Coming Up

**Wednesday, October 3**
LSAT Meeting
6:30 – 8 p.m.
Open meeting for the Brent community

**Friday, October 5**
Principal’s Coffee
8:30– 9:30 a.m.

Brent Banner Parade
2:45 p.m.
Parents can view the parade from the drop-off section of the Brent playground

**Monday, October 8**
Columbus Day
No school for students, teachers and staff

**Wednesday, October 10**
Walk to School Day
See attachment for details

PTA Board Meeting
6:30 – 8 p.m.

**Thursday, October 11**
Spirit Day
Dots & Stripes Day! For our second spirit day of the year, show your spirit by sporting polka-dots, stripes, or maybe even both

Reminder: Brent is a 100% Peanut Free and Tree Nut Free School - Both Inside the Building and on School Grounds
This is a reminder that Brent is 100% peanut and tree nut free. This policy pertains to food items inside the building during school hours and food items consumed on the school grounds before and after school. We have several students with life threatening nut allergies so our community must be vigilant about this policy to keep these students safe.

*Peanut-free/Tree Nut-free Products are defined as:
Products free of peanuts or tree nuts, peanut or tree nut products,
and traces of peanuts or tree nuts. Products whose labels say “May contain peanuts” or “Produced on equipment that also produces Peanut or Tree Nut products” are not permitted.

**Brent Bears Compete in First Cross Country Meet**

Last Thursday, the Brent Cross Country Team hit the ground running in its first ever meet, the Ron Jenkins Cross Country Invitation. Composed of 4th and 5th grade boys and girls, the team is coached by Megan Dunn (5th grade focus teacher) and Kelly Laskowski (2nd grade teacher). With only three practices under their belt, the boys and girls teams made a strong showing in the 3200 meter races. The boys team placed 6th in a field of 14 elementary schools with 5th grader Jethro Ward leading the Brent boys with a time of 15:53.00 minutes. The girls team, led by 4th grader Alia Woodby with a time of 18:00.51, placed 9th out of 13 schools. Way to run, Brent Bears! See photos on first page.

**Extra Tickets available for the DC United Game**

Thank you to all who have purchased tickets in the Brent block to join us for our first Brent Elementary Day at D.C. United on Saturday, October 13th at 5 p.m. Due to the overwhelming response, the United have added extra tickets to Brent's block so there is still time to get tickets. Come join your fellow Brent Bears as D.C. United and Wayne Rooney take on FC Dallas. Tickets are $30 or $35 (plus taxes and fees).

Go Brent Bears and Go DC United!!!

https://fevo.me/brentelementary

**Support the Brent PTA and Look Great Doing So**

The Brent PTA has been offered a unique opportunity from Alton Lane to purchase custom men’s clothing while also supporting the school. Please join us on November 1, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Alton Lane’s DuPont Circle location for a very special preview that will also raise money for the school. After the preview, schedule time to get fitted for made-to-order clothing because 20% of that evening’s purchases will be added to a gift card that will be auctioned off at the Brent Elementary Gala in the spring. Refreshments will be served.

Space is limited! Sign up today via the link below. Please contact Ben Champa (benchampa@gmail.com) with any questions.

https://tinyurl.com/brentptaalon_lane

**Dots & Stripes Spirit Day - Thursday, October 11**

Participate in Dots & Stripes Spirit Day! For our second spirit day of the year, show your spirit by sporting polka-dots, stripes, or maybe even both.

**Diverse Books Reading Spotlight**

In celebration Hispanic-Latinx Heritage Month, please consider:
- **Viva Frida** by Yuyi Morales (40 pages): Bilingual book uses brief two- or three-word sentences to provide dreamlike narration and mixed-media images to explore the imagery of artist Frida Kahlo.
- **I love Saturdays y Domingos** by Alma Flor Ada (32 pages): A young girl enjoys the similarities and the differences between her English-speaking and Spanish-speaking grandparents.
- **Imagine** by Juan Felipe Herrera (32 pages): An illustrated poem celebrating of the childhood hopes and dreams of the boy who would become the first Chicano United States Poet Laureate.
- **Islandborn** by Junot Diaz (48 pages): Through a school project, Lola learns about the island home she left as a baby to migrate to America.
- **Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation** by Duncan Tonatiuh (40 pages): Almost 10 years before Brown vs. Board of Education, Sylvia Mendez and her parents helped end school segregation in California.
- **Roberto Clemente: Pride of the Pittsburgh Pirates** by Jonah Winter (40 pages): Spare, evocative language -- and magnificent illustrations -- tell the story of a great athlete and even greater man who rose through the ranks of baseball to become one of the most admired players of all time.
- **Esperanza Rising** by Pam Muñoz Ryan (262 pages): With a hint of magical realism, this robust novel set in 1930 captures a Mexican girl’s fall from riches, her immigration to California, and the challenges of working on a farm labor camp.
- **The Only Road** by Alexandra Diaz (336 pages): Twelve-year-old Jaime makes the treacherous and life-changing journey from his home in Guatemala to live with his older brother in the United States.

