Coming Up

**Tuesday, October 30**
- Brent Picture Day
- Uniform-Free Day

**Thursday, November 1**
- Club Day
  - 9:15 a.m.

**Tuesday, November 6**
- Election Day
- Parent-Teacher Conference Day
- No school for Students
- No Springboard programming

**Wednesday, November 7**
- LSAT Meeting
  - 6:30 - 8 p.m.

**Thursday, November 8**
- Math Night
  - 6 - 7:30 p.m.
  - ASL Interpreters Provided

**Monday, November 12**
- Veterans Day
- No School for students, teachers and staff

**Monday, November 19**
- Specials Learning Showcase
  - Showcases will be during specials classes

**Friday, November 30 - Sunday, December 2**
- Brent Christmas Tree and Holiday Sale

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**Brent Cross Country Team Finishes Season at DCIAA Elementary School Cross Country Championship**

The Brent Cross Country Team wrapped up its inaugural season last week by competing in the DCIAA Elementary School Cross Country Championship. The team ran the 2.1 mile race at Kenilworth Park on a day that was made for running. With the 5th grade runners away on a class camping trip, the 4th graders represented the school well with Atley Thomas finishing as the team leader for the boys with a time of 17:18.66. Alia Woodby led the girls team with a time of 17:45.79. The team was coached this season by Megan Dunn (5th grade focus teacher) and Kelly Laskowski (2nd grade teacher), veteran cross country runners themselves. Congratulations to the team and the coaches on a successful first year! See photos.

**Brent Used Uniform Sale Kicked Off Last Week**

The Brent Used Uniform Sale successfully kicked off last week at the October Brent PTA meeting. Thirteen bins of used uniforms were available to peruse and nu-
numerous families went “shopping”. Used, wearable uniform items can be donated every day and dropped off in the basket near the Front Office. The clothing items will be sorted by high school interns and available for “sale” at a future date. It’s “pay what you can” and all payments are made online. The money will be used by the school to help purchase items to benefit our students in need, for example, socks, underwear, coats, and popular uniform sizes. Any questions can be directed to Kelly Vielmo, kvielmo@gmail.com. Payments can be made at http://bit.ly/brent-useduniformprogram. See photo.

Brent Math Night Coming Up Thursday, November 8! Volunteers needed
Mr. Mangiaracina, the Brent science teacher, would love to get some help with Math Night on Thursday, November 8. It’s a very fun and educational event and a great way to learn math games you can play with your child at home. One of the volunteer activities is supporting event preparation early next week, and other volunteer opportunities involve helping out the night of the event for a short amount of time. You can sign up at https://tinyurl.com/ybc7tj2b.

Also, this event is going green! We ask all participants (adults and children) to bring their own water bottles so that we do not create a lot of plastic waste from the event. The water fountains at the school will also be available for use.

The PTA wants to hear from you!
The PTA is considering having the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP) speak at a future PTA meeting and would like to know what topics interest you. PEP is a non-profit, educational organization that provides classes, events and educational resources to parents and all who care for children, toddlers through teens. The possible PEP topics are: Morning Mayhem; Positive Discipline; Raising “I Can” Kids; and Tackling Technology.

The Annual Fund runs until January 5, 2019.
Staff Spotlight
Jenny Akagi
Early Childhood Teacher

First off, tell us about how your children, Beatrice’s and Leo’s, school years are going?
My kids go to Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School, and they seem to be having a great year so far. My daughter, Beatrice, is in 2nd grade. She loves to read and make lists of facts that she has read in a book. My son, Leo, is in kindergarten. It’s fun to see him begin to read and write. He recently made a newspaper at home with a headline, “Today we have the Joker” that he had sounded out.

What made you decide to switch from a successful career at a non-profit to teaching early childhood students?
I enjoyed working in arts fundraising. I loved being in the room when the artistic staff was sharing set and costume designs and the artistic vision for a show. As a grant writer, I also spent time around the education programs learning and writing about them. I remember working at Wolf Trap and seeing ECE education programs being workshoped in a glass walled conference room across from my office. I remember wanting to be in the room developing the programs not just writing about them. I decided to go for it about a year later.

Tell us how the start of the school year is going for your class!
The school year is off to a great start. We have been studying monarchs as have other ECE classes. We have also been learning about polar bears since our class picked The Great White Polar Bears as our class name. I have experienced such a nice warm welcome from the whole Brent community, especially PTA members, and the parents in my class.

Photos: Ms. Akagi with husband, and children Beatrice and Leo out and around the Washington area.

What would be some of the words your students have used to describe you as a teacher?
I think kind and silly. Some of my very young ones call me a friend. I most love being called their teacher.

What are your hopes and dreams for your students this year?
That we take full advantage of our Reggio project studies and that the kids are interested and enthusiastic about school. I want them to love school and be proud of their own growth and development. I want them to be able to think back and name things they are now able to do and what they’ve learned.

What is your teaching and educational background?
My most recent teaching position was at St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes in a pre-K classroom. The classroom used Reggio and Responsive Classroom, so the experience aligned nicely with the curricular focus at Brent. Although my time at the school was short (I was there for part of the year), I had the chance to teach with two very talented Reggio teachers and learned so much from them. My Master’s degree in teaching is from Western Governors University and my undergrad is from the University of Oklahoma.

You and one of Brent’s amazing instructional assistants, Ms. Eleanor Marindin, make a terrific team. Tell us about your partnership dynamic!
As a new Brent teacher, I am so fortunate to be paired with Ms. Marindin, who has so much knowledge about Brent and early childhood. She has good ideas for bringing art into our work. We laugh a lot and we share in a common love of chocolate.
Our 1st Trimester Specials Learning Showcase is coming Monday, November 19!

