Coming Up

Wednesday, October 9
PTA Board Meeting
6 - 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 10
Brent Class Banner Parade
2:45 p.m.
No uniform. Wear your class colors.

Friday, October 11
Parent Teacher Conferences
No school for students
No Innovation Learning program

Monday, October 14
Columbus Day
Brent Closed

October 15 - 18
Fall Family Days
See class specific calendars for dates and times

Wednesday, October 16
Diversity Working Group Meeting
6 - 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 17
PTA Fun Run - Yards Park
Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 23
Picture Make-Up Day
Register here: https://tinyurl.com/brentpicturemakeup

Banner Parade is this Thursday, October 10th – Parade Starts Promptly at 2:45 p.m.!
The Banner Parade marches this Thursday, October 10th at 2:45 p.m. (early arrival is encouraged
as the parade starts promptly at 2:45 p.m.). This can’t miss event celebrates the classroom communities
that have developed during the first 6 weeks of school. Our entire student body recognizes
each class and each child celebrating the class of which they are a part. Please see detailed letter
covering logistics on the next page and the map of the parade route above.

Progress Reports Issued Today
Midpoint term 1 progress reports
are being sent home today for
some students in 1st – 5th. Progress Reports are issued to communicate how students are performing
in specific content area strands against grade level expectations to his/her parents/guardians.
Parents/Guardians are advised to contact their child’s teacher if they have any questions.
Why does Brent’s Attendance Team devote so many resources to improving Brent’s student on-time arrival rates?

Arriving on-time allows for students to successfully transition to the school day. Students who arrive on time participate fully in morning work, morning meetings, and the critical instruction. On time arrivals also support developing executive function skills such as hanging up backpacks, putting communication folders in the class bin and preparing learning spaces for the day.

Conversely, frequently arriving late harms social emotional growth and academic progress. Students who frequently arrive late miss the thoughtful home to school transition steps and routines and missing those routines leads to an unsettled start. Students who frequently arrive late miss morning work, morning meetings and instruction. Frequently arriving late students also disrupt learning for the entire class.

Arriving 15 minutes late two times a week over the course of the school year adds up to 20 hours of missing instruction – over three entire school days. Certainly, there are occasions when arriving late is unavoidable. However, if we as a community stress the importance of on-time arrivals, all Brent students benefit. Families should take a moment to evaluate evening and morning routines to ensure getting to school on time and ready for the school day.

If you have questions about Brent’s attendance policies please contact Brent’s social worker, Stephanie Young, at stephanie.young@k12.dc.gov or Brent’s behavioral tech, Dayon Hairston, at dayon.hairston@k12.dc.gov.

2019 Banner Parade Information for Families
Parade Date: October 10, 2019

It’s almost time for the 2019 Banner Parade! The purpose of this event is to celebrate the classroom communities that have developed during the first 6 weeks of school. It is about our entire student body recognizing each class and each child celebrating the class of which they are a part. It should feel inclusive, organized, kid-centric, and fun. Parents are welcome, as audience members, to add to the festivity and joy!

This message is to make clear some of the logistics so that the event can run smoothly and be enjoyable. Please note the anticipated timing and routes; since we are conducting this parade in a tight space, it will be important for adults to use certain entrances and keep to certain zones so as not to block the classes.

Before 2:35:
- Parents who arrive before 2:35 can use front or back gates to enter the playground and find a good spot in the parent zone. Look for cones and chalk lines demarcating this space, and consult the map below.

Around 2:40:
- Classes will be getting ready to march! We will close the front playground gate to parents and ask that any family members who arrive after this either use the back gate or the front entrance to the school.

At 2:45:
- The parading will begin! As shown on the map below, marchers will exit the building in BACK, march around the fence, and re-enter the playground through the FRONT gate (under the willow). This means that parents in the parent zone will have lots more parade surface area to enjoy – it will be possible to watch and cheer through the fence as well as on the playground! Please don’t stand on the sidewalk or street, though.
- After coming onto the playground, classes will sit down in their parking spaces to watch and cheer for the rest of the parade.
- It’s OK for parents to be on the deck of the learning cottage facing the playground or behind the cottage facing the fence and sidewalk. Parading students will be visible from both vantage points.
- Please don’t block the route at any point! This includes the back entrance to the school, the sidewalk, the area near the front gate, the path onto the playground and the center of the playground! We’re counting on families to help ensure that the route is clear for kids and that everyone can be seen when making their grand entrance.
- We will finish the parade even if the bell rings and we go over time a little bit. Please plan to stay through the conclusion!

