Coming Up

**Tuesday, August 28**
Brent ES Volunteer Clearance TB Testing – Part 1
8 – 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 - 6:30 p.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

**Tomorrow (Wednesday, August 29, 6 – 7:30 p.m.) Brent’s Back to School Night**
Brent’s Back to School Night is tomorrow, Wednesday, August 29 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. The Brent community will gather in the multipurpose room with Principal Lycknell’s staff introductions and remarks beginning promptly at 6 p.m. After Principal Lycknell’s presentation, classroom teachers will hold two identical information
sessions back to back. This is a
terrific opportunity to meet all the
staff supporting your child’s Brent
classroom schedules, resources
and goals for the year. Questions
and discussion are most welcome
at this event. Please note, this is an **adults-only event** so please plan accordingly. ASL Interpreters
will be provided.

**First Lockdown Drill – This
Friday, August 31**

In accordance with DC law, DCPS schools are required to conduct
two lockdown drills per year. Brent will hold its first lockdown
drill this Friday, August 31 at 9
a.m. We will announce the drill
over Brent’s PA system. Teachers
will check hallways and bathrooms
and then secure their classrooms.
Teachers will be quietly reading
to students during the drill. Staff
will then check to ensure that
classroom doors are secure and all
students are accounted for. The
drill will last approximately 10
minutes. This week, teachers will
be explaining the process and pur-
pose of the drill in age-appropriate
language. It is recommended that families have additional conversa-
tions with their children emphasizing
that like fire drills, lockdown
drills allow the Brent community
to practice keeping our community
safe.

**Cub Scout Pack 230 Hosting
Recruiting Meeting on Sep-
tember 5 at Brent!**

Cub Scout Pack 230--based on
Capitol Hill--will host a recruit-
ment meeting in Brent’s multi-
purpose room on September 5th.
Feel free to come between 6:30 and 7 p.m. for conversation and
scouting fun. The presentation
will begin at 7 p.m. and will also
include and be preceded by plenty
of Scouting fun. Boys and Girls
from Kindergarten to 5th Grade
are welcome to join. Please come
and learn about everything Pack
230 has to offer while having your
questions answered about Cub Scouts. Any questions, please
email Pack 230 Chairman Bryan
Dierlam bryan.dierlam@gmail.
com (Dad to Brent 4th Grader,
William and 2nd Grader, Emma-
-Both Cub Scouts!)

**Family Welcome Picnic –
Sunday, September 16 (11
a.m. – 2 p.m. at X Park) - We
hope you will join us (volun-
teers needed)!**

Join us for the Brent family picnic,
welcoming all Brent community
families to the new school year.
Enjoy live music from Soul Grav-
ity, browsing children’s books at
our annual used book sale, bounce
houses, face painting, a bake sale
showcasing Brent’s finest and
other activities for kids.
The picnic is a parent-run event, so
please plan to volunteer a little of
your time to help organize and/or
manage activities. You can sign up
here : https://docs.google.com/spr
eadsheets/d/1TzhfszazOGYDZZdB
omfJt9Ct8MgLBj-I0qipUM4IEg/
edit?usp=sharing. Please email
diana.rubin@gmail.com with any
questions.

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

The Brent PTA will be selling used
children’s books at its annual used
book sale, held as part of the Brent
Family Picnic on Sunday, Sep-
tember 16. 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.

We also really need medium and
large cardboard boxes (broken
down) for storing and transport-
ing the books. 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 organi-
zations that provide books to kids
who need them. No adult books
please. Contact coordinator Sarah
Carr (sarah@sdcarr.com, 202-
302-3059, outside Ms. Miller’s PK
room at drop off) for more infor-
mation.

**Springboard Enrichment
Participation Clarification –
Please Review:**

In response to questions from par-
ents about the logistics surround-
ing the Springboard enrichment
program, the following details the
procedures for students participat-
ing in enrichment who are enrolled
in both springboard after care pro-
gramming and enrichment classes
and those students who are only
enrolled in enrichment classes.

