Coming Up

**Wednesday, November 7**
LSAT Meeting  
6:30 - 8 p.m.  
This is a closed session for LSAT members only.

**Thursday, November 8**
Math Night  
6 - 7:30 p.m.  
ASL Interpreters Provided

**Monday, November 12**
Veterans Day  
No School for students, teachers and staff

**Thursday, November 15**
Diversity Working Group Meeting  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

**Friday, November 16**
1st - 5th Grade End of Trimester Concert  
6 – 6:45 p.m.  
Students need arrive at 5:45 p.m. in concert attire – white top and black pants/skirt

**Monday, November 19**
Specials Learning Showcase  
Showcases will be during specials classes

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

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Brent Math Night on Thursday! Come and Have Sum Fun!
The always amazing Brent Math Night adds up to fun this Thursday, November 8. This celebration of math includes math games and math stations for K – 5th families along with pizza at 6 p.m. Volunteers are needed to make the event a success. Volunteer activities are very easy - half an hour setting up, serving pizza at the beginning, or cleaning up at the end. You can sign up at https://tinyurl.com/ybc7tj2b

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Honor Veterans at Folger Park this Sunday, November 11 at 11 a.m.
The Brent Community is invited to honor Veterans in Folger Park on Sunday, November 11 a.m. at noon. The American Legion will host a ceremony in the park and a
luncheon at the post immediately following the ceremony. All are welcome. The post address is: 224 D Street, SE (across the street from Folger Park).

Specialist Newsletter Posted
Please visit Brent’s website at http://www.brentelementary.org/specials.html to review the latest Specialist newsletter!

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 Students= Cranberry Sauce

Our goal is to collect 80 cans of each item! Please help us reach this goal by bringing in cans by November 16th. Children may donate cans by bringing them into class or by placing them directly on the donation table in Brent’s front hallway.

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, and the like, are held by Mrs. Ferguson. Please see her if you are missing a small item.

National Museum of Women in the Arts Partnership
Last week second graders applied the reading skills they’re learning in the classroom to art 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 our 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 photo.

DC Gov Announcements: DC Needs more Foster Parents
If you are interested in learning more about becoming a DC foster parent or know someone who is, visit www.fosterdckids.org or call 202.671.5683. Also, you can follow Child and Family Services on social media where information and news is continuously posted on our Twitter account (@DCCFSA) and on our Facebook Page.

Last Chance to Order these Terrific Brent T-Shirts
Calling All Brent Bears!
Last chance to order the latest Brent T-Shirt Designs - the back of one of the shirts even includes our Brent values! If you are interested, please visit https://brentbears-2018.itemorder.com/sale and order directly from Bay Imprint. Orders are being accepted through November 11.

The PTA wants to hear from you!
The PTA is considering having the Parent Encouragement Program (PEP) speak at a future PTA meeting and would like to know what topics interest you. PEP is a non-profit, educational organization that provides classes, events and educational resources to parents and all who care for children, toddlers through teens. The possible PEP topics are: Morning Mayhem; Positive Discipline; Raising “I Can” Kids; and Tackling Technology. For additional details about each topic and to cast your vote, please go to https://tinyurl.com/brentptasurvey.
What is your teaching and educational background?

I attended Catholic University where I received my Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education. This is my first year teaching first grade at Brent, but I did my student teaching in a first grade classroom at EW Stokes in Northeast DC. Last year I taught 3rd grade at Creative Minds Public Charter School, and have spent some time at a variety of different schools in the DC area.

You were quite the softball player in college at Catholic – starting at shortstop with an incredible on base percentage your senior year. How do you apply your success in athletics to teaching?

I believe (and teach!) that athletics are a wonderful way for people to learn life lessons and acquire transferable life skills that can be used every day. I have found that the lessons I learned about persistence, teamwork, striving for a goal, practice, preparation and so many more, are lessons that I use every day as a teacher. For me there is a direct correlation between the hard work necessary to be successful on the field and the hard work necessary to be successful in the classroom.

Tell us how the start of the school year is going for your class!

The start of the year has been wonderful! Here in first grade, the Spectacular Dolphins and all of our first grade families have given me a warm welcome to Brent Elementary. In addition, I am a member of a fabulous first grade team who is “showing me the ropes” day in and day out. In room 204, we have been growing as readers, writers, mathematicians and most recently historians, as we just began a new unit in social studies about the Maya, Inca, and Aztecs!

We have also had a great time this fall getting to know one another and building our classroom community (plus a little bit of fun following the Red Sox). Part of our successful start is due to all of the support I received from the PTA as a new teacher to Brent. The community of teachers and parents at Brent have welcomed me and I am so grateful for all of the resources and support I have received! Everyone has been so kind and I am so grateful.

You are partnered with two terrific classroom teachers on the 1st grade team – Ms. Bisanz and Ms. Patterson along with the 1st grade focus teacher, the amazing Ms. Harding-Wright. Walk us through the team’s collaboration process.

I cannot stress enough how AMAZING this team has been! Ms. Bisanz, Ms. Patterson and Ms. Harding-Wright are wonderful people to work with and learn from. We work well together, what I would call four bodies and “one brain.” Everyone on the team wants all of the first graders to have the best year possible and we work towards that goal every day. It been a great experience watching each person bring their strengths to the team, to create the first grade dream team! We work hard to collaborate and try to have some fun in the process! I am thankful and lucky to be part of this team.

What words have your students used to describe you as a teacher?

If I had to guess some of the words that my students would use to describe me, they would be: bad dancer (they know that Ms. Hoisl does not have very many moves), sports lover, and teacher who
believes being kind is more important than anything else.

What are your hopes and dreams for your students?
My hopes and dreams for our first graders this year are that they become passionate learners and continue to grow as students and people. I hope that the first graders form positive relationships in our community and feel like the classroom is their second home. I hope that every student feels celebrated for who they are and the amazing gifts they have to share with the world.

Anacostia Watershed Field Trip by Ruby Summers, 4th Grade
On Wednesday, October 31, the Tenacious Turtles [4th grade] went on a field trip to the Anacostia Watershed. They were learning about ways to stop all the trash and chemicals in the watershed that is carried by the rainwater from getting into the Anacostia.

One of the most important ways is to have more meadows. Meadows soak up most of the water and help break down some of the chemicals in the rainwater. They also provide a habitat for many animals. Most of the trash that the rainwater picked up will get stuck in the meadows. Then people can take it out from the meadow and put it in the correct place.

The fourth graders started out by taking a walk from Heritage Island to Kingman Island. There they got on a boat and talked about what they saw around them and what the river looked like a long time ago. When they got off the boat, they were in a meadow. The fourth graders collected Indian grass that they were going to use to plant another meadow not as well grown. They got back on the boat to make their last stop before going back to where they had started. When they got there they ate lunch and then got to make birdhouses! This was an activity where there were two or three people in a group. They worked together with screws and handheld screwdrivers to turn pre drilled wood blocks into birdhouses! They got to take them back to Brent! The birdhouses are now in the Tenacious Turtles classroom. They are planning to hang them somewhere around Brent. When everyone was finished they got back on the boat for the last time. When they got back to where they started, with special instructions they planted some of the Indian grass they had collected from before! Sadly, this was the end of their trip and they had to go back to Brent. See photos.
Brent Elementary PTA

Christmas Tree & Holiday Sale

FRESH
Christmas trees,
wreaths,
garlands,
pointsettia,
& Hanukkah gifts

Friday, November 30 - Sunday, December 2

Pre-order at www.brentholidaystore.com