Coming Up

**Monday, December 10, 2018 - Friday, March 1, 2019**
MySchoolDC Lottery Window for PS - 8th
Visit myschooldc.org to apply

**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

**Thursday, February 7**
Spirit Day
Think Ahead Thursday

**Friday, February 8**
Report Cards sent home - K - 5th

**Friday, February 8**
UNITY Family Dance
6:30 - 8 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 13**
PTA Board / LSAT Joint Budget Meeting
Closed meeting - PTA Board members and LSAT members only

**Monday, February 18 - 22**
Mid-Winter Break
No school for students

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**PTA General Meeting this Wednesday, January 30, 6:30 - 8 p.m.**

Tomorrow, Wednesday, January 30, the General PTA Meeting will host the annual Brent State of the School presentation by Principal Lycknell beginning at 6:30 p.m. Intended to reflect our past, present and future, this presentation will give the Brent Community an overview of Brent’s work over the first half of the academic year, discuss Brent’s progress on our operating principles and describe future initiatives such as facilities modernization.

There will also be an extended question and answer session. As always, free childcare (including pizza) will be provided. As a reminder, the meeting will be streamed live via Facebook Live on Brent’s Facebook page. The Brent Used Uniform Sale will be open before and after the PTA meeting. ASL interpreters will also be provided.
Brent’s Used Uniform Sale is in full swing!
We will have tables available to peruse the merchandise this Wednesday during the PTA meeting. We’ll open 30 minutes early at 6:00 p.m. before the PTA meeting and we’ll stay open 15 minutes later after the PTA meeting. Please come and check out the gently-used clothing items and help us reduce our inventory!

As a reminder, the sale operates as a “pay-what-you-can”. No cash is taken on-site, and you pay online: http://bit.ly/brentuseduniform-program. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kelly Vielmo, kvielmo@gmail.com or 202-415-0820.

Brent Super Spellers Move on to Cluster Bee
Congratulations to all students who participated in Brent’s 5th annual Spelling Bee last Friday! In the end, Donovan Wheelock placed 1st, Charles King placed 2nd and Susie Gerety placed 3rd after going several rounds with Elsie Murray and Liev Dorn. This is the first year the Spelling Bee went into overtime with competition extending past the end of the school day! Thanks to our judges, pronouncer, parents and students for taking the time to make this bee a success. A special thanks to Dayon Hairston for leading practice sessions and for organizing the event.

The Cluster-wide Spelling Bee will be Wednesday February 6, 2019, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Langley Elementary school. We wish all of our spellers luck as they move to the next level of competition. Go Brent Bears! See photos on front page.

Black History Month
Do you love going to museums? Have you ever wished you could be a part of a museum exhibit? Come out to our informational meeting on how you can be in Brent’s Black History Living Wax museum on Friday, February 1, 2019, at 8:00 a.m. in room 304. Students will have the opportunity to become a famous inventor or adventurer.

Brent’s Next Spirit Day - February 7
Brent’s next Spirit Day is Thursday, February 7th. We will be celebrating “Think Ahead Thursday!” Brent Bears are invited to show their spirit by dressing up as something they aspire to be in the future.

A Note from Jefferson Academy Administration
Greetings Brent Community! Jefferson Academy Middle School had a wonderful time with Brent 5th graders and the 5th grade team on our Shadow Day! During our time together, Brent students visited classrooms, learned about the JA Way, Clubs, earned prizes and even saw a sneak preview of our new building! On behalf of the Jefferson Community, we would like to thank Principal Lycknell and AP Ewbanks for allowing us to host your terrific students! We look forward to seeing Brent families and community members at our upcoming open houses on Thursday, February 28, 6-7:30 p.m. and March 21, 6-7:30 p.m.
To RSVP, please call the Jefferson Academy Main Office at (202) 729-3270.

DC Department of Health
DC’s Department of Health has issued a letter to our community after we reported several cases of the flu in children at Brent this week. Please take a moment to read the letter and review the flu fact sheet found on Brent’s website. Influenza is most contagious during the first 48 hours. A child who has a fever should remain at home until they are “fever free” for a minimum of 24 hours. If you have any questions, reach out to Brent’s school nurse, Ms. Lee at (202) 698-3367 or Jlee6@cnmc.org.

