Coming Up

**Wednesday, November 13**  
PTA Board Meeting  
6 - 7:30 p.m.  
Library

**Saturday, November 16**  
Feeder Fest - Flyer on p. 3  
Eastern High School  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Monday, November 18**  
Open House for Prospective Families  
9 - 10 a.m.

**Tuesday, November 19**  
Report Card Distribution

TB Testing - Skin prick on November 19, Test Read on November 22  
Register here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050444a8af22a5fe3-brent

Trimester 1 Music Concert  
6 - 7 p.m.  
ASL Interpreters Provided

**Wednesday, November 20**  
Brent Community Meeting (formerly PTA General Meeting)  
6 - 7:30 p.m.  
ASL Interpreters and Childcare provided

**Monday, November 25**  
Learning Showcases 1st - 5th  
See class schedules on page 2

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**Coming Up (cont.)**

**Wednesday, November 27 - Friday, November 29**  
Thanksgiving Break  
Brent closed

**Monday, December 2 - 7**  
Book Fair  
Library

**Friday, December 6 - Sunday, December 8**  
PTA Christmas Tree and Holiday Sale  
Friday, December 6 - 4 - 7 p.m.  
Saturday, December 7 - 9 - 5 p.m.  
Sunday, December 8 9 - 5 p.m.  
preorder today at brentelementary.org  
Please contact Alyson Lewis at alysonandjeff@gmail if you are willing to volunteer!

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**Pictures: Scenes from 2nd grade’s field trip to the National Museum of Women in the Arts.**

**Alert: Bike Stolen on Wednesday, November 6 / Missing Scooter**  
A bike was stolen from the bike rack on Wednesday, November 6. The bike lock may have been cut. Please be mindful of ensuring bikes are securely locked at the bike rack. Also, please notify the front office if you witness any suspicious activity around the bike racks.

Also, a Razor scooter went missing from the front. The scooter is camo colored. The bottom of the scooter has *Darlington* written on it. Please take a moment to check your child’s scooter.
Brent’s Annual November Can Drive has begun! The Brent Bears will be collecting canned goods to contribute to Thanksgiving Meal Baskets that are being prepared for Capitol Hill residents in need this holiday season. We are asking that each of Brent’s three floors donate a different item for the baskets:

First Floor = String Beans/Green Beans

Second Floor = Yams/Sweet Potatoes

Third Floor = Cranberry Sauce

Our goal is to collect 80 cans of each item! Please help us reach this goal by bringing in cans by November 22nd. Children may donate cans by bringing them into class or by placing them directly on the donation table in Brent’s front hallway.

Is your child missing a jacket, coat or hat? Chances the missing item is in Brent’s Lost and Found! Colder weather is causing Brent’s lost and found to overflow! Please stop by the lost and found outside the library and retrieve any lost coats, jackets, sweaters and lunch boxes. Items not retrieved by Friday, December 20 will be donated to Goodwill.

Music Notes from Mr. Krohn
End of Trimester Concert

On Tuesday November 19 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., students in Brent’s Honors Choir as well as all students in Ms. Bizanz’s class, Mr. Meneghello’s class, Ms. Hill’s class, Ms. Werstuik’s class, and half of the students in 5th grade will be performing their end-of-trimester music concert (performing students need to arrive at 5:45 p.m. in a white shirt/blouse, dark pants/skirt/dress; 3rd and 4th grade performers need to bring their recorders). Please come out and support these talented musicians!

Music Recital

On Tuesday, December 3 from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. students that are enrolled in after-school music lessons with Mr. Krohn will be performing their first recital of the year. Please come out and support these talented budding musicians as they play the piano, violin, ukulele, guitar, trumpet, clarinet, flute, and recorder.

Brent Honors Choir Auditions

For the last three years, DC Public Schools has hosted a city-wide honors chorus that consists of the best singers in DCPS. Brent Elementary School has participated in each of those years and I am excited to announce that we
will be participating again this year. Students in grades 3rd - 5th are invited to audition on Friday, December 6 from 8:00 - 8:35 AM in the music room. Students that would like to audition will be asked to sing the first verse of “The Star-Spangled Banner” by memory. The practice files as well as the rubric that will be used to assess the auditions can be found here: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u8tbmc-0c6w76anb/AACg7p4Jy_u_PJ7cKPi7BjQ03a?dl=0

Join the Brent SOME Trot for Hunger Team
On Thanksgiving Day 2019, join the Brent Elementary Bears at the 18th Annual SOME Trot for Hunger. This is Brent’s 6th straight year participating, and in 2014 our team was the 4th-largest fundraiser in the event!

SOME’s Trot for Hunger is a 5K walk/run (and/or 1-mile Fun Run) held on Thanksgiving Day to benefit the homeless and poor in Washington, DC. Consider joining (or donating to) the Brent team. It’s a lot of fun and there are activities for everyone.

More details can be found by going here: http://support.some.org/goto/brentbears2019 or contacting Kelly Vielmo, kvielmo@gmail.com.

National Museum of Women in the Arts Partnership
Last week, second graders practiced some close looking skills while exploring the collection at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. During our visit, museum educators used Project Zero thinking routines to facilitate discussions focused on using evidence from specific works of art to help students create stories.

