Coming Up

Monday, December 10, 2018 - Friday, March 1, 2019
MySchoolDC Lottery Window for PS - 8th
Visit myschooldc.org to apply

Thursday, December 13
Diversity Working Group
6:30 – 8 p.m.

Thursday, December 20
Principal’s Coffee
8:30 - 10 a.m.

Jefferson Open House
6 - 7:30 p.m.

December 24 - January 1
Winter Break
Staff and students return on Wednesday, January 2

Friday, January 11
International Night
6 - 7:30 p.m.

Monday, January 21
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Brent Closed

Tuesday, January 22
PD and Records Day
No School for Students

Wednesday, January 23
Professional Development Day
No School for Students

Calling all Brent actors, dancers, and singers!!!

Auditions for Brent’s annual musical are this week. This year we are excited to present Disney’s “Alice in Wonderland” (performance dates: April 10th & 11th). All interested thespians should pick up a participation form and audition packet outside of room #102. You must be in grades second through fifth to tryout for a speaking role. First graders do not need to audition and can be included in the ensemble by just filling out the participation form. Auditions are this Wednesday (December 12) and Thursday (December 13) at 8:00 a.m. in classroom #102. Wednesday’s auditions are for second and third graders while Thursday’s auditions are for fourth and fifth graders. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to ask. Please direct all questions to brentmusical@gmail.com. Looking forward to another awesome Brent production!
School STAR Report Card Released
Last week, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), DC’s state education agency unveiled the new DC School Report Card, which will provide students, families, and educators with comprehensive information about the performance of public schools in the District, including each school’s rating on the new School Transparency and Reporting (STAR) Framework. OSSE led the development of the DC School Report Card as part of federal requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). OSSE worked with school leaders, families, advocates, content experts, and members of the community to design a DC School Report Card that meets the new federal requirements and also provides families with transparent, accessible information about DC’s public schools.

STAR Report Cards contain over 150 data elements and detailed information about school program offerings. The Brent community should note that OSSE is working on correcting several errors on Brent’s report. Brent is not a title I school and Brent does not offer free before and after care.

Visit dcschoolreportcard.org to access school STAR Report Cards.

Brent Book Fair a Success
Thank you to all volunteers and shoppers for a successful book fair. About $1,500 were raised for the library. Happy reading!

Lost & Found - Unclaimed Items to be Donated December 21.
As the weather continues to get colder, please label your child’s coats and belongings. This ensures that all items placed in Lost & Found can be returned in a timely manner. Please note that on December 21st ALL unlabeled Lost & Found items will be donated.

On December 15-16, Some Brent students will perform in the Jazz Hip Hop Nutcracker!
Momentum Dance Theatre, a Capitol-Hill based dance studio, is presenting its nineteenth annual holiday show, the Jazz Hip Hop Nutcracker. The show is a contemporary interpretation of the classic Nutcracker, set to music from Duke Ellington’s Nutcracker Suite plus hip hop and contemporary and classic pop, funk, and salsa. Brent fourth graders Ava, Clara, Elsie, Lucy, and Olive, second graders Beatrice and Eleanor, and first graders Kaia, Lucy and Maya, will be performing in three shows, all at Wilson Senior High School: 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday December 15, and 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 16. Tickets are available on Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jazz-hip-hop-nutcracker-saturday-dec-15th-730pm-tickets-51753044750 (get your tickets in advance as prices increase at the door). The kids would love to see their friends in the audience!

Brent Elementary’s Attendance Committee Improving On-Time Arrivals
This week, Denise Diggs, manager strategy and logistics, and Stephanie Young, Brent’s social worker, are conducting interviews of families of students who arrive after the 8:45 a.m. bell and are late to school. Ms. Diggs and Ms. Young are part of Brent’s attendance committee and are working to address the increasing number of students who arrive late to school. Next week, Brent’s Attendance Team will be launching a campaign to improve Brent’s on-time arrival rate. If any family has feedback on initiatives and programs that Brent can implement to improve on time arrival, please email Denise Diggs at denise.diggs@dc.gov.