Photo: A moment in 1st grade P.E. class.
Brent Everybody Wins Mentor Honored

Each year during National Mentoring Month, United Way, Deloitte, and the Mentoring Matters Coalition celebrate the contributions of mentors and mentoring programs to the growth and development of young people in the national capital area. On January 24, 2019, at the Creating Mentoring Moments event, they honored Michaela Yarnell, one of Brent’s Everybody Wins mentors, as a champion of mentoring who has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to meeting the mentoring need in the national capital area. Michaela has read to 4th grader William Dierlam weekly since he was in the 1st grade. A staff member on the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, she has rarely missed a day of reading and as a result has several Diary of a Wimpy Kid books under her belt. According to William’s parents, she has been credited for getting William out of bed and on his way to school more than once when he realized that she was coming to read with him that day. William is proud that Michaela was recognized for being a wonderful mentor...something that he has known for a long time!

Photos: Top: Bryan Dierlam; Christina Muedeking; Michaela Yarnell; William Dierlam; Emma Dierlam; Cordelia Cranshaw, Miss District of Columbia USA and keynote speaker, Bottom: Brent 4th grader William Dierlam fields interview questions.

Brent CommUNITY Family Dance Friday, February 8 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

The Diversity Working Group sponsors this annual community event in honor of Black History Month and as a celebration of UNITY within the Brent community. On Friday, February 8 from 6:30 to 8, faculty, staff, students and family members of all ages are invited to socialize, make crafts, enjoy refreshments and dance to high-energy music in the Brent multi-purpose room. Come join friends and family as everyone gathers together for a great evening!

The DJ will be spinning fast songs only, appropriate for all ages. (Think block party, not prom.) Students may not arrive unattended and, as with all evening events at Brent, student supervision is the parent’s responsibility. Also, please note that the Family Dance is being held in the cafeteria, and the rest of the school (including the library and playground) will be out-of-bounds during the event.

Please help make the event a success! Use the link below to contribute your time and/or food. If you are interested in volunteering before or during the Family Dance, enter your name for a job you feel would be a good fit. Also, we are shifting to pot-luck this year, so please consider contributing food to keep our dancers powered-up.
https://tinyurl.com/familydancevolunteer
Brent Spring Gala Announcement

Planning is under way for Brent’s annual spring gala “A Taste of the Hill” and we are thrilled to invite the Brent Community and fellow friends and family to join us Saturday, March 30th at AJAX DC. Besides superb small plates from local restaurants and wine pairings, the event features music, dancing and fabulous auction items such as vacation stays, dinner events (see photo below of the Great Gatsby event), artwork, sporting events, and creative class baskets.

The night is a wonderful opportunity to mingle with fellow parents, administration and teachers. Proceeds from this event support our wonderful school! Early bird tickets are on sale - https://BrentGala.givesmart.com or Text Brent-Gala to 52182.

Please stay tuned for ways to get involved - the committee is still seeking new members to shadow the team and learn for next year!

Principal’s Corner

During January of every school year, teachers spend time collecting and reflecting on mid-year reading data. This process is an important point of reflection on the growth we have made so far in the school year, and helps us to set our course for the second half of the year.

Teachers collect reading data in a few ways. K-2nd teachers administer the DIBELS assessment (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills), which measures emergent and early technical reading skills, including phonemic awareness, fluency, and oral reading fluency. Older students take RI (Reading Inventory), which asks students to infer meaning from increasingly complex passages, and which yields a Lexile score band meant to indicate the level of text complexity a student can comprehend. All teachers, K-5th, administer Fountas & Pinnell running records as well, to help us understand how students are utilizing reading skills in combination. By analyzing results from these assessments, teachers are able to determine whether or not students are on target to meet end of year goals, as well as what reading work to tackle next.

For math, teachers in grades 2-5 administer the iReady Math diagnostic which measures mathematical skills across four major domains: number and operations, algebra and algebraic thinking, measurement and data, & geometry. Teachers use this information to help us understand how students are applying knowledge and skills learned in the math classroom in a different math context.

The primary purpose of administering assessments and analyzing the data is to inform classroom instruction. Rather than use one snapshot of student performance, teachers collect and review a wide range of assessments to build a holistic view of individual student and classroom academic development.

Sara Ewbank
Assistant Principal
Brent Elementary School