Coming Up

**Wednesday, November 28**
PTA General Meeting
6:30 – 8 p.m.
Childcare Provided
ASL Interpreters Provided

Dine Out at Lavagna (539 8th St SE)

**Friday, November 30**
Principal’s Coffee
8:30 a.m.

**Friday, November 30 - Sunday, December 2**
Brent Christmas Tree and Holiday Sale

**Saturday, December 1 – Friday, December 7**
Brent Annual Book Fair

**Wednesday, December 5**
Picture Re-Takes and Make-ups
Email Denise Diggs - denise.diggs@dc.gov to add your child to the list.

**Thursday, December 6**
Brent Spirit Day Celebrating Inclusive Schools Week
Uniform-Free Day - students should wear rainbow colors

Today is the Last Day for Pre-Order! Pre-Order a Beautiful Christmas Tree, Wreaths, Flowers and More!
ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE NOW!! On November 30-December 2nd the 8th Annual Brent Elementary PTA Holiday Tree and Greenery sale will be back!!! Come get a gorgeous tree, wreath, or greenery, and get in the holiday spirit all while supporting Brent Elementary School. The website is up NOW and orders are being taken at www.brentholiday-sale.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

Photos: Scenes from Health and Fitness Day
- And much more...

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

**Also – Canopies Needed In Case of Rain!!**

In addition, we ask the Brent family if we could use any canopies for the holiday sale this weekend from Friday through Sunday. We know a lot of families have canopies for soccer teams and other sporting events. Due to the forecast, in order to keep our volunteers handling the checkout as well as other areas as dry as possible, we ask if we can please borrow your canopy. It can be dropped off at the school anytime this week that is convenient. Although it may rain, the sale will go on.

**Baked Goods Needed for Christmas Tree and Holiday Sale**

Calling all Brent Bakers! Planning to do some holiday baking this week? Don’t forget to double the receipt and bring your baked goods to the bake sale during the tree sale this coming weekend.

Sign up here: [https://tinyurl.com/brentbakes](https://tinyurl.com/brentbakes)

Baked goods can be dropped off Friday evening or Saturday during the sale.

**PTA General Meeting – This Wednesday, November 28 6:30 – 8 p.m.**

At this Wednesday’s Brent PTA General Meeting, Andre Samuels, Jefferson Academy’s (Brent’s feeder middle school) principal, and members of the 6th grade teaching team will update the Brent community on the $73 million dollar modernization project and Jefferson’s expanding program offerings. Several Brent Alumni who now attend Jefferson and their parents will be participating in a panel, followed by small discussion groups that will focus on academic rigor, school culture, and extracurricular activities, among other topics.

Also, following the middle school presentations and conversation, Principal Lycknell will discuss the 1st Quarter and Trimester Specials Report Cards and the recent Learning Showcases.

Childcare and pizza are provided by the PTA for Brent students. The Used Uniform table will be open before the meeting for you to pick up some uniform items and help Brent students in need through your donations. Come join us tomorrow for a night of education and conversation!

**Thanksgiving Can Drive Success**

Thank you to all of the Brent Bears who donated to our annual can drive! Participating in the can drive demonstrates our “empathetic” and “active” BEAR values. Thanks to you, we were able to reach our goal of collecting 80 cans each of cranberry sauce, green beans, and yams, supporting many local families in need this holiday season. See photo.

**Brent Team Participates in SOME’s Thanksgiving Trot For Hunger**

For the 5th year, Brent Elementary Bears participated in SOME’s Thanksgiving Trot for Hunger. The bitterly cold weather didn’t dampen spirits and collectively the team raised almost $500 to assist SOME (So Others Might Eat). Thanks to everyone who participated and donated! See photo.

