

THE TUES. NEWS

10-4-2016

BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MUSEUM MAGNET PROGRAM

Coming Up

Wednesday, October 5
Brent Diversity Working Group Meeting
6:30 - 8 p.m.

Friday, October 7
Brent Class Banner Parade
2:45 - 3:15 p.m.

Monday, October 10
Columbus Day
Brent Closed

Thursday, October 13
PTA General Meeting
6:30 - 8 p.m.

Wednesday, October 19
LSAT Meeting
6:30 - 8 p.m.

Thursday, October 20
Math Night
6 - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 26
PTA Board Meeting
6:30 - 8 p.m.

Friday, October 28
Records Day
No School for Students



Brent PTA's Annual Fund Drive Kicks Off

The PTA Annual Fund launched this week. Our goals:

- 100% Family Participation
- \$100,000 Raised to Support Our Students

The Annual Fund raises money for the PTA's budget to support teacher partners, specials program, teacher professional development, and more. Whether you can donate \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000 or more, every donation makes a difference.

Ways to Donate:

1. Write a check to the "Brent

Photo: Ms. Kadash's class, Persistent Panthers, prepares their class banner for Friday's parade.

PTA" and put in the lock box in the front office

2. Make a contribution securely through Paypal: <http://bit.ly/BrentFund>

3. Ask your employer about matching contributions

If you have questions or fundraising ideas, contact the Annual Fund Committee, Christy Leavitt, Kevin Reger, and Cara Spaccarelli, at BrentAnnualFund@gmail.com.

Continued on reverse

Jefferson Academy Open House - October 19

Jefferson Academy's first Open House will be on October 19, 2016 from 6 – 7 p.m. Greg Dohamm, Jefferson Academy's principal, will provide an overview of the school and provide a tour. Families who wish to tour the school during the school day can contact Mr. Dohamm at greg.dohamm@dc.gov to schedule. Jefferson will host Open Houses every third Wednesday of the month.

Math Night – Rescheduled to October 20

Math Night is coming Thursday, October 20! It's time to get together and celebrate the wonders of mathematics at Brent's 9th annual Math Night. Come join us in the cafeteria on October 20, 6-7:30 p.m. to play a collection of math games for all K-5 families. Pizza will be served at 6 p.m. Please note, Math Night was originally scheduled for October 13, but the date did not add up. Look in the Tues News next week for more information.

Tues News Spotlight Q&A with Sara Ewbank, Assistant Principal - Literacy, Whitney Paxson, Instructional Coach - Math and Shareen Cruz, Reading Specialist on DCPS's New LEAP Initiative

What is the new DCPS initiative called LEAP?

LEAP stands for LEarning together to Advance our Practice, and it is an initiative to create time and space for school-based professional development and planning.

How is it being implemented at Brent?

At Brent, our classroom teachers participate on one of five content-based teams: lower grade ELA, upper grade ELA, lower grade math, upper grade math, or ECE. Each of these teams gets together for 90 minutes each week for a seminar that is focused on a curricular topic. Part of each seminar is also spent planning together for upcoming instruction. Additionally, each member of the team is entitled to a short observation and debrief session with their team's lead during the week. Throughout the year, teachers will rotate through the various content, such that every teacher has had an opportunity to focus on each instructional area.

Ms. Paxson, you are Brent's new Instructional Coach for math. What is your involvement with LEAP?

I am leading the upper and lower grade math LEAP teams. Seminars provide a great avenue to share ideas with colleagues while both deepening and broadening understanding of math content and pedagogy. I am fortunate to be able to watch teachers take their learning and put their own personal touch on it as they design and, ultimately, deliver instruction.

Ms. Ewbank, you had served as Brent's Instructional Coach and now you are Brent's Assistant Principal for Literacy. What is your involvement with LEAP?

This year, I am leading the upper grade ELA team, which is a natural extension of the work that I had been doing as an instruc-

tional coach. We're still early in the school year, but already I have really enjoyed meeting and planning with the upper grade teachers through our LEAP structure. It feels wonderful to hold aside a time in the week to think deeply about literature and plan together.

Ms. Cruz, you are Brent's Reading Specialist. What is your involvement with LEAP?

I am leading a group of lower grade teachers around ELA topics. Meeting with teachers for weekly seminars has been a highlight of the experience so far. As educators, we know that learning never ceases. Having time to build content expertise by digging deeper in resources all while thinking critically about how to be most responsive to students has framed our discussion thus far. I've enjoyed getting a chance to observe teachers think critically, execute their plan and reflect on ways to spur student progress.

Ultimately, how will this new initiative impact our students?

The intended impact of this program is for students to experience more carefully crafted lessons, experience tighter alignment from year to year, and receive more consistent feedback about their work. There are so many demands on teachers' time that holding sacred a space for teachers to work together on the core skills of the profession – planning, preparing for instruction, and examining student work in preparation for providing useful feedback – can only be beneficial for student outcomes.