This week, museum educators will be visiting 2nd grade classrooms, over the course of three days, to co-teach lessons with the second grade team. During these lessons students will develop and illustrate characters that will be featured in our upcoming realistic fiction writing. See photos on front page.
Contribute to Brent’s Veterans’ Day Display
In honor of Veterans Day, we would like to honor the veterans in our community by featuring them in a November display. If you have a family member or friend who is a veteran (parent, sibling, aunt, uncle, grandparent, cousin, neighbor, etc.), please complete the form you received from your room parent with Veteran’s name, title or rank; Branch of Service and Years of service and Relationship to Brent Student. Also please attach or email a picture of the veteran family member in uniform either a formal picture or one during deployment. More forms are available from Ms. LeBon (front office), Ms. Copeland or Ms. Santos. Please return the form and photo for your veteran in your child’s folder by November 14, 2019.

Reading Spotlights for November - In celebration of Native American History Month, please consider reading:

We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga by Traci Sorell (32 pages) The word otsaliheliga is used by members of the Cherokee Nation to express gratitude. Beginning in the fall with the new year and ending in summer, follow a full Cherokee year of celebrations.

Birdsong by Julie Flett (48 pages) When a young girl moves from the country to a small town, she feels lonely and out of place. But soon she meets an elderly woman next door, who shares her love of arts and crafts. This powerful story highlights the fulfillment of intergenerational relationships and shared passions.

The Water Walker by Joanne Robertson (36 pages) The story of the determined Ojibwe Nokomis (grandmother) and her great love for Nibi (water). Nokomis walks to raise awareness of our need to protect water for future generations and for all life on the planet.

When We Were Alone by David Robertson (25 pages) A young girl learns about family and heritage in this gentle picture book about the legacy of Native American boarding schools.

The People Shall Continue by Simon J. Ortiz (32 pages) Told in the rhythms of traditional oral narrative, this powerful telling of the history of the Native/Indigenous peoples of North America recounts their story from Creation to the invasion and usurpation of Native lands.

Fry Bread by Kevin Noble Maillard (48 pages) The story of a post-colonial food, a shared tradition across the North American continent, that promotes unity and familiarity among nations.

Indian No More by Charlene Willing McManis with Traci Sorell (211 pages) When the government passes a bill that says Regina’s tribe no longer exists, she becomes “Indian no more” overnight—even though she lives with her tribe and practices its customs. Regina must find out: Who is she? Is she Indian? American? And will her family be okay?

In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse by Joseph Marshall (176 pages) Jimmy McClean is a Lakota boy. When he embarks on a journey with his grandfather, he learns more about his heritage—in particular, the story of Crazy Horse, one of the most important figures in Lakota and American history.

The Case of Windy Lake (A Mighty Muskrats Mystery) by Michael Hutchinson (160 pages) A contemporary mystery featuring a group of four Indigenous cousins. When a visiting archeologist goes missing, the kids decide to solve the mystery of his disappearance.

Veteran’s Day - In celebration of Veteran’s Day, please consider reading:

Hero Dad by Melinda Hardin (24 pages) A boy compares his father, a U.S. soldier, to a superhero.

Coming Home by Greg Ruth (32 pages) This nearly wordless picture book examines the anticipation and emotions a child feels in the moments preceding and during reuniting with a parent who has been away at war.

Stars Above Us by Geoffrey Norman (32 pages) A little girl and her soldier father find a way to be close even when he’s away at war.

Half a Man by Michael Morpurgo (64 pages) Michael was fascinated by and afraid of his grandfather, whose ship was torpedoed during WWII, leaving him with physical scars. As Michael grows older, he learns the story behind Grandpa’s injuries, getting to know the real man behind the solemn figure from his childhood.

These books are available in the Brent library, DC public library collections, or your local bookseller.
School year. These funds are raised at various points throughout the year, however the Annual Fund contributes the majority with a goal of $120,000. We have $80,000 left to go, and a limited amount of time to do so. If you have not yet done so, please consider giving today!

The money raised is used to offset most of our non-personnel budget which affords our amazing school and community the benefit of things like our second recess coach that just started with Brent, the Atelier for early childhood, professional development for our teachers, diversity events, social emotional programs and the assurance of equipment for every student and every classroom. We must raise $750 per student though no gift is too small.

Consider the consequences if we are unsuccessful. Please, during this season of thanks, give to Brent today. We have seen a wide range of donations anywhere from $25 to $3,000. Recurring gifts ranging from $10 to $300 a month, as well as families taking advantage of corporate matching.

Save the Date-On December 6-8 the 9th Annual Brent Elementary PTA Holiday Tree and Greenery sale will be back!!!

Come get a gorgeous tree, wreath, greenery, and get in the holiday spirit all while supporting Brent Elementary School (301 North Carolina Avenue, SE). The website is up NOW, and we are taking orders at www.brentholidaysale.com. As usual, we will have great prices and the freshest items including:

- Fraser Fir Christmas trees (delivered within 2-3 days of being cut)
- Wreaths (boxwood, Fraser fir)
- Garland (boxwood, cedar, white pine)
- Poinsettias (red, white, pink)
- Winterberry
- A variety of beautiful Hanukkah items
- And much more...

