfaces. Over the weekend, a cleaning crew from DC's Department of General Services did an initial cleaning of all classrooms and common areas. DCPS then secured the services of an industrial hygienist company to ensure that decontamination was entire. A large team worked for two days, methodically cleaning every surface of the school. At the completion of this process, Brent was deemed sanitized and prepared for students and staff to return.

There are several things that parents can do to assist at this point:

- Children exhibiting any symptoms: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and fever must

remain home.

- Students with viral gastroenteritis may not return to school until they have been asymptomatic for at least 24 hours.
- If your child has been sick, please be sure to launder and disinfect clothing and outer garments (particularly coats and gloves) in the hottest water possible per manufacturer's instructions.
- If your child brings a reusable water bottle to school, please help ensure that it comes home each evening and is thoroughly washed. Water bottles should not be left in classrooms overnight.
- Remind children to cover their cough, to keep objects (including fingers!) out of their mouths, and to wash their hands before eating and after using the restroom. We will be posting and giving the same reminders at school.

Clothing and water bottles that were left at school on Friday were bagged by the hygienist crew, and can be claimed in the front office. Please be aware that these items should be thoroughly cleaned before they are returned to school. Brent will continue enhanced cleaning operations throughout the week. I thank you in advance for your increased diligence in helping us to limit the spread of this sickness and to maintain a sanitized school. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Brent's nurse JongKyung Lee at 202-698-3367 and JLEE6@childrensnational.org.