**Brent Picture Re-Takes and Make-Ups - December 5**

Brent has been made aware that some individual school pictures turned out blurry. Lifetouch, the vendor, has apologized for this. Picture re-takes and make-ups will be on Wednesday, December 5. If you would like your child’s picture retaken or if your child was absent that day, please email Denise Diggs at denise.diggs@dc.gov. Retakes will be taken inside and Brent staff will be monitoring the process. It will be a uniform free day for students participating in the re-take session. If you are returning a packet of pictures, please bring them directly to the front office. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Diggs.
The Brent Annual Scholastic Book Fair Is Coming - Saturday, December 1 to Friday, December 7

Brent’s Annual Scholastic Book Fair will run from December 1 to December 7. The fair will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. and from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. On Wednesday, December 5, the fair will close at 6:30 p.m. Grand opening will be on Saturday, December 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., which coincides with the Christmas Tree Sale. The Book Fair is a great opportunity to accomplish a good portion of your holiday shopping at Brent.

Please consider helping with the fair. Volunteers are needed for set-up on Friday, November 30 at 3:30 p.m., for clean-up on Friday, December 7, at 4:30 p.m., and to sell books. If you can help, please contact Ms. Bettina at bettina.schewe@dc.gov, or come to the library to let her know in person.

DCPS Reading Challenge

It is not too late to participate in the district-wide 5 Million Minute Reading Challenge. Students can participate by recording their reading at https://brentes.beanstack.org and logging in with Clever (Username: Student ID; Password: Birthdate - MMDDYY) or with the Beanstack Reading App. The Beanstack app is the perfect tool to track your child’s daily reading anywhere and anytime. Here is how it works:

- Visit the App Store or Play Store and download the free Beanstack app;
- Search for Brent ES and select it;
- Sign in using your child’s Student ID as the username and the birthdate (MMDDYY) as the password – this is the Clever login;
- Go to “Log” at the bottom of the screen and select the “+” button in the upper right corner—scan the book your child is reading;
- A timer will start when you press “Start a Reading Session”;
- You can access past reading sessions for a book by selecting the title, and swiping up. All time spent reading can easily be copied to the reading log required as part of the homework.

Contact Ms. Bettina at bettina.schewe@dc.gov with any questions.

Annual Fund - Give Today!

With the charitable giving season kicking off today on Giving Tuesday, we hope that you will consider donating to the Annual Fund. It’s a wonderful way to invest in our children’s education. Their experiences at Brent are enhanced by the generosity of parents. Please join us in continuing our school's long history of parent support by donating here: http://bit.ly/BrentFund. All donations are a critical step toward reaching our goal of $120,000 and 100% family participation. We’re now 35% of the way to the financial goal with 15% of families participating and really appreciate all those families who have already donated. Help us move toward our goal this Giving Tuesday!
**Inclusive Schools Week is December 3rd-7th!**

Each year in DCPS, we celebrate Inclusive Schools Week by recognizing the progress that our schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students who have historically been marginalized due to disability, gender, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, language preference and other factors. The week-long celebration, taking place Monday, December 3 through Friday, December 7, provides an important opportunity for educators, students, and parents to discuss ways to ensure that every school continues to successfully educate all children. See the attached form from the Diversity Working Group for an activity at home.

Below are some books to read with your family which emphasize the themes of the week:

**Picture Books:**
- *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Moses Goes to School* and other books about Moses by Isaac Millman
- *My Brother Charlie* by Holly Robinson Peete & Ryan Elizabeth Peete
- *Uniquely Wired* by Julia Cook
- *It’s OK to be Different* by Todd Parr
- *My Best Friend is as Sharp as a Pencil* by Hanoch Piven

**Chapter Books:**
- *Counting by 7’s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan
- *Out of my Mind* by Sharon M. Draper

**Wonder** by R.J. Palacio

**Video:**
- Amazing Things Happen
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JdCY-cdgkI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JdCY-cdgkI)

**Springboard Winter Enrichment Schedule Released**

Attached to the paper version of TuesNews is Springboard’s Winter Enrichment Schedule. Register by December 8 to secure your child’s spot. Visit springboardkids.com or call 800-341-3177 for more information.

**Sing to Me From the Trees, Please Poetry Book for students in ECE – 1st grade**

The National Child Research Center has provided copies of the children’s poetry book, *Sing to Me From the Trees, Please*, to all students in ECE through 1st grade. These hardback books are being distributed with today’s TuesNews.