Each of these books is in the Brent Library and DC Public Library collections and can also be ordered from your local bookseller. Happy Reading!
Thanks to all for a Fantastic Brent Family Welcome Picnic!

Thanks so much to our wonderful Brent community for making this year’s Brent family welcome picnic a great success! The volunteer effort was amazing – so many parents showed up to help with everything, both those who had signed up in advance and those who simply stepped in to help as needed. The book and bake sale tables looked wonderful and were full thanks to many members of our community - over 1,500 books went to new homes and lots of sweets were thoroughly enjoyed. Your contributions ensure that Brent’s volunteer ethic and cherished community traditions will continue to make our school great.

It was great especially to see so many new Brent families, so many members of the school community and former Brent students at the event. Thanks again to all!

Special thanks to Sarah Carr for overseeing the book sale, to Adi Segal for coordinating the craft table, to Francine Asche for coordinating the face painting, to Jessica Champa for overseeing the bake sale and to the Brent dad grill team, coordinated by Raphael Kozolchyk, who return year after year.

Thanks again to Brent parent Meg Shapiro of the Jeanne Phil & Meg team at Compass for their sponsorship of the picnic and to Brent parent Brent Lightner of Taoti Creative for their support as well.

And thanks to our custodial team for all their hard work.

We’d love any feedback or suggestions for next year’s picnic - please email Diana Rubin at diana.rubin@gmail.com

Principal’s Corner

Dear Brent Families,

Our October Principal’s Coffee will be held this Friday, October 5th from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Our general topics will include recess and our process for identifying and implementing interventions, but, as always, other questions and ideas are welcome.

As we prepare for the recess discussion and to inform those who may be interested but unable to attend the coffee, we are eager to share the Great Recess Framework (attached). Playworks, our recess partner, developed this Great Recess Framework after a significant research period and in order to define a safe, joyous and engaging recess program. We are also using this tool – and a more in-depth, aligned rubric – to evaluate and grow our approach to play at Brent. We define play, a critical learning goal, as the interactions that occur during lunch recess, recess clubs (grades 2-5, launching this week with art, music and science clubs), second recesses (PK-2), Class Game Time (launching this week, Class Game Time provides our classes with an opportunity to build community and learn games that can be extended to recess periods), and play that is part of afterschool programs.

The Banner Parade is also on our calendar for this Friday, October 5th at 2:45 p.m. Families are encouraged to arrive by 2:35 p.m. to enjoy the full parade, Parade logistics will be emailed this Wednesday, October 3rd.

Sincerely,
Norah Lycknell
Principal
First off, you are one of Brent’s cross country coaches. How was the first meet?
Our first meet was great! All our Bears ran a great race, and I hope they feel proud. Coach Laskowski and I had a blast cheering on our runners from the sidelines!

Tell us about your educational and professional background.
I received my undergraduate degree in advertising and public relations from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Go Huskers!), and I’m currently finishing my Masters in Education. Before coming to Brent, I taught 7th grade special education for 4 years in New Canaan, Connecticut.

What is your role at Brent as the 5th grade focus teacher?
As the 5th grade focus teacher, I get to co-teach in both 5th grade classrooms. On any given day you’ll find me teaching alongside Mrs. Saxton and Mrs. Lee. I also have the opportunity to work closely with students in small groups and 1:1. In addition, I teach one of the writing classes. I love this role because it allows me to work with students across all subjects and collaborate with great teachers!

What is unique about 5th graders?
5th graders are at a unique transitional age. They aren’t quite little kids, but aren’t quite pre-teens. They have elementary school mastered, but are looking toward middle school with lots of questions. My favorite part of working with 5th graders is that they are really starting to understand who they are and how to navigate their worlds even as that world is changing.

What are your hopes and dreams for the year?
My hope is that all students feel they have the support they need to set and work toward big goals. I want students to be able to see how much they’ve grown over the year, and feel really proud.

Photos: Ms. Dunn with husband Michael and rescue dog, Cookie. Ms. Dunn with husband Michael at Michael and her brothers and sisters at her wedding this year.