Some Additional Notes:
- Our youngest students will start the parading and the 5th graders will be the grand finale.
- Staff members will be outside at 2:35 to support and answer any questions.
- Please cheer for all classes as they parade and enter the playground. This helps the event feel festive and fun for all students.

Lifetouch Picture Packets Have Arrived
Attached to Tues News are picture packets from Picture Day.

On first review, the pictures are of much better quality than last year. Make-up Picture Day is on Wednesday, October 23. If you wish to have your child participate in picture re-takes, go to https://tinyurl.com/brentpicturemakeup and register your child. If your child is having pictures re-taken, they will need to bring their picture packet. If your child was absent on picture day, please stop by the main office for an order form. Students participating in Make-Up picture day do not need to wear school uniforms. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Diggs at denise.diggs@k12.dc.gov.
**Brent ES Fall Gardening and Clean-up Morning – Saturday, October 19 from 10 a.m. – noon**

The Brent PTA Green Team, led by Josie Malone and Katherine Holt, is hosting a Brent ES Fall Gardening and Clean-up Morning on Saturday, October 19 from 10 a.m. – noon. Planned projects for the morning include sprucing up tree boxes on North Carolina, repairing planting beds and weeding the rain garden. There will also be special projects for children who want to lend a hand.

Please take a moment to RSVP at [https://tinyurl.com/brentgreenteam](https://tinyurl.com/brentgreenteam) so the team can ensure adequate tools, supplies and snacks:

If you have any questions, please contact either Josie Malone at josiejmalone@gmail.com or Katherine Holt at kcroft.holt@gmail.com.

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**4th and 5th Graders Welcome Author Celia Pérez**

On Thursday, September 26th, our fourth and fifth graders welcomed author Celia Pérez as she discussed her work as a writer and shared her latest book, Strange Birds. Celia Pérez is the celebrated author of The First Rule of Punk, one of last year’s Battle of the Book selections. The release of her newest novel for middle-grade readers, Strange Birds, coincides with National Hispanic Heritage Month, and features Latinx characters who form an alternative Scout troop that shakes up their sleepy Florida town. We were so grateful to host Ms. Pérez at Brent and learn more about her cultural heritage and the journey of becoming a writer. See photo.

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**Calling all RACERS!**

Attention Brent Bears, friends, family and neighbors! Come on out next Thursday October 17 to Yards Park for our first ever Brent Elementary FUNd Run! The Brent PTA has partnered with Yards Park and All Purpose Pizza Riverfront to host our first ever FUNd Run!!

A mostly flat, timed 1 mile loop (.5 mile for the little ones) that starts and finishes from All Purpose Pizza and runs east along the Anacostia River toward the US
Navy Base and back. We’ll have volunteers at various stations with stopwatches and also making sure our racers stay on track. You’ll be alongside other smiling runners and jovial walkers (walking, strolling, or walking with their dog) so whichever length or category you choose, rest assured all ages and all abilities are welcome!

Once we’re done racing join friends from the Brent Community at All Purpose Pizza. Grab a slice, a drink, a whole pie, or one of their other yummy dishes and catch up with new and old friends. Mention Brent FUNd Run and All Purpose will donate 10% of all proceeds toward the Brent PTA!

If you and/or your child(ren) are runners, just enjoy a good old fashioned foot race or just want to come for the food, consider coming out!

Event Schedule:
5:30 p.m. – Late Registration & Check In
5:45 p.m. – .5 mile Race, Walk, or Dog Walk Starts
6:00 p.m. – 1 mile Starts
6:30 p.m. on - All Purpose Pizza - come one come all!

Location:
Start/Finish & Registration Table out front of All Purpose Pizza
79 Potomac Ave SE, Washington, DC 20003 on the boardwalk

To Register and/or Volunteer: visit brentelementary.org

Recommended Donation: $5 per child. Visit brentelementary.org to donate or send to a family member to sponsor a child!

