Coming Up

Tuesday, November 19
Report Card Distribution

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

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

Monday, December 2 - Saturday, December 7
Book Fair - Library
Hours:
Monday - Wednesday: 8 - 8:30 a.m. & 3:30 - 5 p.m.
Thursday & Friday: 8 - 9 a.m. and 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday: 10 - 2 p.m.
Volunteers needed. Contact Bettina Schewe at bettina.schewe@k12.dc.gov.

Coming Up Cont.

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!

Brent Elementary is thrilled to announce the Spring Musical for 2020 – The Lion King Jr.
Brent Elementary’s Spring Musical production will be the Lion King Jr. The Brent Spring musical will be led by Josh Krohn (director) and Chanel Colbert (choreographer – still pending agreement), and Denise Diggs (producer/administrative oversight). A big thanks to Brent teachers Stacy Miller and Erin Kelly for building a terrific foundation including templates for work plans, parent
communications and best practices for Brent’s spring musicals. Stacy Miller and Erin Kelly have been and will continue to serve in critical advisory roles for this production.

Students in 2nd – 5th are eligible to audition. Auditions will be held the week of December 9 – 13, 2019 in the music room (#206) Monday – Wednesday and on Friday in the Multipurpose room. Audition times are 8 - 8:35 a.m.

December 9: 2nd Grade (singing audition; music room)
December 10: 3rd Grade (singing audition; music room)
December 11: 4th – 5th Grade (singing audition; music room)
December 13: 2nd – 5th Grade (choreography audition; all in the multi-purpose room)

Performances are April 2 and April 3, 2020 at 6 p.m.
Those auditioning submit a completed form by December 6, 2019. Audition registration can be found at: https://forms.gle/FRRNfAR7RafwTrn46
Questions about auditions should be directed to Mr. Krohn at Joshua.krohn@k12.dc.gov.

Join us for the PTA-sponsored Community Meeting Wednesday, November 20, 6-7:30pm
Childcare and pizza provided – pizza for adults too!

This month’s topics:
Jefferson Middle School featuring Principal Dohmann and a student panel;
A discussion of race, diversity and inclusion in education
This year, the Brent PTA is striving to establish its monthly general PTA meetings as a monthly community forum for parents and guardians to take deep dives on topics of interest to them and their children, led by many of Brent’s Parent Leadership Groups--the PTA, the LSAT, the SIT, and the Diversity Working Group. Your interests have helped shape the agenda for the year.

Last month, we heard from the leaders of Innovation Learning about their childcare program, and from an amazing panel of teachers about how Focus Teachers help support progress and challenge for every student at Brent.

This month, we are thrilled to host Principal Dohmann of Jefferson Middle School together with a panel of former Brent, now Jefferson students. Come learn about Jefferson’s modernization, amaz-
ing curriculum and enrichment opportunities, and hear about the Jefferson experience from Brent alums.

We’ll also have a breakout session with select readings from the Diversity Working Group to talk about race, diversity, and inclusion in education, facilitated by Brent parents and staff. You can choose from one of two readings:

“Beyond diversity to equitable, inclusive schools” by Laura Wilson Phelan and Lee Teitel, DC Policy Center: This article describes the challenges faced by demographically diverse schools to create truly integrated, equitable and inclusive schools and explains tools to achieve these goals. Discussion will focus on interactions in the school setting and how policies and practices at Brent may encourage or undercut inclusion and equity.

“The danger of teaching children to be ‘colorblind’” by Valerie Strauss, Washington Post: This article discusses the anxiety among white parents to discuss race with their children and asserts the absence of discussion is a major obstacle to combatting racism and building meaningful cross-racial relationships. Discussion of this article will likely focus on interactions in the home setting and how Brent parents discuss race with their children.

Both of these articles can be found on the front page of Brent’s website - brentelementary.org

Come join the conversation, in person or via Facebook Live (though pizza and discussion groups are only available in person!)

Join SOME Trot for Hunger

Brent Bears Team

Next week, 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! Currently our team has raised $999.50 and we’re #7 in donations!

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.

SPEICALS LEARNING SHOWCASE
1ST - 5TH GRADE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019

The first trimester is coming to a close, and your students are wrapping up their work in their current specials class, either art, music or science. We’re celebrating the end of the trimester by inviting families to see what they’ve accomplished. They’ll be showing off their work, sharing pictures, and even sharing you in some of the same activities they’ve performed in the past few months. Each specials class will prepare a special student-led presentation, designed to show you what they’ve learned. Please come to school for your child’s regularly scheduled specials time. No RSVP is necessary, but please sign in at the front desk when you arrive. For questions, please contact your child’s specials teacher. Arts: cay.gibson@dcs.edu, Music: joshua.kroban@dcs.edu, Science: mike.murray@brent.org

1st Grade – 10:05 – 10:55 a.m.
- Biariz – Music Room 206
- Nursel – Art – Learning Cottage #1
- Patterson – Science – Learning Cottage #1

2nd Grade 10:55 – 11:40 a.m.
- Berg – Science – Learning Cottage #1
- Laskowski – Art – Learning Cottage #2
- Meneghetti – Music Room 205

3rd Grade – 11:40 – 2:25 p.m.
- Hill – Music Room 206
- Kraemer – Art – Learning Cottage #2
- Marchetti – Science – Learning Cottage #1

4th Grade 2:30 – 3:15 p.m.
- Arbutule – Science – Learning Cottage #1
- Lney Art – Learning Cottage #2
- Wengstuk – Music Room 206

5th Grade 12:30 – 1:35 p.m.
- Lee & Saxton – Music Room 206 / Art Learning Cottage #2
Innovation Learning Music Recital
December 3, 5 - 6 p.m.
On Tuesday December 3 from 5 - 6 p.m. students who 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.

