Coming Up

**Wednesday, August 28**
New Parent Orientation  
9-10 a.m.

**Thursday, August 29**
ECE first day for students with last names beginning with A - L

**Friday, August 30**
ECE first day for students with last names beginning with M - Z

**Monday, September 2**
Labor Day  
Brent closed

**Wednesday, September 4**
Back to School Night  
6 - 7:30 p.m.  
ASL Interpreters Provided

**Friday, September 6**
Principal’s September Coffee  
8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.

**Tuesday, September 10**
Picture-Day  
Uniform-Free Day

**Wednesday, September 11**
P TA Board Meeting  
6-7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, September 15**
P TA Welcome Picnic  
11 – 2 p.m.  
ASL Interpreters Provided

**Back to School Night – Wednesday, September 4, 2019**
Brent’s Back to School Night will be next Wednesday, September 4 from 6 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 adult only event, so please plan accordingly. ASL interpreters will be provided.

Register Today: Before and Aftercare through Innovation Learning

Innovation Learning has gotten off to a strong start providing organized play and activities before and after school on the first day. Because of the new aftercare partner and because Brent is not a title one school receiving funding support for before school staffing, Brent’s morning staff coverage capabilities requires parents to either enroll in before care with Innovation Learning or remain with their children until teachers pick-up classes at 8:35 a.m.

Children who arrive before 8:15 a.m. need to be enrolled in Innovation Learning to ensure supervision. Innovation Learning can provide supervision of play spaces and for students enrolled in the program after 8:15 a.m. To enroll in before care, please visit innovationlearning.com.

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 Tuesday, September 10, parent 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@k12.dc.gov).

Save the Date for Brent’s Family Picnic

Please save the date for the Brent family picnic, welcoming all families to the Brent community and new school year, on Sunday, September 15, 2019 at Providence Park (X Park) from 11:00-2:00 p.m. Enjoy live music, browse children’s books at our annual used book sale, savor goodies baked by Brent parents at the bake sale and other fun kids activities. Looking to get involved early in the school year? You can sign up to volunteer here (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kZKtzoux70MjJL_rjw-wjoVwyVWydy3XCe4er4snpE/edit?usp=sharing)

My School Bucks – Register for an Online Lunch Account Today

Visit myschoolbucks.com to register your student for online lunch payments. This year, elementary school lunches cost $2.90. 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. Visit https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application to complete a FARM application.

Brent PTA needs your used children’s books!

The Brent PTA will be selling used children’s books at its annual used book sale, held as part of the Brent Welcome Family Picnic on Sunday, September 15. Clear out books you no longer need from your kids’ book shelves and bring the books to Brent! There are collection boxes in front of the front office and 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 Reading Partners, a local nonprofit that provides reading support to kids.

No adult books please.

Contact co-coordinators Sarah Carr (sarah@sdcarr.com), Brittany Poley (Brittany.poley@gmail.com), or Ellen Psychas (epsych@hotmail.com) with any questions.

Brent PTA Room Parents Needed – Sign Up Today

A Note from Keri, PTA Room Parent Coordinator

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 the preferred method of communication;
- Distribute the calendar of events and predicted needs and priorities for the year;
- Set up e-mail 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 fellow 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. Ms. Gibson has some fun art tasks for a parent who likes to be creative.

The following teachers already have room parents for this year:

Ms Akagi (ECE)
Ms. Kraemer (3rd)
Ms Hill (3rd)

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

Keri
Room Parent Coordinator
Mom to Sofia (4th), Elena (2nd), and Adam (PK4)

Let’s get to the opening of SY19-20. How did the first day of school go for K – 5th grade students?

It was amazing, imperfect and full of hope. There is nothing like the energy of the Brent community and today, the building vibrated with it. Students engaged in the how of their learning experience: how we move in our spaces, how we interact with one another, and how we set and start working on our goals.

Over the next few weeks, all classes are reading our shared text, The Day You Begin by Jaqueline Woodson and our first day can best be described by her words on the final page: “...until the day you begin to share your stories. And all at once, in the room where no one else is quite like you, the world opens up a little wider to make some space for you. This is the day you begin.”

Brent’s teacher retention rate was one of the highest in DCPS. How will this impact students this school year?

It is an unusual privilege to have faculty members who want to return to Brent and whose life circumstances allow us to do so. High quality teachers are the most significant determinant of student growth. And we not only boast that asset but also benefit from our teachers’ investment in Brent. As we launched this year with faculty, we talked about our teacher retention as the huge advantage as it is, allowing us to focus on depth of practice.
Brent’s new before and aftercare partner, Innovation Learning, is now up and running. Can you tell us how the first day went?

We asked Innovation Learning to perform a bit of magic, partnering with Brent and shaping a care program that is safe, intentional, worthwhile and fun. They have been strong partners thus far with a clear vision and a commitment to improving in response to our community’s needs.

Notable in the first day was clear communication, effective routines, quick response to some small hiccups, and evidence of a respect for students’ time. Alongside of the parent/staff advisory committee that will launch in September, we look forward to further shaping the before and aftercare experience at Brent into one that fully serves our community.

What will Innovation Learning’s enrichment program look like?

In searching for a partner, one of our foundational principles was that the first round of enrichment would at least replicate and at best grow our historical enrichment offerings. Innovation Learning is developing a catalogue that meets that goal, and provides that all vendors meet DCPS background check requirements. We also expect to have new foreign language offerings that were facilitated by a Brent parent and hope that more community members will reach out with similar possibilities - as long as a class meets enrollment targets, we can implement it. As in the past, the enrichment catalogue will be published in the first weeks of September and classes will begin in the first week of October.

What should we expect from future Principal Corners in Tues News?

Much like our school year’s theme of depth of practice, the Principal Corner in Tues News will provide a depth of information. It will describe ideas, initiatives and goals of which you might already be aware but could be further informed with the why and the how. For example, I might write about our growth in student achievement and our goals for future growth, also outlining how we analyze student data and why we believe our strategies will help to fulfill our goals. Most of all, I want the Principal Corner to answer the questions our community have, both those that I imagine and those that are offered. Always feel free to email topics or share your thinking at our monthly Principal Coffees.