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Dear Brent Community,

Last week, the Brent community celebrated Inclusive Schools Week, an annual nationwide event sponsored by the Inclusive Schools Network (inclusiveschools.org). The theme this year, Kaleidoscope of Friends, called on schools to remember that:

“Education takes on a beautiful shape when all children belong and are valued as contributing members of the school community.”

Brent’s multi-disciplinary team of focus teachers and service providers planned a week of events that spotlighted not just the message of inclusion but also a foundational operating principle: *We will seek understanding about individual students in order to advance their learning* and a school rule, which was developed by students: *Everyone is welcome and treated equally to have fun.*

Each day had a theme and an activity. Students, through play, challenges, read alouds, and an all-school meeting, were given many opportunities to learn through the importance of valuing, building and fostering community.

As an educator, it is always immensely gratifying to see students applying lessons learned in a real life situation. After Teamwork Tuesday, in a 1st grade class, magnet letter kits were all mixed up. During daily phonics work, an unorganized magnetic letter kit creates an almost untenable burden for a six-year-old. A group of 12 1st graders gathered around the pile and exclaimed, “teams make work go faster,” and “teamwork makes the dream work” and proceeded to organize the pile back into kits together. At Friday’s morning meeting, another 1st grader reflected what the week meant to him by declaring, “All are welcome at Brent.”

Last week’s message to students and staff was more than celebrating diversity, building new relationships and promoting the value of teamwork. Last week was meant to practice intentionally communicating and illustrating the value of each member of our beautiful community. We will continue this work throughout the school year both with students, staff and parents. I welcome feedback and questions.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell
Principal

*Photos: Scenes from Mix it Up Monday*
December 4, 2018

Dear Parents and Families:

Throughout the course of the year, DC Public Schools (DCPS) and the DC Department of General Services (DGS) partner to coordinate lead testing of drinking water sources within all schools. I am writing to share the updated results.

Per District of Columbia law, all drinking water sources must test below 5 ppb (parts per billion), which is the standard to which the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates bottled water. **DCPS is pleased to share that all of the drinking water sources sampled this year within your child’s school tested below 5 ppb.**


Lead has a long history of use in the United States. The fight to limit, and eventually end, exposure to it is ongoing. DCPS is committed to ensuring that every drinking water source is below the 5 ppb standard. Please visit [https://dcps.dc.gov/page/water-testing-lead](https://dcps.dc.gov/page/water-testing-lead) to learn more about lead, read through the testing protocol, and review water filtration efforts.

If you have any additional questions, the Office of the Chief Operating Officer is a resource to families and can be reached via email at schooloperations.dcps@dc.gov or by phone at (202) 442-5192.

Sincerely,

C. Douglas Hollis, Jr.
Deputy Chief, School Operations
# Brent Annual Fund Campaign

**Only 26 Days Left of Giving**

**$66,368.31 Raised to date**

55% to goal of $120,000

33% family participation

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<th>Early Childhood</th>
<th>2nd Grade</th>
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<td>Akagi 29%</td>
<td>Berg 46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bailey 59%</td>
<td>Laskowski 26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miller 41%</td>
<td>Meneghello 42%</td>
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<td>Montgomery 35%</td>
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<th>Kindergarten</th>
<th>3rd Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Copeland 32%</td>
<td>Hill 27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly 57%</td>
<td>Kraemer 43%</td>
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<td>Santora 23%</td>
<td>Maschari 29%</td>
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<td>Bisanz 28%</td>
<td>Leary 26%</td>
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<td>Hoesl 41%</td>
<td>Rodriguez 39%</td>
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<td>Patterson 36%</td>
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The Annual Fund contributes to nearly HALF of Brent Elementary Annual Budget. Our families help to further enable our school as a stand out destination for academics, programming and community. Please tell your friends and consider making your donation today!

We have Trojan P.R.I.D.E come and learn about what’s happening at

JEFFERSON ACADEMY

OPEN HOUSE

Includes an overview of Jefferson Academy from Principal Andre Samuels and a tour of our Jefferson Learning Villas.

Thursday, Dec. 20, 6-7:30 pm
Thursday, Jan. 17, 6-7:30 pm
Thursday, Feb. 28, 6-7:30 pm
Thursday, Mar. 21, 6-7:30 pm

To RSVP, please call the Jefferson Academy main office (202-729-3270).