

THE TUES. NEWS 12-18-2018

BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Coming Up

**Monday, December 10, 2018 -
Friday, March 1, 2019**

MySchoolDC Lottery Window for
PS - 8th

Visit myschooldc.org to apply

Wednesday, December 19

Annual Fund - Morning Event

7:45 - 9 a.m.

Thursday, December 20

Principal's Coffee

8:40 - 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



Wondering what the Annual Fund is all about?

Keep intending to donate to the Annual Fund but forget to bring the check or add donating by PayPal to your To Do list? Tomorrow morning (Wednesday, December 19), the Annual Fund Committee will be happy to answer all your questions and accept your donation over a cup of coffee. From 7:45 to 9:00 a.m., come by the

Photos: Scenes from the recent 4th grade publishing party.

Annual Fund table to find out why your donations are critical to this year's budget. Spoiler alert: without those donations, the PTA won't have enough money in this year's budget to pay for all the things that help make the Brent experience special. With over \$75,000 of the \$120,000 goal donated to date, there's an almost \$45,000 gap to

close between today and the end of the Annual Fund drive on January 5th. Please stop by tomorrow, grab a cup of coffee, and help us close that gap! Big thanks to the 111 families who have already donated! Please give today: <http://bit.ly/BrentFund>

Hill Preschool – Safety Concerns

Please be mindful of Hill Preschool families arriving and departing the Church of the Brethern next door. There have been a couple of near serious collisions with Brent students on bikes and scooters. Please remind students to slow down on sidewalks when riding to and from school.

Save the Date: International Night is Friday, January 11th!

Get ready for Brent's annual family fun evening of international foods, performances, crafts, and a fashion show! Interested in bringing international food, performing, or other kinds of volunteering? Want to sign your child up to take part in the international fashion show? Sign up on <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17Sb4dfcEe57q9Gsv9ImkItvtfe9h3cowbtI8DNs90wA/edit#gid=0>

Please email Mr. Krohn at joshua.krohn@dc.gov with any questions.

Great News – Jefferson Academy Modernization Ahead of Schedule

Jefferson Academy, Brent's feeder Middle school, is undergoing modernization of its facilities and while students are currently housed in trailers on site, the bulk of the school is going through a full modernization costing more than \$70 million. The anticipated completion date was for the beginning of the 2020 School year (so in time

for Brent's current 4th graders).

Yesterday the Parent Teacher Organization received some very exciting and somewhat unbelievable news from DCPS. They shared with the PTO that the contractors are ahead of schedule in the modernization and would have the academic building, science labs, library and design studios completed by the start of the next school year.

This shift in the schedule will mean that students are done with the trailers at the end of this school year and the construction teams will have a greater ability to get the landscaping and other work around the school done without having to leave it all to the summer period before the start of the 2020 school year.

This is really great news, and credit goes primarily to MCN Contractors who have been doing the work and identified the opportunity. The plans for the school really are exciting and beautiful.

At a practical level, this means Brent's current 5th graders will have beautiful new facilities and current 4th graders are much less likely to see the trail end of construction at the beginning of their school year.

DCPS 5 Million Minute Reading Challenge

The District-wide 5 Million Minute Reading Challenge has been extended through January 31, 2019. All students and their families are asked to help reach this goal. Please encourage your child(ren) to read, or/and read with them every single day; this is particularly important over the school break.

To log your child's reading, please follow these directions:

1. Go to <https://brentes.beanstack.org>

and select "Log in with Clever" at the bottom of the page. Sign in using your child's Student ID as the username and the Birthdate (MMDDYY) as the password. Or you can go to the Clever site at <https://clever.com/in/dcpsk12>, log in and then click on the "Beanstack" option (under Library).

2. In Beanstack, click on the "Log Reading" button at the top.

3. As your child records reading time, he or she will earn virtual badges.

You can also use the Beanstack app to conveniently track your child(ren)'s daily reading:

- 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".

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Bettina (bettina.schewe@dc.gov) with any questions.

Happy Reading!

Last Call – For Lost and Found Items

Winter 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 21 will be donated to Goodwill.



**Principal's
Corner**

Dear Brent Families,

As 2018 comes to a close at Brent, we have many successes to celebrate - the collective kind such as developing our philosophy and organization of play or increasing the frequency of small group instruction, and the individual kind such as the acquisition of a reading goal or the development of a new friendship. As we approach 2019, we look forward to the pursuit of new and continuing objectives, those that address our growth areas and sense of possibility – bolstering individualized instruction toward advancing all students, generating strategies for addressing a persistent opportunity gap and renewing the hopes and dreams that will shape the second half of the school year.

In December and January, we will offer two significant opportunities to reflect and envision. The December Principal's Coffee this Thursday, December 20th from 8:40 a.m.-10:00 a.m., (please note the time change) will explore our OSSE School Report Card and Star Rating. The annual January State of the School (January 30th from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m., a date that may differ from recent classroom communications) will offer an in-depth analysis of school data, operating principles and our comprehensive school plan.

I will step away from Brent – in presence though certainly not in mind – for maternity leave from the December break through the February break. We have planned carefully for this period and I am grateful for our capable team who will maintain our pattern of reflection and our push for growth. Sara Ewbank, our Assistant Principal, will be your primary point of contact. I will stay connected through a system of daily digests and by attending key planning meetings, including all community leadership group meetings (LSAT, PTA, DWG, SIT).

We celebrate the end of 2018 with a sense of pride and welcome 2019 with a sense of the great things still to come. Have a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell
Principal

**Brent Attendance Committee
- Late Arrivals**

Brent's Attendance Committee will be working hard in 2019 to ensure all students arrive to school on time. Brent has too many students arriving late to school. Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year. Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.

Last week members of the attendance committee interviewed families who arrived late to school to determine what support Brent can provide families. Families

provided authentic reasons for the late arrivals and offered many constructive suggestions for Brent. Thank you to all families, who in the rush of a late morning, stopped and answered attendance questions.

Please ensure your child arrives to school by 8:30 a.m. to be able to line up with his/her class and begin the morning arrival routine. Students who arrive to their classrooms after 8:45 a.m. are marked tardy.

If you have any questions, please contact Denise Diggs at denise.diggs@dc.gov or Stephanie Young at stephanie.young@dc.gov.

BRENT ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

ONLY **19 DAYS** LEFT OF GIVING

\$75,336.29 Raised to Date

63% to goal of \$120,000

39% family participation

<u>Early Childhood</u>		<u>2nd Grade</u>	
Akagi	41%	Berg	50%
Bailey	59%	Laskowski	26%
Miller	52%	Meneghello	42%
Montgomery	41%		
<u>Kindergarten</u>		<u>3rd Grade</u>	
Copeland	41%	Hill	32%
Kelly	57%	Kraemer	43%
Santora	41%	Maschari	33%
<u>1st Grade</u>		<u>4th Grade</u>	
Bisanz	32%	Leary	37%
Hoesl	44%	Rodriguez	50%
Patterson	50%	Werstuik	50%
		<u>5th Grade</u>	
		Lee	17%
		Saxton	23%

Did you know that you can set up a small recurring donation on Brent's secure site as a way to give throughout the year? <http://bit.ly/BrentFund>

The AF Committee will be giving out coffee at the school entrance during drop off **Wednesday, December 19** to accept donations by check or credit card.

Consider making your donation today for the 2018 tax year!