**Buying Gifts on Amazon?**

Remember to go through www.smile.amazon.com. It works the same as Prime and with regular Amazon purchases. When you choose Brent Elementary as your charity of choice, the school receives a percentage of your purchases.

**Beautycounter Pop Up Shop to Support the Annual Fund**

Give the gift of clean, non-toxic beauty this holiday and support our school. On Sunday, December 2 from 1-3 p.m. check out the Beautycounter Pop Up Shop located at 407 G Street, SE and 10% of sales will be donated to the Brent PTA. Find something for everyone on your list including teens, moms, and guys or the perfect look for your holiday parties. There will also be hand made winter hats and accessories from the DC based crochet company, Penny + Paul, and a hot chocolate bar. If you can’t make it, shop here: [https://www.beautycounter.com/kellienasser?goto=](https://www.beautycounter.com/kellienasser?goto=)

**Brent’s Next Spirit Day is Thursday, December 6!**

Brent’s next Spirit Day is Thursday, December 6th. This year, Brent is celebrating Inclusive Schools Week. In honor of this year’s theme, Kaleidoscope of Friends, children are invited to wear something rainbow or something bright so that the Brent Bears create their own “kaleidoscope of friends.”

**Club Day Coming Up - Friday, December 7**

Brent’s 2nd Club Day of the year is Friday, December 7th. We will begin the day with an all-school meeting led by 4th grade and clubs will be held from 10:05-10:50 a.m.

**Diverse Books Reading Spotlight**

In celebration of National Adoption Month, please consider the following books to read as a family:

- *A Mother for Choco* by Keiko Kasza (32 pages) A lonely little bird named Choco goes in search of a mother. He learns that families can come in all shapes and sizes and still fit together.
- *We Belong Together: A Book about Adoption and Families* by Todd Parr (32 pages) The joy of adoption and bringing families together is presented in this tale. Todd Parr’s colorful art explores the meaning of family.
- *Waiting for May* by Janet Morgan
Stoeko (32 pages) A young boy looks forward to the day when a new sister, who will be adopted from China, joins his family.

*Over the Moon: An Adoption Tale* by Karen Katz (28 pages) A magical, reassuring story about international adoption and one adoptive family’s beginnings.

*In Our Mothers’ House* by Patricia Polacco (48 pages) The oldest of three adopted children recalls her childhood with mothers Marmee and Meema, as they raised their African American daughter, Asian American son, and Caucasian daughter in a lively, supportive neighborhood.

*Bo at Ballard Creek* by Kirkpatrick Hill (304 pages) In 1920’s Alaska, orphaned Bo is raised by two gold miners, with the help of all the kind people of the nearby Eskimo village.

*Saffy’s Angel* by Hilary McKay (160 pages) The first novel in the Casson Family series tells the story of adopted Saffy and her quirky, loving, artistic family.

Each of these books is in the Brent Library and DC Public Library collections and can also be purchased from your local bookseller. Happy Reading!

**Lost and Found**

As this quarter comes to a close, please take a moment to check the Lost and Found for items your child may have misplaced. All left over items without names will be donated at the end of each school quarter. As the weather begins to change, please take a moment to label your child’s belongings so they can be returned in a timely manner. Also note, small items, such as jewelry, watches, sunglasses, are held by Mrs. Ferguson. Please see her in the front office if you are missing a small item.

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**Principal’s Corner**

Dear Brent Families,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

I am excited to host the November Principal’s Coffee this Friday, November 30th from 8:15-10:00 a.m. While we normally meet in the vestibule, Friday is an indoor arrival day (due to the Tree and Holiday Sale set up – we will also have indoor recess and dismissal). We will gather in the main office instead.

Our November Principal’s Coffee will operate in tandem with this week’s PTA meeting, offering a space for a more in-depth discussion about:

- The Upper Grades at Brent and Planning for the Middle School Transition
- The Philosophy and Structure of Triennial Learning Showcases
- Understanding Report Cards (including special subject report cards, which will go home to 1st-5th graders on Thursday)
- The Launch of the DCPS Budget Season for FY20

As always, questions and ideas that stretch beyond these topics are welcome.

See you on Friday!

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell
Principal