

THE TUES. NEWS

8-21-2018

BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Coming Up

Thursday, August 23

ECE Start Day for Students with last names beginning with A - L

Friday, August 24

ECE Start Day for Students with last names beginning with M - Z

Deadline to RSVP for Brent TB Testing for Volunteer Clearance

Tuesday, August 28

Brent ES Volunteer Clearance TB Testing – Part 1
8 – 9:30 a.m.
Main Office

Springboard Enrichment Fair
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 29

Back to School Night 6 - 7:30 p.m.
ASL Interpreters Provided
Childcare will not be provided.

Friday, August 31

Brent ES Volunteer Clearance TB Testing – Part 2 (Skin read)
8 - 9:30 a.m.

Monday, September 3

Labor Day
No School for students and staff



Wednesday, September 5

LSAT Meeting
6:30 – 8 p.m.

Cub Scout Information Meeting
6:30 – 8 p.m.

Friday, September 7

Principal's Coffee
8:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 16

Brent Family Picnic
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
X Park

Photos: Scenes Brent's first day of school 2018.

What is Tues News?

Welcome to this school year's first edition of Tues News. Tues News is Brent's weekly newsletter that is sent home to all families. Tues News covers upcoming events, learning activities, student and staff accomplishments and news from DCPS. Tues News is also the central communication hub for calls for volunteers. Every Tuesday, check your child's communication folder and your

email inbox. If you have news or announcements or are not receiving the email version, please email Denise Diggs at denise.diggs@dc.gov.

Back to School Night – Wednesday, August 29

Brent's Back to School Night will be next Wednesday, August 29 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Principal Lycknell will introduce Brent staff and discuss schoolwide initiatives. After Principal Lycknell's presentation, parents will visit their children's classrooms, meet the teachers, and learn about classroom goals and expectations for the year. This is a terrific opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the upcoming year at Brent. It is an **adults only** event, so please plan accordingly. ASL interpreters will be provided.

Important: DCPS Volunteer Clearance Policy – Includes Field Trip Chaperones

Brent follows the DCPS volunteer clearance policy. This policy applies to any parent who would like to volunteer during the school day and to any parent who would like to serve as a field trip chaperone.

Thanks to the over 100 parents who submitted an online DCPS volunteer application, were tested for TB and completed the DCPS fingerprinting and background check to gain a two-year volunteer clearance status last year. **The robust field experiences our faculty has planned for Brent students are only possible with the support of parents with volunteer clearances.**

We want to do everything we can to support our parents through the clearance process, which

includes a one-time TB test and a background check (fingerprinting) every two years:

- Fill out the brief application via this link:

<https://octo.quickbase.com/db/bg37a864v>.

- Heidi Johnson, a nurse practitioner on the Hill, will conduct TB tests at Brent on Tuesday, August 28 from 8:00-9:30 a.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m. (to conduct the skin test) and on Friday, August 31 from 8:00 -9:30 a.m. to read the tests.

- The cost will be \$45. Please RSVP to Denise Diggs (denise.diggs@dc.gov) by Friday, August 24. The serum for the test must be purchased so an accurate count is needed.

- If you are unable to come to Brent, pharmacy minute clinics and travel clinics can be an expedient alternative.

- After completing the TB test report to the DCPS Fingerprinting Office located on the 10th floor at 1200 First Street NE and operates Mondays through Thursdays from 8:00 a.m.-5 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. - 3 p.m. with the results from your TB test. No appointment is required. A state-issued photo ID is required.

- Potential volunteers with an active secret or top secret federal security clearance should complete the federal security clearance verification letter in lieu of being fingerprinted with DCPS.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Denise Diggs at denise.diggs@dc.gov

The Kids Ride Free - New SMART Trips For Students

Students who use Metrorail, Metrobus, and DC Circulator to get to school and school-related activities need to obtain a Kids Ride Free Program SmarTrip® card at a summer distribution event or when the next school year starts. Beginning October 1, 2018, students will no longer be able to use their DC One Cards to access public transportation.

The new card is separate from students' DC One Card and will provide students with free transportation to school and school-related activities. The new SmarTrip® card will provide students with free and immediate access to travel on Metrobus, Metrorail, and DC Circulator. Students will simply be required to tap their new SmarTrip® cards on all bus and rail trips.

K - 5th grade students will need SmarTrip cards for field experiences. Brent can process requests for cards in the front office. Attached to Tues News is a form to request a card. Please complete and return in your child's communication folder.

