Coming Up

PARCC Testing Schedule
April 30 - May 4 = 5th grade
May 7 - May 11 = 4th grade
May 14 - May 18 = 3rd grade

Wednesday, May 16
ECE – 1st Spring Concert
6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 17
2nd – 5th Spring Concert
6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Monday, May 21 – Thursday, May 24
Teacher Appreciation

Wednesday, May 23
PTA General Meeting
6:30 – 8 p.m.

Thursday, May 24
Parent-Teacher Conference Day
No school for students
Springboard Programming

Friday, May 25
Professional Development
No School for Students
No Springboard Programming

Monday, May 28
Memorial Day
School Closed

It’s Never Too Early To Think About Volunteer Opportunities for Next Year

There are many opportunities to volunteer throughout the school year, but some can provide a regular opportunity to work with and advise school leadership and help guide the direction of our school. Four of these groups are the Diversity Working Group (DWG), the Local School Advisory Team (LSAT), PTA, and the School Improvement Team (SIT). Representatives from all four groups will be at a table in connection with each Spring Concert to answer any questions you might have about getting involved in those groups next year. We encourage everyone to stop by.

The DWG, LSAT, and PTA are all elected bodies that will have elections before the end of the school year. If you have thought about running for a position with either group, this would be a great opportunity to learn more about what they do, how they may be changing next year, and what you need to do to run. You can also reach out to these folks with any questions:

LSAT: Brian Kirrane - bpkirrane@gmail.com
PTA: Ben Champa - benchampa@gmail.com
DWG: Danielle Drissel - danielle@websterious.com
SIT: Jim Rendon - ajrendon@gmail.com

Photos: Ms. Renea Brown from the Young Playwrights’ Theater working with 5th graders. See blurb on back.
June 4th- Bridge to Kindergarten Evening 6:30-7:15 p.m.
This event, for all current Brent families with rising kindergartners, aims to provide families with a deep understanding of a day in the life of a kindergartner at Brent and to illuminate the connections between PS3/PK4 and kindergarten. We hope you will join us for an inside look into how the PK and kindergarten teams work to create a positive transition for children socially, emotionally, and academically.

Topics will include: Defining Early Childhood Education, A Day in the Life of a Kindergartener, Making Visible the Continuum of Learning (Math, Writing, Reading, Social-Emotional), Commonly asked Questions, and a Question and Answer forum.

Young Playwrights’ Theater
Ms. Renea Brown from the Young Playwrights’ Theater has been working with the 21 Strivers for the past 2 months. Students learned about stage directions, protagonists, antagonists and character motivation. Each student wrote scenes of a short play that included aspects of what they learned. The culminating visit included students performing their scenes and reflecting about what they would add to continue their plays. The 21 Strivers truly enjoyed the experience and the time spent with Ms. Brown.

Lost and Found
As we all start to put away our winter gear and transition into warmer weather, please check the Lost and Found to see if any of your child's belongings are in there. We have a myriad of hats, gloves, scarfs, coats and miscellaneous items. On June 15, all remaining items will be thrown out or donated, depending on their condition. Lost and Found items will not be saved past June 15th.

Social Media
Brent is now on Instagram @brentbears. As a reminder Brent’s Twitter is @BrentElementary. If you have anything you’d like posted, please contact Katherine. fergsuon@dc.gov

Music Notes by Joshua Krohn
The Spring Concerts will be on May 16 for our ECE-1st grade musicians and on May 17 for our 2nd-5th grade musicians. Both concerts will start promptly at 6 p.m. and students are asked to arrive at 5:40 p.m. on their respective evenings in concert white/black (i.e. white shirt/blouse, black pants/skirt/dress).

The Talent Shows are coming up in June and I am looking for talented KG-5th grade students that want to show off their skills! This year there will be two evening performances as well as a morning dress rehearsal. One performance will be on June 5 at 6:00 p.m. for our KG-2nd grade participants and the other performance will be on June 7 at 6:00 p.m. for our 3rd-5th grade participants. Registration forms have been emailed and are available in the music room (#206)

Those students wanting to audition must have their forms signed by a parent/guardian AND turned in no later than May 23. No late forms will be accepted.

On May 23 the fifth grade students will be going to The Kennedy Center to experience the National Symphony Orchestra’s “Young People’s Concert”. This NSO Young People’s Concert is part of the Kennedy Center-wide celebration of Leonard Bernstein’s 100th birthday. The program honors the creator of Young People’s Concerts by featuring his music and the idea that orchestral music can be accessible to everyone. Conductor Emil de Cou with NSO Assistant Principal 2nd Violinist Marissa Regni will demystify the music by breaking down the components of each piece through rhythm and melody. The concert includes well-known works by Bernstein, Grieg, and Stravinsky, and introduces students to pieces that they may not have experienced yet. Special guest Christylez Bacon, D.C. native beat-boxer and multi-instrumentalist, will make an appearance, as well.

For the last few years DCPS has held an annual music festival at The Kennedy Center to showcase the talents of young musicians.

Mercado Update!
Greetings Brent Community! Please mark your calendars for Thursday June, 7th when Brent will be celebrating the annual Mercado. Over the next few weeks be on the lookout for volunteer sign-up sheets. Also, If there is anyone in the community that would like to share their Latin American heritage through music or performance this day, please email jenniferannettem@gmail.com. Your support will ensure that all Brent Bears enjoy a fabulous community snack together on this special day.

If you are interested, please sign up here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BXNzc6OytA3cZuD Xw4H3zor8GUpMa8McQWozu6T-kkyXU/edit?usp=sharing
throughout DCPS as well as provide feedback to many young musicians to help them grow. I am excited that this year Brent ES will be participating in this music festival and I have chosen the morning choir to represent us! The performance is on May 22, 2018 and our performance is at 9:30 AM on The Millennium Stage. Please come out to support our young singers!

Support Brent’s Mary Young
For almost 30 years, our custodial foreperson, Mary Young, has ensured that the Brent community has a clean and safe facility. Mary Young has recently been diagnosed with cancer and is facing a long-term regimen of chemo and radiation treatments. She will be retiring at the end of June due to her medical issues. The Brent Community has initiated a GoFundMe Page to support and celebrate Mary Young. If you’d like to add your support, please go to https://www.gofundme.com/brent-community-for-ms-mary-young. At the same time, please leave cards and notes for Mary in front office and we will be sure to deliver them.

Brent Elementary Breaking News
This afternoon the DC Council passed a budget that included $10 million dollars in FY19 for Brent to build out a six classroom expansion. A big thank you to all of you who called, emailed, visited, testified and signed the petition. This would not have happened without your continued involvement.

Let us all take a moment to reflect and celebrate this terrific news for Brent. Please take time to thank Councilmember Phil Mendelson, as he was instrumental in finding the funds on short notice and getting them into the budget. We should also thank Charles Allen for his dedicated and continued advocacy on the Council on behalf of our school community. In addition, please take a moment to thank Elissa Silverman and David Grosso for their support.

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If you are on Twitter, a public support of thanks also goes a long way.
@CharlesAllen
@ChmnMendelson
@tweetelissa
@cmdgrosso

Photo: The Asche Family and their neighbors raised almost $150 for the PTA during a weekend Lemondae and Bake Sale. Thank you!