

# THE TUES. NEWS 10-23-2018

## BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### Coming Up

#### **Wednesday, October 24**

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

#### **Thursday, October 25 and Friday, October 26**

Professional Development Days  
No school for students  
Springboard programming available.  
Register at [springboardkids.com](http://springboardkids.com)

#### **Tuesday, October 30**

Brent Picture Day  
Uniform-Free Day

#### **Tuesday, November 6**

Election Day  
Parent-Teacher Conference Day  
No school for Students

#### **Wednesday, November 7**

LSAT Meeting  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

#### **Thursday, November 8**

Math Night  
6 - 7:30 p.m.

#### **Monday, November 19**

Specials Learning Showcase  
Showcases will be during specials classes.



*Photo: Playground Fun!*

#### **PTA General Meeting – This Wednesday, October 24 from 6:30 – 8 p.m.**

Have you heard your child mention playing Gaga Ball at recess and wondered what Lady Gaga had to do with Brent? Well, tomorrow night at the PTA meeting is your chance to find out about the mysterious new craze sweeping the playground. We'll learn about the new activities and opportunities that our children are experiencing through the school's partnership with Playworks and

by having our own recess coach. Spoiler alert: you'll also get to find out firsthand how much fun recess can be under the coaching skills of Ms. Kraemer and Ms. Patterson. In addition, the PTA will be asking for your input about topics of interest for future meetings. Last month's meeting was so much fun that you won't want to miss this one! Remember there's no need to hire a babysitter. The PTA provides free childcare and dinner for Brent students. You can also pick

up some used uniform items at the unveiling of Brent's Used Uniform Program and help out students in need through your donations. We hope to see you from 6:30 to 8:00 tomorrow night (October 24th)!

### **Lockdown Drill – This Wednesday at 9 a.m.**

In accordance with DC law, DCPS schools are required to conduct two lockdown drills per year. Brent held its first lockdown drill in September and we will hold our second this Wednesday at 9 a.m. We will announce the drill over Brent's PA system. Teachers will check hallways and bathrooms and then secure their classrooms. Staff will then check to ensure that classroom doors are secure and all students are accounted for. Teachers will be quietly reading to students during the drill. The drill will last approximately 10 minutes.

### **Help us Maintain a Secure Building – Enter and Exit Through the Front Doors Only**

Please remember to enter and exit through Brent's front doors to help keep our building secure. Brent has a security guard stationed at the front door to check ID and monitor entries and exits of the building. After school hours, children not in Springboard or enrichment activities may only enter the building with a supervising adult.

### **Give Feedback for the DCPS Chancellor Search - A Note from Paul Kihn, Acting Deputy Mayor for Education**

Over the past several months, the Our Schools Committee has conducted engagement forums throughout the District for our DC Public Schools Chancellor Search.

Community engagement and feedback are critical to the search for our next Chancellor.

We have heard from parents, teachers, students, and community members about what qualities the Chancellor should possess, as well as what the Chancellor should prioritize in our schools. I encourage you to visit [ourschools.dc.gov](https://ourschools.dc.gov) to read over the notes from those engagement forums. For those who were not able to attend one of our three engagement forums, I also ask that you contribute your voice to the search by completing our online survey posted on the Our Schools website. The survey is scheduled to close on October 23 to ensure results are incorporated into the Our Schools Committee report. Every bit of feedback helps us build a brighter future for our schools.

### **Principal's Corner**

Dear Brent Family,

Around this time of year, we are sometimes asked about birthday celebrations at Brent. The policy for birthday celebrations can be found in the family handbook, and that document provides useful information about what birthday celebrations do not include (sugary snacks, treat bags, etc.), but what do they include? How do we share in the joy of another year older, of a child's special day? Here are some examples of birthday celebrations from each floor of our building.

Brent's Early Childhood Team has a special tradition for honoring children's birthdays. In preparation for each child's birthday, a community discussion is held to

discuss the special qualities and interests of the birthday child. Based on those conversations, the children collaborate to create a unique and authentic hand-made gift in the classroom art studio that reflects the birthday child's unique personality and favorite things. This special gift is then presented to the child on their birthday. Family members are invited to join the class for the presentation of the gift and/or to read one of the child's favorite books from home to the class.

A common second grade practice is to ask families to join morning meeting for the child's birthday. Often a family member reads a book the child brought from home for the occasion. Sometimes, kids ask the family member questions about the child, which is a fun way of celebrating the child by learning more about him or her from a loved one.

In the third grade, students are asked to bring in one photo from each year of their life to show the class. Students share the story of their years, helping their classmates to understand not just the kids they are, but how they became those kids. As a ritual, it is intimate and meaningful.

In all grade levels at Brent, teachers strive to host celebrations that keep the emphasis on the child, and the family and community around him or her. We hope that you are able to witness and participate in many of these special traditions during your time at Brent!

Sincerely,

Sara Ewbank

Assistant Principal



### **Calling All Brent Bears! - New Brent T-Shirt Designs**

We have a new t-shirt design! Because everyone loves the Brent staff shirts, we designed one for our community to include adult and kid sizes. We even included a v-neck for the ladies! The back of one of the shirts even includes our Brent values! If you are interested, please visit

<https://brent-bears-2018.itemorder.com/sale>

and order directly from Bay Imprint. The website will be live for two weeks and then we will close it down and the order will be placed and shipped!



### **Tues News Spotlight Andrea Meneghello 2nd Grade Teacher**

#### **Tell us about your educational and professional background.**

I realized how interesting, challenging, and rewarding it was to teach when I began as a student teacher while I was still in col-

lege. I learned the basics of teaching while living in Spain, where I taught English as a foreign language to kids and adults for three years, both in private academies and in charter schools. Upon returning to the US, I worked as an after-school enrichment specialist and was eventually accepted as a fellow at the Center for Inspired Teaching. After finishing my residency year, I continued working with the second grade team at Brent as a classroom teacher.

#### **Last year you served as a Center for Inspired Teaching fellow in 2nd grade. What do you bring to your current classroom from that experience?**

Being a fellow allowed me to observe some of Brent's (and other schools') finest teachers in action, opening my mind to the bottomless well of creative strategies, techniques, and approaches that those teachers bring to the table. I was also able to spend more time revamping and reflecting on my own practice. I find myself to be a more well-rounded, open-minded, and humble teacher thanks to my residency year.

#### **Describe a typical day in 2nd grade.**

Busy! Our team spends a lot of time planning together to make sure that each part of the day is packed full of material that will stimulate the intellect and imagination of every single one of our learners. Beyond academics, we ensure there is always time for community-building lessons, games, and activities, as well as an opportunity for everyone to come together for some fun activities during our opening and closing circles.

#### **What is unique about 2nd graders?**

There is a famous quote that says "Show me the child at seven, and I'll show you the (wo)man". While I'm not in total agreement with that quote, I do think there is some truth to it: something starts to cement at that age, and it's wonderful to observe. Another unique characteristic of 2nd graders is the need for rules, routines, and order; things that I thrive on and I am happy to provide and help them define for themselves.

#### **What are your hopes and dreams for your students?**

My dream is that my students will accomplish whatever hopes and dreams THEY set for themselves. Beyond that, I hope that they learn the value of kindness, humility, and patience, which may be the hardest lesson there is to learn!

*Photos: Mr. Meneghello with grandfather and Mr. Meneghello as a young boy.*