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**INFLUENZA (FLU) FACT SHEET**

**What is influenza?**
Influenza, commonly called “the flu,” is caused by influenza viruses when they infect the respiratory tract (nose, throat, lungs). The “flu season” occurs in the fall and winter.

**Who can get the flu?**
Anyone. However, people 65 years of age and older, children 5 years and younger, pregnant women, and people with certain chronic health conditions are at a greater risk for serious complications resulting in hospitalization or death.

**What are the symptoms of the flu?**
People who have the flu often feel some or all of the following signs and symptoms: fever or feeling feverish, chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, and tiredness. Some people, particularly children, may also have vomiting and diarrhea.

**Can a person with the flu spread the infection?**
Yes. A person infected with flu may be able to infect others from 1 day before getting sick to about 5-7 days after getting sick. This means that you may be able to spread the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick. Symptoms start 1-4 days after the virus enters the body (on average 2 days).

**How is the flu spread?**
The flu virus is thought to be spread mainly by droplets made when people with the flu talk, cough, or sneeze. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. You might also get the flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching your eyes, mouth or nose. There are several steps you can take to decrease the spread of the flu:
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, scrubbing your hands for at least 20 seconds
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as toys, doorknobs, tables, and counters

**Is there a vaccine for the flu?**
Yes! The flu can be prevented by receiving the seasonal flu vaccine every year. All persons 6 months of age and older are recommended for annual vaccination, with rare exception. The vaccine protects against 3–4 types of flu viruses that are expected to be common during the upcoming flu season. Vaccination is particularly important for persons who are at a greater risk for severe illness, and for people who live with or care for persons at a greater risk for severe illness.

**When should a person be vaccinated?**
It is best to get vaccinated early in the fall soon after the vaccine becomes available (ideally by October). It takes about 2 weeks after vaccination for the body to become protected against the flu virus.

**Are there medicines to treat the flu?**
Yes. Antiviral drugs are prescription medicines that fight against the flu in your body. While the flu vaccine is the first and most important step in preventing flu, antiviral drugs help treat the flu after you become sick. Antiviral drugs are not a substitute for vaccination.

**Should a person with the flu stay home from work or school?**
Yes. Try to stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care.

**Where can I get more information?**
Information about the flu and other related health topics can be found at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). The DC Department of Health promotes the health and safety of the District residents. For additional information, please visit [www.doh.de.gov](http://www.doh.de.gov) or call (202) 442-9371.

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**Countdown to Brent’s 5th Annual Health and Fitness Day**
We are looking forward to our fifth annual school-wide Health and Fitness Day on Friday, November 1st. The fun-filled morning will start off with an all-school Morning Meeting, followed by a variety of sessions where all students will participate in healthy eating, wellness and fitness classes. For example, Mrs. Hill will lead third-fifth graders through a Vinyasa Yoga class, where yogis will focus on breathing techniques, mindfulness, and a series of poses that incorporate dynamic movement, strength, and balance. Yogis will explore the strong relationship between mind, body, and breath.

This will be a uniform-free day and students are encouraged to wear comfy athletic clothes.
Update from Brent’s LSAT

Brent’s local school advisory team (LSAT) had its first meeting of the year last week. The LSAT is a group of elected and appointed members consisting of parents, teachers, staff and a community member, that is charged with advising the principal on budget and staffing, goals and priorities, curriculum and school culture and engagement. The representatives on the LSAT (Parents: Jean Blackerby Strich, Dunniella Kaufman, Josie Malone, Laura Green and Gretchen Phillips; Faculty: Sarah Werstuik, Cati Bisanz, Erin Kelly, Emily Kadash, Emma Bailey, Norah Lycknell; Community: Greta Lundeberg) wish to share a couple of updates with the Brent community.

First, the LSAT has an open position for one additional parent representative to serve for a one-year term. If you are are interested in serving in this role, please reach out to the chair of the LSAT, Jean Blackerby Strich (jean.blackerby@gmail.com), or any other LSAT parent representative to let us know your interest or for more information by Friday, October 18. The LSAT will hold an election for the open position in the coming weeks.

