

THE TUES. NEWS

8-30-2016

BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Coming Up

Tuesday, August 30

PTA Board Meeting
6:30 - 8 p.m.

Monday, September 5

Labor Day
No School for students and staff

Wednesday, September 7

Back to School Night
6:30 - 8 p.m.

ASL Interpreters Provided

Sunday, September 11

Brent Welcome Back Picnic
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
X Park (3rd and D SE)

Wednesday, September 21

Brent Picture Day
Uniform Free Day

Friday, September 30

Professional Development Day
No School for Students

Remember visit

**www.brentelementary.org,
like Brent on Facebook and
follow Brent on Twitter
@brentelementary for up to
date information on Brent
happenings!**



Brent Family Picnic – Sunday, September 11

Join us for the Brent family picnic, welcoming all Brent community families to the new school year on Sunday, September 11 from 11 am – 2 pm at Providence Park (X Park). Enjoy live music from On the Bus, bounce houses, face painting and other activities for kids. Additional activities include a bake sale and book sale! All proceeds to benefit the Brent PTA. Grass-fed, locally sourced hamburgers and 100% beef hot dogs will be available for purchase and families are welcome to bring their own picnic food. Cost is \$20/family or \$25/family on the day of the event. Visit brentelementary.org/picnic for more information or to buy tickets. The picnic is a parent-run event, so please plan to volunteer a little of your time to help



Photos: ECE students have their first day of school!

organize and/or manage activities. Email diana.rubin@gmail.com if you're interested in volunteering or sign up at brentelementary.org/picnic. Thank you in advance!

Calling all Brent Bakers!

Whether you love to bake or just love baked goods, we need your help! Sign up to bake something (purchased items welcome, too) to be sold at the Brent family welcome picnic on Sunday, September 11. All proceeds benefit the Brent PTA. Visit brentelementary.org/picnic to sign up or for more information. Please contact Diana Rubin at diana.rubin@gmail.com with questions.



Brent's School Store Has Exciting New Items

School is back in session so make sure your child has all of their school uniform needs! We have new athletic shorts and pants. They were so popular, we sold out of sizes at open house. They will be back and fully stocked by the Fall picnic. Also, our new stuffed Brent Bear will be back in stock too! Don't say no to our cute cuddly bear! Visit our store today! If you have any questions, please email Candace at candacesigmonfleming@gmail.com.

Book Sale Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with the used book sale being held at the Brent Family Welcome Picnic. Help is needed for sorting books after school on Friday, September 9; setting up the book sale before the picnic on Sunday, September 11; and selling books during the picnic. Sign up for times at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rJP7uwoikq4i_zAbKsBLLSGNDINFoxdxxd-7kiMcZkQk/edit?usp=sharing or let book sale organizers Sarah Carr (sarah@sdcarr.com) or Ellen Psychas (epsych@hotmail.com) know when you are available. Thanks!



Brent's Science Teacher, Mike Mangiaracina, One of 214 Science and Math Teachers in the Country, Awarded the Presidential Award Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Congratulations to Mike Mangiaracina! Below is the press announcement:

Michael (Mike) Mangiaracina has been an educator for 21 years. For seven years, he has taught kindergarten through fifth grade science and sixth grade mathematics at Brent Elementary School. Previously, Mike taught at Sidwell Friends School and Thornton Friends School.

Mike sees science as central to education. A scientist's ability to question his or her own ideas in the face of evidence, and to seek truths in favor of biased examples, are essential skills for all active citizens. Mike seeks to use his science classes to nurture his students' abilities to ask questions and support their claims with evidence, while fostering a sense of reverence and awe for natural phenomena. Mike has run Brent Elementary's annual Math Night, Science Museum Night, and New Year's Bird Count for Kids. He works with a cohort of science teachers to provide mentoring and professional development for classroom teachers in D.C. Public Schools. He worked on the early stages of Next Generation Sci-

ence Standards implementation in Washington, D.C., with the Science Educators Leadership Cadre. In December, "Science and Children" will publish an article he wrote on his experiences with this implementation.

Mike received a B.A. in liberal arts from St. John's College, Annapolis, and a M.Ed. in elementary education from George Washington University. He is certified in elementary teaching.

Winners of this Presidential honor receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion, and are invited to Washington, DC, for an awards ceremony, as well educational and celebratory events, and visits with members of the Administration. "The recipients of this award are integral to ensuring our students are equipped with critical thinking and problem-solving skills that are vital to our Nation's success," President Obama said. "As the United States continues to lead the way in the innovation that is shaping our future, these excellent teachers are preparing students from all corners of the country with the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics skills that help keep us on the cutting-edge."

Mr. Mangiaracina stated, "The Presidential Award affirms that I am on the right path in my journey as an educator. Both the process of applying and the honor of being chosen have helped me step back from my vocation and confidently see the impact that my teaching is having. I feel more willing now to take risks in the classroom and further challenge my students. I am grateful that this award exists to recognize and elevate the work that so many of us do to share the joys of science and mathematics with young people."



Brent Staff Spotlight
Jon Berg
2nd Grade Teacher

Tell us about your educational and professional background.

Before becoming an elementary school teacher, I was a passionate ecologist and conservationist. I earned my Master's degree in environmental education in 2008 and my Bachelor's degree in wildlife ecology in 2006 from the University of Florida. Although I had volunteered in elementary schools throughout my undergraduate program, I didn't realize how much I enjoyed teaching until my Peace Corps service in Cape Verde, West Africa. While serving, I taught English classes at a neighborhood elementary school, in addition to leading a sea turtle conservation campaign. After completing my service, I moved to D.C. in 2012 to earn my teaching certification through the Inspired Teacher Certification Program. In 2015, I completed a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Trinity Washington University. For the past 4 years I taught first grade at the Inspired Teaching Demonstration Public Charter School.

Tell us how your class did the first week of school.

My second graders and I had a fabulous first week of school. We learned about one another, shared our hopes and dreams and set high expectations for ourselves and our classroom community. We used the first week of school to build a strong foundation for a memorable school year. I would also like to mention how much support I have already received from the parent community here at Brent - it's been beautiful!

What would be some of words your students have used to describe you as a teacher?

I have been described as calm and kind, and am often compared to a teddy bear. I constantly strive to build an inclusive and supportive classroom community where students feel comfortable enough to be themselves and make mistakes while learning. I'd like to think it is this feeling of comfort that reminds them of a beloved stuffed toy, or it may be my beard.

Pictures: Right: Mr. Berg with the 2nd grade teaching team. Below, Mr. Berg in San Juan, Puerto Rico with partner Alex.

What is unique about second grade and second graders?

Second graders are unique because they are developing skills that allow them to be much more independent learners and young people. Rather than asking for an adult to do for them, they are excited to do many things on their own. Each day I am more and more impressed at the level of independence and responsibility my students demonstrate.

What are your hopes and dreams for your students this year?

I hope my students come to fully understand the power of kindness and the importance of empathy. In addition to the academic content we will cover this year, these socio-emotional skills will serve them a lifetime.