Friday, December 6
Honors Chorus Auditions
8 - 8:35 a.m.
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 each of those years. Students in grades 3rd - 5th are invited to audition on Friday December 6 from 8 - 8:35 a.m. 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/u8tbmc0e6w6fanh/AACg7p4Jy_u_PJ7cKP7BjQ03a?dl=0

**National Adoption Day Reader Spotlight**

November 23 is National Adoption Day. In celebration, please consider reading:

**A Most Unusual Day by Sydrea Mallery (40 pages)**
Something rather extraordinary is happening in Caroline’s life. Her family is adopting a new baby sister! A loving story about school, family, siblings, and adoption, for anyone eagerly awaiting the arrival of a new sibling.

**Hattie Peck (32 pages) and Hattie Peck: the Journey Home (32 pages) by Emma Levey:** Hattie Peck simply loves eggs, but she has only ever laid one egg and it never hatched. Hattie embarks on a journey in search of abandoned eggs and raises a diverse flock. These colorful books convey positive messages about making your dreams come true in unexpected ways, and are also adoption stories about unconditional love.

**Home at Last by Vera B. Williams (40 pages)** Lester is struggling to adjust during his transition from foster care into a new home with his two adopted fathers. Although Lester is excited to join his new family and their dog from the start of the story, after arriving at home, he struggles to sleep alone for the first time.

**Cleo Edison Oliver, Playground Millionaire by Sundee T. Frazier (224 pages)**
Cleopatra Edison Oliver is an entrepreneur. So when her fifth-grade teacher assigns her class a “Passion Project,” Cleo comes up with her best business idea yet: the finest “tooth-pulling” company in town. But when a classmate makes fun of Cleo for being adopted, everything comes crashing down. Will she be able to rescue her business and discover that her true home has been here all along?

**Greenglass House by Kate Milford (400 pages)**
It’s wintertime at Greenglass House. The creaky smuggler’s inn is always quiet during this season, and twelve-year-old Milo, the innkeepers’ adopted son, plans to spend his holidays relaxing. But on the first icy night of vacation, out of nowhere, the guest bell rings. Soon Milo’s home is bursting with odd, secretive guests, each one bearing a strange story that is somehow connected to the rambling old house.

These books are available in the Brent library, the DC public library, or your local bookseller.

This year, in partnership with the faculty, parent and community members of the Local School Advisory Team, we are asking the question: What makes a great report card? Focusing particularly on the comments section (something we control at the school level), the LSAT will survey a wide of a range of families as possible to research what works and what doesn’t; they will explore approaches used at other DC Public Schools; and they will gather feedback about the varying formats teams are piloting this term. Our faculty dedicates ample time and intention to report cards. Parents and guardians deserve a depth of understanding about their child’s progress. Our goal is to make sure the intention matches the impact.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell

**Reminder - Cast Your Vote for LSAT Elections**

See the 11/12/2019 Tues News posted on Brent’s website or the Tues News email version for candidate bios.
The Annual Fund needs your help!

GOAL: $120,000

$48,000 raised - $72,000 left to go
40% to GOAL - 21% Family PARTICIPATION

Congratulations to our raffle winners that gave during the Halloween week, your prizes are in the front office for pick up!

Text / Email this Thanksgiving message below, on why your Brent Bear is thankful for Brent. Send to grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, or anyone else who might want to show their support, this Thanksgiving and Annual Fund Season.

If you have questions or want to learn more, visit the annual fund site on our school website here: http://www.brentelementary.org/support-brent.html

How to donate!

2. Scanning the secure Annual Fund QR Code
3. Mail in a check payable to “Robert Brent Elementary PTA” memo: Annual Fund to Brent Elementary School 301 N. Carolina Ave. SE, Wash DC 20003

Annual Fund volunteers will be handing out free coffee next Tuesday Nov. 26 as a reminder to give before we break!

ALL Annual Fund donations from 2019, will be entered into a raffle to WIN TWO FREE GALA TICKETS! Don’t flake before we break and be sure to get your names entered for a chance to win!!

Wishing you and yours a very Happy Thanksgiving from the Annual Fund.

Dear __________.

This Thanksgiving my school, Brent Elementary, will be in the final weeks of our largest fundraiser - The Annual Fund!

The Annual Fund is so important to our school because it helps to raise money to help supplement tight and restrictive government budgets and afford us the ability to continue to invest in really important programs and resources that make my school so great!

Through the money we raise, we can ensure we have things like all the resources and equipment in every classroom and for every student. That our teachers will always have the professional development they need to meet us where we are, the we have the appropriate social/emotional programs for our student community, as well as, the capacity and customizable support systems for before and after care and to support our volunteer leaders so they can keep doing all the good work they do. I am so lucky to be a student here and this year I am thankful for Brent Because.......

We need all support and generosity we can get from our families, friends and community members to keep this good thing going and improving where we need to. I am writing this letter to see if you might consider helping my school and giving to our Annual Fund before it’s too late!

When it comes to our kids, we’re all in this together.

Let’s keep working hard so Brent can continue to grow and soar! Whether it’s $10, $25, $50, $100, or more, every donation counts toward our goal.