This year, among other agenda items, the LSAT will focus on areas where there may be an opportunity for better communication and collaboration between parents, teachers and the school administration. As an example, at the end of the last school year, the LSAT initiated a discussion of homework that led to Brent’s new homework policy as a more cohesive and school-wide approach to homework. The LSAT seeks similar areas where a discussion of school policies or procedures can lead to a better understanding and common purpose among parents, teachers and the school administration. Likely topics of discussion include student report cards and parent-teacher conferences. If you have other suggested topics that you believe would benefit from LSAT discussion, please reach out to any LSAT parent representative prior to the next LSAT meeting. The next LSAT meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6 at 6pm.
Dear Brent Families,

The first six weeks of school are critical time at Brent. As a Responsive Classroom school, we use the first six weeks to establish routines, expectations and goals for the year through community-building activities and academic time. The seventh week of school – this week – marks a celebration of that work and a time that we think about how classroom communities come together to form and impact our school community. Elected classroom delegates gathered to offer classroom rules as a foundation for our school rules (see attached flyer). We are holding grade-level assemblies to present those rules and to reinforce the surrounding expectations for public spaces like bathrooms, hallways, the cafeteria and recess. And we will end the week with our Banner Parade, an opportunity to celebrate individual classroom identities as part of the whole.

It also seems fitting, then, that we are ending this period of time with Parent Teacher Conferences formally scheduled for Friday, October 11th as a point of reflection on a child’s experience thus far in the year. In last week’s Principals Corner, in acknowledgement of the social emotional focus of our first six weeks of school, I offered some potential conference questions around Turnaround For Children’s Building Blocks for Learning. Our teachers are prepared to answer those questions, share assessment information and offer examples of student work in order to identify strengths and next steps. However, given the tight window of time as necessitated by the contracted length of the day/number of families, our biggest recommendation is to offer your most important questions at the start of the conference. It can help to write your questions in advance of the conference and then share them at the start of the meeting. While we will have a prepared agenda, we most want to structure our time around your points of curiosity, concern or celebration. We have also made it a goal this year to research parent teacher conferences in order to maximize this time and experience. As such, we will send out a feedback survey in next week’s Tues News.

Sincerely,
Norah Lycknell
Principal

National Building Museum - Event - this Saturday
THE BIG BUILD
Date: Saturday, October 12, 2019
Time: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Build, discover, play, make, climb, and design alongside architects, hobbyists, artisans, and craftspeople. Explore the construction vehicle “petting zoo.” Experience cutting-edge virtual and augmented reality in the Tech Lab – new this year!

BUILD a brick wall
DISCOVER the inner workings of

ILLUMINATE lights and learn about electricity
EXPLORE home remodeling
VISIT all Museum exhibitions for free
Museum members are invited to connect with each other and participate in special activities in the Members’ Lounge.

Free, drop in. No registration required. All ages welcome.
2019-2020 Schoolwide Rules

1. Have fun but be safe.
2. Always try your best even when it’s hard.
3. Treat people and materials with respect.
4. Always be kind to everyone.
5. Be responsible by treating people the way we all want to be treated.
ENJOY READING? WANT TO GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY?

Join POWER LUNCH as a Reading Mentor!

Power Lunch pairs caring adults from the community with students to read together for one hour a week during the students lunch and recess period. No curriculum, no lesson plans. Just reading together and having fun. Through books, this shared time helps to instill a love of reading, builds literacy skills, and supports critical socio-emotional growth.

Started in 1995 at Brent Elementary School as a partnership with the U.S. Senate, Power Lunch now serves students in 11 public elementary schools across the Washington metro area.

In its 23 years, Power Lunch has served more than 67,400 students, distributed over 215,000 free books, completed 700,000 hours of shared reading, and partnered with more than 10,000 Reading Mentors.

Power Lunch currently has over 400 students enrolled, each voluntarily giving up one lunch and recess period a week to spend time with their Reading Mentors.

Another 200 students are on the Power Lunch wait list, all hoping to be matched with a caring adult like you.

Help improve a student's life through shared reading.
Visit everybodywinsdc.org to sign up as a Reading Mentor today!

Contact Kelly Vielmo, Brent Parent and Tyler Reading Mentor, at kvielmo@gmail.com or 202-415-0820