Coming Up

**Monday, May 29**  
Memorial Day  
No school for students, teachers and staff

**Wednesday, May 31**  
PTA General Meeting  
6:30 - 8 p.m.  
Childcare and ASL Interpreters Provided

**Thursday, June 1**  
Learning Showcase  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
ASL Interpreters Provided

**Tuesday, June 6**  
Talent Show 6 - 7 p.m.  
ASL Interpreters Provided

**Wednesday, June 7**  
Talent Show 6 -7 p.m.  
ASL Interpreters Provided

**Wednesday, June 14**  
Last Day of School  
12:15 p.m. Dismissal  
Report Cards distributed

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**Important: Jefferson Academy**

Last week, the Education Committee of the Council of the District of Columbia made a significant change to the Mayor’s proposed budget and moved Jefferson Academy’s full modernization up one additional year. Even as work is underway on upgrades to create a brand new science wing and to modernize the gymnasium and the auditorium, the full modernization will begin in the next fiscal year, starting on October 1st.

The last two budget cycles have seen Jefferson’s modernization budget increased but also pushed back by many years. The Mayor’s proposal this year did not change the start time (FY19) but did condense the schedule to end in FY21 rather than the originally scheduled FY22. The budget approved by the Education Committee as the start of construction in FY18 and completion in FY20.

Council Members Charles Allen and David Grosso deserve significant credit for making the changes without bringing about a delay in
the modernization of any other school modernization projects. The proposal now heads to the full committee and is largely in the hands of Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, who has also been a consistent supporter of Jefferson.

The recent enrollment growth and progress in test scores at Jefferson played a big part in demonstrating to the council the merit of investing in a strong and growing school. But our own 4th graders led by Ms Kraemer also played a starring role with their testimony to the Education Committee a few weeks ago asking for a quicker timeline for Jefferson. Civic education in action.

Mercado
The week of the Mercado has arrived! We still need 2 volunteers for the morning shift (9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.). If you are able, please use the link sent a few weeks ago or email jenniferannettem@gmail.com. ¡Gracias! Ms. Marchese

Why Diversity Benefits Everyone
“Schools are places of learning and also miniature societies. The climate of a school has a direct impact on both how well students learn and how well they interact with their peers.”

“Studies have shown that creating a supportive environment for LGBT students improves educational outcomes for all students, not just those who may identify as LGBT.”

Excerpts from http://www.tolerance.org/lgbt-best-practices

Our Pride Parade Contingent is Growing
We currently have over 30 students, families and teachers representing our school in the Capital Pride Parade on Saturday, June 10th.

Join us! RSVP using the following link: http://bit.ly/BrentFamilyPride2017
Gathering time and location will be announced via email the week prior to the parade.

Volunteer Your Vehicle!
Drive in style and represent Brent Elementary in this year’s Pride Parade. We need a vehicle to drive behind our walkers on the day of the parade, Saturday, June 10, 2017. Keep in mind that parade vehicles are often decorated with rainbow detailing and messages of pride and acceptance. If you’re interested in volunteering your vehicle, contact Mr. Berg at jon.berg@dc.gov

Come meet other Brent families with rising preschoolers and kindergarteners!
There will be informal playdates for rising preschoolers (PK3 and PK4) and kindergarteners this summer. These playdates (one for preschoolers and one for kindergarteners) will give new and returning students and their families an opportunity to meet/catch up over the summer. Siblings, grandparents, house guests, etc. all welcome. Bring bathing suits and towels for the kids. Locations and times are:

Incoming preschoolers: Sunday, July 30, 3:30-5:30 pm at the Canal Park fountains on the Il Parco restaurant side (Please note that this is not the Yards Park fountains or the Canal Park wading pools)

Incoming kindergarteners: Sunday, July 2, 3:30-5:30 pm at the Canal Park fountains on the Il Parco restaurant side (Please note that this is not the Yards Park fountains or the Canal Park wading pools)

If you have any questions, send them to Sarah Carr (sarah@sdcarr.com, 202-302-3059).