Coming Up

**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

**Thursday, October 18**  
Diversity Working Group Meeting  
6:30 - 8 p.m.  
Library

**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

**Tuesday, November 6**  
Election Day  
Parent Teacher Conference Day  
No school for students

**Photos: 2nd grade field trip to Anacostia Watershed**

**Walk to School Day is this Wednesday**  
Join families from across Capitol Hill for the annual Walk to School Day event at Lincoln Park, 7:30-8:15 a.m. this Wednesday. At the event will be snacks, reusable water bottles, and reusable bags; Zeke’s Coffee is donating coffee (bring your own cup); selfie station; student performances; and VIP speakers. Brent students and parents will meet at the West end of the park to walk to school at 8:15 a.m. Look for the Brent sign. More details at www.chpso.org.
Dear Brent Families,

Friday’s Banner Parade was such fun – thank you to the many families who joined us. If you were not able to attend the event or would like to see a new perspective on the parade, check out this video:
Video Link: https://vimeo.com/294065365
Video Password: brentspirit
Congratulations to all of our classroom communities for reaching the Six Week milestone so important to our school culture!

As you know, my family will be welcoming a new addition – in fact, with an induction scheduled for Wednesday, October 10th, we know we’ll get to meet baby Lycknell very soon. I will be taking two-three weeks of leave after the baby’s birth. I will then return to a regular schedule at Brent until late December when I will take maternity leave from Winter Break through the February Break.

Brent is in great hands. We have walked through many of my regular duties and assigned those duties to members of the Brent team. Assistant Principal Sara Ewbank (Sara.ewbank@dc.gov) will take the lead on day-to-day operations and will serve as the primary point of contact for issues that extend beyond our phenomenal faculty. To ensure a smooth transition (both as I enter leave periods and return from them), I will receive daily updates and communications, responding as necessary. I also plan to attend all community leadership meetings.

I am grateful to be part of a team and community that operates with expertise and independence – and look forward to returning in a few weeks as a new mom!

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell
Principal

First Grade Welcomes Illustrator Lauren Castillo
Brent’s celebration of Hispanic-Latinx Heritage Month continues as the first grade welcomed illustrator Lauren Castillo for a special visit on October 5th. Ms. Castillo described her creative process when illustrating a book as well as read and discussed her new book, Imagine, based on the poem by Juan Felipe Herrera. The poem is a beautiful celebration of the childhood hopes and dreams of the boy who would become the first Latino United States Poet Laureate. We are grateful to our neighbors at East City Book Shop for sponsoring this event for our first graders. Be sure to check out Imagine in the Brent Library!

Photo: Kind Koalas at the Banner Parade

Another Opportunity for Brent Families to Obtain Volunteer Clearance
Brent families have another opportunity to obtain a volunteer clearance at Brent through Everybody Wins. Obtaining a clearance requires three steps:
2. Obtain a negative reading on a TB Test in the last 12 months
3. Complete the fingerprinting process with DCPS.

Everybody Wins is hosting a TB Clinic and a fingerprinting session at Brent.

TB Clinic Dates- $30 Fee
TB Skin Test: Tuesday, Oct. 16 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
TB Skin Reading: Thursday, Oct. 18 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
The DCPS mobile fingerprinting unit will also be at Brent on Thursday, October 18 from noon – 3 p.m.

To RSVP for a TB Testing Clinic and/or a Fingerprinting Clinic, please email Hailey Jones, EWDC Program Coordinator, at hjones@everybodywindsdc.org.
Welcome Back to Brent Ms. Maslin!

After some time away, I am beyond excited to be back at Brent this year. For the past two years my family was living in St. Mary’s County, Maryland (where my husband and I are originally from). During that time I was fortunate to be teaching third grade at a terrific charter school and writing my first book, Love You Hard, which will be released in March. We love our country roots, but as we discovered, we can’t live without our city neighbors. Capitol Hill will always be home to us.

First off, your son Jack started 2nd grade at Brent. How is his year going so far?

Jack is truly having the best year ever! He is fortunate to have the amazing Mr. Meneghello as his teacher and he is loving being back among old friends and new.

Your daughter, Rosie, started the Hill Preschool this year. How is she doing?

It’s been so much fun watching Rosie take in school for the first time. She loves everything about school: playing with Play-Doh, reading books, and especially her teachers. At night we can’t even get her to take off her backpack!

Tell us about your educational and professional background?

Growing up I was told I’d be a great teacher. So naturally, I rebelled against that idea for as long as I could! I eventually took a very alternative approach into education. As an undergrad, I studied anthropology at St. Mary’s College. Then I got my master’s in Creative Arts Therapy at Drexel University and began working in psychiatric settings and schools across Philadelphia. It was there that I realized how much I loved working with kids and decided to pursue my teaching certification.

What is your role at Brent as the 4th grade focus teacher?

Great question! One of the things I love about my new role is that it changes every day. I am, at once, the special education case manager for our grade, as well as an active co-teacher across all three fourth grade classrooms. Some days you will see me leading morning meetings while other teachers pull small groups. Other days you’ll see me in the Learning Lounge (our 4th grade small working space) working with kids to hone specific skills. I love that I get to work with all our amazing fourth graders.

What is unique about 4th graders?

Nine and ten year-olds are in a critical stage of development. They are beginning to broaden their worldview, notice nuance in people and characters they read, and develop the independence that will prepare them for middle school and beyond. Fourth grade is also an essential year in the development of critical thinking skills and it’s exciting to guide students through an exploration of the world around them.

What are your hopes and dreams for the year?

Creativity and curiosity are the two words that compose my teaching mantra this year. My dream is to be the kind of teacher that authentically fosters these qualities in the classroom. For me, the joy of learning is inherently tied to the presence of both creativity and curiosity!