We are really enjoying our new trimester system for 1st-5th Art, Music and Science classes. The first trimester is almost over, and we’re going to finish the term with a celebration of students’ achievements that you’re invited to attend. On Monday, November 19, the last day of the trimester, Art, Music and Science classes are open to families. See the flyer in Tues News for details about how you can see your student present their hard work!

From the Diversity Working Group - Diverse Books Reading Spotlight

November is Native American Heritage Month. In celebration, please consider reading:

Salmon Boy: A Legend of the Sechelt People by Donna Joe (24 pages) After being captured by a Chum salmon and spending a year with the salmon people, a young boy returns home to teach his people that if they treat the salmon properly they will always have enough to eat.

Mission to Space by John Herrington (24 pages) The first Native American in space shares his passion for space travel and his Chickasaw heritage as he gives children a glimpse into his astronaut training at NASA and his mission to the International Space Station.


I Am Not a Number by Jenny Kay Dupuis and Kathy Kacer (32 pages) Unflinchingly retelling of the experience of Irene Couchie, one of over 150,000 Canadian First Nations children removed from their parents and relocated to residential schools as part of an assimilation policy.

Morning Girl by Michael Dorris (80 pages) This brief, lyrical novel explores the world of a sister and brother living on a lush island in the Bahamas just before the arrival of Columbus.

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O’Dell (192 pages) Fictionalized account of the resilient daughter of an island chief who spent 18-years in solitude on an island in the Pacific.

Each of these books is in the Brent Library and DC Public Library collections and can also be ordered from your local bookseller.

A Navajo Legend retold by Jerrie Oughton (32 pages) Navajo folk-tale explaining how First Woman tried to write the laws of the land using stars in the sky, only to be thwarted by the trickster Coyote.

Fall in Line, Holden! by Daniel W. Vandever (32 pages) Although Holden’s boarding school requires conformity to a rigid schedule and strict standards of behavior, this Navajo boy’s vivid imagination transforms his commonplace surroundings into a world of discovery and delight.

How the Stars Fell into the Sky:
Dear Brent Family,

On Thursday of this week, students will experience their first All-School Meeting and Club Day of the 2018-2019 school year! Both of these are exciting structures in place at Brent, and I thought this might be a good way and time to provide a little more information about each.

Often when Responsive Classroom schools are interested in strengthening the school-wide community, we look for cross-age structures that can bring students and adults together. At Brent, one of these structures is All-School Meeting. This ritual is an important component in developing the culture of our learning community. It functions as an opportunity for our students and staff to all come together to greet one another, to move, to play, to celebrate our successes, and to share our learning.

The All-School Meeting routine reflects the morning meeting structure that students use in their classrooms every day of the week: there is a greeting, a share, an activity, a message, and news/announcements. We gather in a circle, with book buddy classes seated together, the “stage” is in the center, and students lead whenever possible.

The meetings are also about the same length as classroom morning meetings, about 20 minutes, and occur in the same time slot, usually from 8:55 to 9:15. Visitors are welcome at All-School Meeting, so long as they participate and follow the same community meeting expectations as students, particularly to listen respectfully when the leader is talking and respond or participate when asked.

The other structure launching this week is the Club structure (sometimes referred to as “cross-age clubs”) in which students and teachers from different grades all participate in interest-based groups to build connections and flex a different part of the brain.

In order to organize Clubs, the School Spirit Committee solicits Club ideas from teachers early in the year, then uses these to prepare selection sheets for students. Each student is asked to identify five choices on the sheet, and students are then placed into Clubs according to their selections.

The Clubs meet together four times in total, roughly once per quarter, so Club placements last throughout the year. Each meeting is about 45 minutes long, and then students return to homerooms for a regular instructional day.

This year, a sampling of the Clubs includes: Yoga, Dinosaur Clubs, Architecture, Hogwarts, Board Games, Kittycat Club, Double Dutch, Origami, Calder’s Circus, Calligraphy, Mindfulness, and more!

Our hope is that students get a chance to meet others - children and adults! - that they may not have otherwise had the opportunity to know, and gain knowledge or skills in a unique area of interest.

We are excited to have both of these structures launch on Thursday, and we hope you will hear wonderful things about them from your children!

Sincerely,
Sara Ewbank
Assistant Principal

A Note From Ms. Gibson, Brent’s Art Teacher
November 2-4, 2018 - Pottery Show in DC

Seventeen of the nation’s top ceramic artists gather for a pottery show focusing on functional pottery in the heart of Washington, DC. The free show and sale on Saturday and Sunday offer the chance to browse works and spend time getting to know the artists. The laid back, casual environment lends itself to conversations about the art and process behind it.

Two collaborative events with District Clay round out the weekend. On Thursday, Dan Finnegan and other artists gather at District Clay for a pottery jam. This fun and interactive event features potters challenging each other, collaborating, and having a great time while explaining their techniques. On Saturday, District Clay ventures to Hill Center for a raku firing. Join us in the West Plaza to decorate your masterpiece, go visit the show and sale, and return to pick up a gem after the firing. A fun event for kids and adults alike!

Brent ES Nut Free Reminder

With Halloween approaching, please remember that Brent is a nut-free school. We have several students with life-threatening nut allergies so it is critical that no food products containing nuts are brought into the building. We also strongly recommend that parents not pack candy in lunch boxes. Finally, please remind your child that students are not allowed to share or trade food during the school day. By complying with Brent’s nut-free policy, we can keep all our kids safe while at school!