Springboard Enrichment Fair – Tuesday, August 28 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Come to Springboard's enrichment fair next Tuesday, August 28 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. At this fair, parents can talk with enrichment providers about the upcoming Fall schedule. Springboard enrichments are taught by local community experts, and hosted on-site at Brent. Proven benefits of enrichment activities include increased academic and social success, as well as stronger self-esteem! Children do not need to attend Springboard programming

to enroll for enrichments.

Enrollment for enrichments will begin on Monday, August 27 and will stay open for 3 weeks. Enrichments sessions will begin the week of September 24th.

Help Welcome New Families as a Brent Buddy

The Diversity Working Group is launching the Brent Buddies program to welcome new families to the Brent community. If you sign up using the link below, you will be paired with a new family transitioning into Brent for the 2018-2019 school year. The new family will be invited to contact you, their new Brent Buddies. As a Brent Buddy you may be asked to answer questions about your experience at Brent, but mostly your job will be to make our new friends feel welcome. Questions? Contact Danielle at websterious dot com (danielle@websterious.com). The link is: <http://www.tinyurl.com/DWGBrentBuddies>

Save the Date for the Brent Family Picnic – Sunday, September 16 from 11 – 2 p.m. at X Park

Please save the date for the Brent family picnic, welcoming all families to the Brent community and new school year, on Sunday, September 16 at Providence Park (X Park) from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The Brent Student Store

The Brent Elementary Online Store is operated by the Brent PTA. During the school year, Brent merchandise that is ordered online will be delivered to your child's classroom within a few days of your order. You can also purchase items at the school store by bringing checks or cash to

the front office. If you have any questions about the store or your order, contact Candace Fleming at candacesigmonfleming@gmail.com.

The Fall Season of Girls on the Run

We're so excited to announce the Fall 2018 season of Girls on the Run at Brent! Chloe Patterson, Emily Kadash and Erin Kelly will be coaching this season. Girls will meet for practice Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:15 to 4:45 p.m. The season starts on Monday, September 24. You can register for this season using the link below. If you have any registration issues or questions about the program, please reach out to Coach Kadash at emily.kadash@dc.gov.

<https://www.raceplanner.com/register/index/KV6SMDYK1WBWVSO>

Second Grade Summer Reading Challenge Success

The Diversity Working Group organized a Summer Reading Challenge for the graduating second graders. It was a huge success! All three classes read *A Day's Work* by Eve Bunting. The book tells the story of a young Mexican-American boy, Francisco, who helps his grandfather find work as a gardener, even though the old man cannot speak English and knows nothing about gardening.

Each student who finished the book signed their name in the inside cover of the book, and then passed the book to another reader. The classes competed to get the most readers by the start of the new school year. Results are in: The Helpful Hawks were on the ball all summer long and won with

over 20 students having read the book! Congratulations! The Brainstorming Bears and The Pizza Pandas were close behind, with at least 15 readers per class. Hurrah for summer reading!

Look out for the Summer Reading Challenge again next year! In the meantime, any third grader who didn't get a chance to read the book this summer can still join the fun over the next two weeks. Just pick up the book at the front office, read it, sign the inside cover and bring it back for another reader.

Volunteer Opportunity - A Call for Room Parents

Welcome back to school! As the school year gets underway, the PTA is seeking parents who would like to be room parents in their children's classrooms.

Room parents are hubs of communication. Working closely with the teacher in your child's classroom, room parents help to organize classroom activities and events like field trips, class play dates, parent gatherings and other events. Room parents obtain parent volunteers, create a classroom roster and help keep families informed about school-wide issues, events and fundraisers. Each class can have more than one room parent in order to share the responsibilities.

What Does a Room Parent Do?

- Meet with your teacher to determine:
 - preferred method of communication, calendar of events and predicted needs and priorities for the year;
- Set up email distribution list with the names of students/families in your class;
- Send introductory email

identifying yourself as Room Parent;

- Help recruit chaperones for field trips if the teacher would like assistance;
- Coordinate gifts/appreciation for the teacher at holiday time and during teacher appreciation week;
- Send regular emails to class' parents with reminders/updates about teacher needs, classroom news and PTA news.

The Specials teachers also love to have room parents. Are you a fan of the performing arts and like to help make the music happen at Brent? Then Mr. Krohn would be thrilled to have your assistance throughout the year. Looking for ways to channel your inner artist? If so, Ms. Gibson has some fun art tasks for a parent who likes to be creative. Ms. Hahn and Mr. Mangiaracina would gladly put your language and science skills to use.

The following teachers already have room parents for this year:
Ms. Miller (ECE)
Ms. Akagi (ECE)
Ms. Sadowsky (ECE)
Ms. Patterson (1st)
Ms. Saxson (5th)
Ms Bettina (Library)

If you are interested in volunteering to be a room parent or would like more information, please contact kiana.j.moore@gmail.com. It would be great to hear from you.

