Coming Up

Wednesday, April 3
LSAT Meeting
6:30 - 8 p.m.

Thursday, April 4 and Friday, April 5
Professional Development Days
No School for Students
Springboard programming

Tuesday, April 9
Math and Science Day

Wednesday, April 10 and Thursday, April 11
Brent’s Production of Alice in Wonderland, Jr.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
ASL Interpreters Provided

Thursday, April 11
Spirit Day - Wear Purple for Month of the Military Child

Monday, April 15 - 19
Spring Break
No school for students & teachers

PARCC Administration Dates
April 29th through May 3rd - 4th/5th ELA
May 6th through 10th - 4th/5th Math
May 13th through 21st - 3rd ELA and Math
May 20th and 21st - 5th Science

Enrollment Season Begins - Completed Enrollment Packets Due Wednesday, May 1

Today, PS3 – 4th grade students will receive a re-enrollment packet. All returning and new families must submit the required enrollment forms and present current residency verification documents in person to the front office by Wednesday, May 1, 2019. Given the large number of families on the waiting list for a seat at Brent, it is important that current families complete this process by the deadline. If your child is NOT returning to Brent, please complete the yellow form in the packet and return the enrollment packet to the front office for re-use. For families who will be using utility bills as part of residency verification, please note that this year, utility bills must have a separate proof of payment. The proof of payment can be a receipt, a cleared check, a print out of the online payment or the next month’s bill showing the payment for the previous month. If you have any questions about the
enrollment process, contact Denise Diggs at denise.diggs@dc.gov.

Brent Annual Spring Gala: Taste of Hill a Success - A Terrific Evening had by All!
Thank you so much to all who helped make Brent’s Spring Gala and Auction a successful fundraiser, specifically the Gala Committee: April Boyd, Tasha Ferguson, Laura Martinez, Kellie Nasser, Claire Portolese, Rebecca Saxton-Fox, Meg Shapiro, Seth Shapiro, Ana Townsend and Whitney Paxson, the Auctioneers of the Year - Rob Boyd and Candace Fleming, all of the many Class Basket and Class Art leads, and the wonderful volunteers who helped make the event run smoothly.

Because of the great team effort, we were able to raise $65,000 for the PTA budget. You can help us surpass that goal by bidding on post auction items and buying spots to the Madhatter Dinner in the Garden Party, An Evening of La Dolce Vite (Cocktails & Venetian style small plates) and the annual and ever popular Texas Hold Em’ Poker Night! Visit https://brentgala.givesmart.com.

Save the Date: Capital Pride Parade - June 8
The 2019 Capital Pride Parade is the afternoon of Saturday, June 8th! The Brent Community will be marching for the third year. This year more than 200 organizations will traverse the 1.5 mile route making this one of DC’s favorite and most impactful parades. Visit www.capitalpride.org/parade for more details.

Listening Sessions with Parents/Guardians of 2nd-5th Graders that Joined Brent this Year - April 8
This spring, Brent Elementary is initiating listening sessions with parents and guardians to understand families’ experiences at the school. This initiative is based on the success of listening sessions that Brent faculty members hold with Brent students each year. Those sessions have allowed the school faculty and administration to hear directly from students about their experiences and have shaped some new initiatives at the school.

We are choosing to conduct parent listening sessions in small groups representing different segments of our community. We find that when participants have something in common, it informs the conversation in a meaningful way and it’s easier to organize our gatherings. This year’s second round of listening sessions are being held with parents and guardians of students in the 2nd-5th grades who joined Brent this year.

The listening sessions will be held in the science classroom at Brent on Monday, April 8. The first session will run from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m., the second from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., and the third from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Kim Taylor at kimberlybarry563@yahoo.com indicating which time you would prefer and if you need childcare. We very much hope you can participate – better understanding your experiences and perspectives is critical to strengthening the Brent community!

