DCPS Attendance Policy Update

DCPS has provided further clarification to its attendance policy. Please note: for absences to be excused, ALL excuse notes must be provided to the main office/attendance counselor within 5 days after a student returns from an absence. This includes doctor’s notes and documentation from courts or other documentation. Brent’s front office will continue to notify parents via email when their child has been marked absent and we have not received an email regarding the absence. We will also follow-up with families on Fridays, who had students absent during the week but have not provided information regarding those the absences.

Also, vacation/travel is not a legally approved excuse for an absence from school. Students who are absent due to family travel will be subjected to attendance interventions. Please see attached letter from Andrea E. Allen, J.D. Director of Student Attendance and Support Services for more information.

Photos: Scenes from Brent’s Read Across America Pajama Day

Dear Edwina Jr.

6 - 7:15 p.m.

ASL Interpreters Provided

Friday, April 20

Taste of the Hill Gala Fundraiser - April 20
tickets: brentelementary.org/gala

brentelementary.org/gala
Host a Spirit Party for the Gala
Consider hosting an event or experience that Brent Gala attendees can bid on! These events are a great way to enjoy time with friends and meet new people while benefiting Brent. Families agree to host the event/experience (can be at our residence or a park or elsewhere) and people can buy tickets to attend. Examples include game night, dinner party, wine tasting, etc and can vary in size from just a few to whatever you can manage. If you have questions or are willing to host or co-host, please contact Genevieve Taft-Vazquez at Genevievetaft@yahoo.com

Squash Revolution Offers Free Squash Clinic for Kids at Capitol Hill Sport & Health
Squash Revolution, which provides squash programming to DC schools such as Gonzaga and Sidwell friends, offers a free kids squash open house Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. at Capitol Hill Sport & Health located at 315 G Street SE. To RSVP for the clinic, email info@squashrev.com. For more information, please see attached flyer.

Brent Welcomes Katie Ferguson, a new Front Office Staff Member.

Staff Spotlight
Katie Ferguson
Front Office

Welcome to Brent Elementary! Tell us about your educational and professional background!
Thank you! I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and received my undergraduate degree from Cleveland State University and my graduate degree from Northcentral University. I’ve been working with children for 17 years. I also have extensive experience in elder care as a nurse’s aide, and more recently as an office manager in a fine dining restaurant in DC.

You have a strong background with working with children. Tell us about it!
I love working with children. I have been working in child care and as a preschool teacher since I graduated high school. I have been lucky enough to have maintained relationships with several of the families and children I’ve taught throughout the years, some of whom are now starting college themselves! My favorite part of working with children is watching them learn new things and gain a greater sense of confidence.

How are the first two weeks in the front office?
They were fantastic! Everyone has been exceptionally kind and welcoming here at Brent- parents, students, and faculty alike. I’ve particularly enjoyed making connections with students, and watching teachers interact with their classes. I was also really impressed to see how many parents took time out of their day to came in for TB testing. It’s wonderful to see parents who are so supportive of their school!

What would be some of words folks use to describe you as a person?

What will be your primarily responsibilities?
Supporting the teachers and office staff, completing long and short term projects, working on enrollments and learning as much as I can from Mrs. Casula!

Photos: Ms. Ferguson with husband Josh, Ms. Ferguson with brothers Chad and Ian and one of Ms. Ferguson’s cat’s Milo.