**Students enrolled in an
enrichment classes AND
Springboard’s 3:30 – 6:30
after care programming**

During the dismissal process –
at 3:15 p.m. students will either
remain in their classroom with
Springboard staff or be escorted to
another classroom for after care.
Students participating in electives
will be picked-up from their after-
care space and escorted to the elec-
tives classroom. When the class
is finished, students will return to
their after care group either in a
classroom or on the playground.
Students enrolled in an enrichment class and NOT Springboard’s 3:30 – 6:30 after care programming

Students enrolled in an elective and NOT Springboard’s 3:30 – 6:30 aftercare programming may participate in after care programming without charge until the time their elective class begins. Families must register with Springboard along with paying the registration fee. To avoid being assessed the $21.33 drop-in fee, students must be picked up promptly after the elective class ends. Parents should go directly to the main office to sign out their children.

PTA Room Parents Needed –

The PTA appreciates all of the parents who volunteered so far. We still have some classes that need room parents. Please consider volunteering to be the room parent this year for one of the remaining classes:
- Ms. Bailey (ECE)
- Ms. Laskowski (2nd)
- Ms. Werstuik (4th)
- Ms. Gibson (Art)
- Ms. Hahn (Spanish)
- Mr. Mitchell (PE)

Please send me a message at kiana.j.moore@gmail.com if you’d like to help your child’s class or one of the specials teacher this year.

Welcome! Bienvenidos! Witanity!

Welcome Brent families to the new school year! To celebrate our diversity and welcome in the new school year, the Diversity Working Group bulletin board (located right outside the cafeteria/multipurpose room) has the word “Welcome” written in different languages. Please check out the many languages and cultures representing Brent on the bulletin board already, and feel free to add any that are not yet represented. Benvenuti to all!

After School Library Clubs

Ms. Bettina is offering two afternoon clubs starting the week of October 1.

Library Lovers Club

This club is geared toward 1st and 2nd graders who love story time. We will read and talk about books, do follow-up activities, and explore our school library catalog and resources that the Public Library system has to offer. Library Lovers Club will be held Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:15 pm.

Book Lovers Club

This club is geared toward 3rd through 5th graders who love to read. Participants will decide on the books that we will read and discuss, either together or in small groups. We will also take a closer look at the digital resources that our school library and the Public Library system have to offer. Book Lovers Club will be held Monday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.

To sign up, please contact Ms. Bettina at bettina.schewe@dc.gov. The clubs will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis.

National Book Festival - Saturday, September 1

The National Book Festival will be held this Saturday, September 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Convention Center. Many authors will present and sign books. Author presentations for children will be held on the green and purple stage on the lower level. A variety of fun activities will be offered as well. Please visit https://www.loc.gov/bookfest for details.

Principal’s Corner

Dear Brent Families,

After a rousing first week, we are further settling into the rhythms and routines of our second week of school; we seek to deepen relationships, challenge students to take excellent risks and assess for the individual strengths and weaknesses that will shape our academic planning.

On Wednesday the 29th, we will host Back to School Night for all Brent Families (it is an adults-only event). We will begin promptly at 6:00 p.m. (plan to arrive a few minutes early) and will end at 7:30 p.m. Back to School Night provides an overview of school and classroom goals for the year and includes an all-faculty welcome, a school-wide presentation, and two rounds of classroom visits (the second is only applicable for families with multiple children).

We see Back to School Night as the entry point of a yearlong conversation. The evening constructs frameworks that will be further defined and enriched over the course of the school year. As participants, we recommend that you take notes, ask lots of questions, and make connections with our faculty and families, holding onto child-specific discussions for scheduled meetings or conferences. In-person attendance is strongly recommended; however, we will post all presentations for those who have unavoidable scheduling conflicts or for those who want to reference the presentations after the event.

See you tomorrow!

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell
Principal
Tues News Spotlight
Julia Sadowsky
Brent’s Atelierista

Atelier – noun – a workshop or studio, especially one used by an artist or designer. In the area of early childhood education atelier refers to “the physical space within a school dedicated to children’s exploration and use of many materials, tools, symbolic languages and forms of representation.”