Home delivery of your tree (Capitol Hill only) is available for $30 (pre-orders get delivery for $20!). Back again is a special “white glove service” where we will even set up your tree in a stand for $70 ($60 for pre-orders).

AND, making a guest appearance and available for pictures will be Jolly St. Nick himself!!

All Hands on Deck! Volunteer at the Brent Tree Sale!!

It is hard to believe, but the 8th Annual Brent Holiday Tree Sale is just around the corner!! December 6-8 we will be opening the gates to the playground turned winter wonderland and selling hundreds of gorgeous Christmas trees! This is one of Brent’s biggest fundraisers and we need your help to make it successful! Not only do we need you to buy trees, garland, wreaths, poinsettias, garland and awesome Hanukkah items (pre order now at Brent Elementary School - Online Store!) but we need your time!!! It is hard work, but it is SO much fun. It’s also a great way to get to know fellow Brent parents and be a part of the community! Please contact Alyson Lewis at alysonandjeff@gmail if you are willing to volunteer a morning or afternoon shift on Friday December 6, Saturday December 7, or Sunday December 8. We will also need help unloading 1,000 trees the evening of Thursday, December 5.

Annual Fund - 38% to Goal- With just under 3 WEEKS LEFT, the Annual Fund needs your help!

Brent’s PTA has set out for a $329,000 fundraising goal this school year. These funds are raised at various points throughout the year, however the Annual Fund contributes the majority with a goal of $120,000. We have $80,000 left to go, and a limited amount of time to do so. If you have not yet done so, please consider giving today!

The money raised is used to offset most of our non-personnel budget which affords our amazing school and community the benefit of things like our second recess coach that just started with Brent, the Atelier for early childhood, professional development for our teachers, diversity events, social emotional programs and the assurance of equipment for every student and every classroom. We must raise $750 per student though no gift is too small.

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CAMPAIGN GOAL: $120,000


2. Drop Off / Mail in a check payable to “Robert Brent Elementary PTA”, memo: Annual Fund, in the lock box in the front office at Brent Elementary School 201 N. Carolina Ave. SE, Wash DC 20003
Guest Column: LSAT Elections

LSAT Election for Parent Representative Position

Brent’s LSAT has two candidates for the open position for a parent representative to serve for a one-year term. Please see below the bios of each of the candidates below, and PLEASE VOTE ONE TIME using the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSev5iki8A7kxoEKYRBuVS4SJuEVnmBG12ikl7bmqXad4M7Yg/viewform?usp=sf_link or via paper ballot box in the main office. Voting will be open until 10am on Wednesday, November 20th. Our new LSAT member will be announced during the Community Meeting that evening (6:00-7:30pm).

Ann Heilman-Dahl
Children: Elsa (3rd grade) and Grant (1st grade)

Bio: Ann Heilman-Dahl manages a staff of 16 in the International Trade Administration within the U.S. Department of Commerce. She has held various international trade positions in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. Ms. Heilman-Dahl received a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University in 1996 and a Master of the Arts in International Commerce and Policy from George Mason University in 2000. Ms. Heilman-Dahl was born in Arden, Delaware and was raised in Geneva, Switzerland and Tokyo, Japan. She resides on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. with her husband and two children, Elsa (3rd grade) and Grant (1st grade).

Statement: My parents modeled and taught me to give back to my community, including serving on committees such as the LSAT. I have previously been a room parent for several years, worked on the Brent Gala, and served as a Brent Buddy for new families. I feel I’ve been at the school long enough to add value but still have plenty of time left to make a difference. I was moved to apply by the mention of working on better communication. This is an area where Brent has started to do better but can still improve. For example, more transparency and opportunity for parent input about the new before/aftercare program.

Renu Schmoyer
Children: Karina (3rd grader with Ms. Maschari)

Bio: I am the proud mother of Karina Schmoyer and have been a part of the Brent community for 4 years and Capitol Hill for 13 years. Through the years, I have volunteered for many Brent activities to support the school and stay involved: field trip volunteer, class projects, Christmas tree sale, costume committee for the school play, and the Brent Gala. I regularly attend principal’s coffees and many PTA meetings and I am looking to serve a more active role as a member of the LSAT. As a Senior Director of Product Management, my job requires that I serve as a liaison between customers and our development team. The ability to ensure that expectations, goals, and objectives are communicated clearly and for the benefit of all parties is essential. I believe these skills will enable me to help the Brent community work together even better and achieve this year’s LSAT objectives.

Statement: I believe that Brent is a wonderful school with both a dedicated staff and parents. I agree with many of the decisions that our PTA and LSAT have supported such as focus teachers, but as a parent feel that improvement can be made especially in the area of parent-teacher communication. I feel that I would like to lend my perspective and voice to the LSAT this year on ways to improve communication and collaboration between parents, teachers and the school administration to ensure students’ success.

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The next LSAT meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4 at 6 pm in the school library.
Scenes from November 1st’s Fantastic Health and Fitness Day
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