Brent PTA needs your used children's books (and boxes)!

The Brent PTA will be selling used children's books at the annual used book sale, held as part of the Fall Family Picnic in September. Clear out books you no longer need from your kids' book shelves and bring the books to Brent! There will be

collection boxes in the office and on the stage in the multipurpose room starting today.

We also need medium size and large boxes (broken down). Please put any box donations on the stage in the multipurpose room. All proceeds from the book sale will support the Brent PTA, and all leftover books will be donated to local nonprofits, church groups, and school organizations that provide books to kids who need them. No adult books please. Contact co-coordinator Sarah Carr (sarah@sdcarr.com, 202-302-3059, outside Ms. Miller's PK room at drop off) for more information.

Co-Coordinator Needed for Brent Used Book Sale

The Brent PTA needs a second co-ordinator for its annual used book sale, to be held in conjunction with the Fall Family Picnic in September. This is an easy job, a great way to meet new people at the school, and is a lot of fun. It's perfect for new and returning parents/guardians. Contact the other coordinator Sarah Carr (sarah@sdcarr.com, 202-302-3059, outside Ms. Miller's PK room at drop off) to learn more.

My School Bucks – Register for an Online Lunch Account Today

Visit myschoolbucks.com to register your student for online lunch payments. Attached to Tues News is a flyer about MySchoolBucks which contains your child's school ID. You will need this ID to register your child's lunch account. This year, elementary school lunches cost \$2.80. Students who are classified as paid or who have not filled out a Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) application must pay for lunch. Payment is required for lunch meals consumed prior to

receiving a free status. FARM applications can be found in the front office and at dcps.dc.gov.

School Picture Day – Parent Help Needed

School Picture Day is coming and so is the opportunity to help make memories for parents and grandparents. On Thursday, September 13, parents volunteers are needed to assist the photographers and teachers while the pictures are being taken. Parents are needed to help with line management and last minute face wiping and hair combing. Picture taking begins right away in the morning and continues into the early afternoon. Assistance for all or part of the day would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to make the magic happen on Picture Day or have questions, please contact Ms. Diggs (denise.diggs@dc.gov).



Principal's Corner

Dear Brent Community,
Happy first week of school!

At Brent, we think about the first six weeks of school a bit differently than the rest of the year. During this period, we introduce routines, establish structures, generate community rules, and set goals, all in an effort to communicate an atmosphere of support, collaboration and high expectation. More specifically, and as guided by our Responsive Classroom philosophy and language (www.responsiveclassroom.org), we have four broad aims in the first six weeks:

1. Create a climate and tone of warmth, safety and belonging with a focus on individual identities and group-building activities.
2. Teach the schedule and routines of the school day and our expectations for behavior in each of them, establishing a sense of order and predictability that enables our children to relax, feel competent and focus on learning.
3. Introduce students to the physical environment and the materials of the classroom and the school, and teach students a sense of ownership and responsibility by showing them how to use and care for the space and the objects that fill it.
4. Generate excitement and enthusiasm for the concepts and learning objectives that we will pursue.

Though we pursue these four aims with intention and consistency in each classroom and throughout our school day, methodically increasing the rigor of our expectations as more is known and shared, this information also begs the question: what do the aims of the first six weeks look like in action? Here's a glimpse of the action from our very first day:

- Classes took building tours, designed for both new and returning students. Students explored the most efficient traveling pathways, the way that we walk in the halls, and even enjoyed scavenger hunts to explore all the spaces in the building and the people who work in those spaces. We exchanged quiet waves and smiles, practiced walking on the right side about one tile away from the wall, and talked about our hallway pass system in grades 2-5.

- Classes engaged in community building activities like sharing their names with a movement that represented them, played games like get-to-know you bingo and started planning out their hopes and dreams for the year.

- At recess, students explored our first expectation that All Are Welcome (we include all those who wish to play and politely decline play if we want to make another choice) – students will explore the school-wide text All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman later this week. Our Playworks Recess Coach Mr. Hyon Herbert made his first appearance and promised a fun, happy and safe recess with our students' help, introducing cheers, play equipment and our first group game.

- Classes went to their first trimester special subject classes and, because of our new modular schedule organized around a depth

of learning and relationships, waved goodbye and said “see you tomorrow!”

The aim of this weekly letter is to share more about these moments and the intended meaning behind them, in the first six weeks and for the remainder of the year.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns or ideas.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell
Principal