Why did Brent decide to dedicate resources and staff to this?
Brent’s early childhood team is inspired by the Reggio-Emilia approach to teaching and learning. In Reggio Emilia, Italy every school has an atelier whom children visit regularly. Our team is excited to take this next step in our Reggio-inspired journey by adding an atelier to our school environment. Additionally, the atelier will serve as a piece of Brent’s bridge intentionally connecting the preschool to kindergarten experiences for children, families, and teachers. The atelier special will provide our kindergarteners with a dedicated time and space to continue to learn through a hands-on, play-based project approach and to continue the cycles of inquiry they began in their preschool classrooms.

What motivated you to take on this new role?
For the past eight years, I have been a classroom teacher in one of Brent’s early childhood classrooms. I have always been extremely passionate about the Reggio-inspired approach to teaching and learning and was eager to be a part of our program’s next step in our Reggio-inspired journey. I am also excited that this new role allows me the opportunity to work with all of the children in our preschool and kindergarten classrooms. This is my first time formally working with Brent’s kindergarten students and I can’t wait to see all of the amazing art, music, and science learning they construct while engaging in projects and play.

Moving to the role of atelierista also allowed me the opportunity to be the Focus Teacher for early childhood and kindergarten. I am looking forward to collaborating with our amazing early childhood and kindergarten teachers in a new way as we work together to support all of our children.

What does a typical experience look like for students in the space?
The atelier is a place of research, invention, and infinite possibilities offered through the hundred languages of children. Each child is the protagonist of their unique learning journey, deeply exploring their ideas and theories through hands-on encounters with many materials and polysensorial experiences. While the experience of each class will be different this year based on the shared interests of children in the class, the flow of each atelier session will follow a similar structure.

Each atelier session will begin with a whole group music, movement, or mindfulness activity tied closely to that classroom’s main project
or inquiry that day. Next, children will have work time in the atelier. Some children will choose to work on the main project while others will choose to explore various centers and provocations around the classroom with their peers. The languages of art, music, and science are interwoven throughout the space to promote cognitive, emotional, and physical development as children explore and create. During this time, teachers will support children’s learning through intentional questioning as well as document the experiences of the children in real time. Each session will end with a closing circle in which children are encouraged to reflect on their experience and share their work with peers.

Can you give an example of what this looks like in practice?

Yes, here is an example from Ms. Kelly and Ms. Adam’s first week of school:

Last week, Ms. Adams and I noticed in our documentation from the children’s explorations in the science center that the class shared a strong common interest in beetles. During closing meeting, we brought this shared interest to the attention of the class and Astrid told us that she would bring in her Beetle Encyclopedia on their next atelier day so we could conduct research together. The next day, we began our atelier session by learning the song “Fly, Beetles, Fly.” Children learned the lyrics and sign language as a group, and then rotated the opportunity to use percussion instruments to keep a steady beat while their fellow classmates sang and signed. Next, during work time, we placed Astrid’s Beetle Encyclopedia among other beetle-related materials that had been carefully curated and displayed at the head of the art table. Children were invited to join me at the art table to create their own beetle books through the language of drawing. Other children chose to read beetle books in the science center, while others chose to explore the various centers such as playdough, puzzles, and blocks. At closing circle, several children chose to share their beetle books with the community. Ms. T and I will now collaborate to make a plan to continue and expand upon our new beetle inquiry this week.

How will the Atelier prepare students for more formal arts, music, and science classes at Brent?

The atelier provides children an opportunity to construct new knowledge in the domains of art, music, and science. I will be using the National Core Arts Standards for art and music to guide art and music instruction and will be using the Teaching Strategies GOLD objectives to guide science and social-emotional instruction. Additionally, in the atelier children will grow their skillset and confidence in expressing themselves through the hundred languages (drawing, collage, paint, sculpture, dance, music, poetry, shadows etc.). Gaining fluency in articulating their ideas through these mediums supports the transition to the same articulation through writing.

How can Brent families stay updated on what is happening the atelier?

Families or early childhood and kindergarten students will be receiving documentation telling the story of their children’s experiences in the atelier throughout the school year.

Additionally, each of our three atelier showcases will feature an art gallery and performance with contributions from all early childhood and kindergarten classrooms. We hope you join us for these special celebrations dedicated to making our learning visible to the community:

November 15th, 6 -7 p.m.
March 7th, 6 -7 p.m.
June 6th, 6 -7 p.m.

Finally, don’t forget to follow us on Instagram @brentatelier