Lost and Found - All Items to Be Donated During Spring Break
Please take a moment to check the Lost and Found for Winter gear your child may have misplaced by Friday, April 12. We will donate all left-over items without names during Spring Break. Also note, small items such as jewelry, watches, sunglasses, and the like are held by Mrs. Ferguson in the front office. Please see her if you are missing a small item.

5th Graders Skype with Climate Change Scientist
Last week the 5th graders had the opportunity to Skype with a scientist as a capstone to their research writing unit. Over the course of the unit, 5th graders wrote research reports about various aspects of climate change. During the video chat, they posed thoughtful questions to the expert and learned about how climate change is affecting Alaska specifically.

2nd Graders Tour Frederick Douglass’s Historic House
Last week, as part of their social studies unit “Activism: What is a Hero?”, second graders visited Frederick Douglass’s historic house to learn more about his life and work as an activist.

During their visit, second graders participated in a guided tour
of the home where he lived his last 17 years. Frederick Douglass spent his life fighting for justice and equality. Born into slavery in 1818, he escaped as a young man and became a leading voice in the abolitionist movement. People everywhere still find inspiration today in his tireless struggle, brilliant words, and inclusive vision of humanity. See photo on front page.

**DWG Family Day at NMAAHC Sunday, April 7**

Brent’s Diversity Working Group has 30 tickets for admission to the National Museum of African American History and Culture this Sunday, April 7. We will meet at Brent at 9:00 a.m. and metro to the museum together for entry at 10 am. We would love to have your family join the fun. Interested? Please email Danielle@websterious.com.

**Brent Spirit Day - April 11**

Brent’s next Spirit Day is Thursday, April 11th. The Brent community is encouraged to wear purple to honor April as the Month of the Military Child! The colors from all the service branches, when combined, make a shade of purple. Having a special purple day is a tradition that recognizes and celebrates the children of all branches of service.

**April Specials Newsletter**

Now posted on website check out all the happenings in Brent’s specials classes by visiting the April Specials Newsletter at http://www.brentelementary.org/specials.html

**Meet Brent’s Occupational Therapist, Annissia Hawkins, MS, OTR/L.**

Annissia graduated from Howard University in 2009 and has continued her educational journey through hands-on experiences and trainings since then. She was an adjunct professor at Trinity Washington University for their OT assistant program and regularly consults with organizations who want to create calming sensory spaces for their clients. This is Annissia’s 3rd year at Brent, and she hopes to continue for many more!

In April, the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) celebrates Occupational Therapy Month and the more than 213,000 occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, and students who work nationwide to create fuller lives for clients and their families.

Occupational therapy is the only profession that helps people across the lifespan to do the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of daily activities (occupations). Occupational therapy practitioners enable people of all ages to live life to its fullest by helping them promote health, and prevent—or live better with—injury, illness, or disability. These are just some of the interventions and services that occupational therapy practitioners can provide:

- Helping children with mental challenges such as autism spectrum disorder and physical disabilities such as cerebral palsy to participate fully in school and social situations.
- Keeping older drivers safe and independent in their vehicles by providing in-car assessments, recommendations for adaptive equipment, and appropriate self-restrictions.
- Offering clients who are recovering from a stroke ways to resume independence in bathing, dressing, and cooking a meal.
- Helping people recovering from injury to regain skills necessary to return to work.
- Helping wounded warriors overcome physical injuries such as limb loss, and mental challenges such as TBI and PTSD, and reintegrate into the community.

Occupational therapy practitioners have a holistic perspective, in which the focus is on adapting the environment to fit the person, and the person is an integral part of the therapy team. It is a nearly 100-year-old evidence-based profession deeply rooted in science. Practice areas are Children and Youth; Mental Health; Rehabilitation, Disability, and Participation; Healthy Living; Aging; and Work and Industry.

**Source:**

Brent Elementary presents...

Alice in Wonderland jr.

April 10th & 11th, 2019 at 6:30 PM