Coming Up

**Wednesday, September 12**  
PTA Board Meeting  
6:30 p.m.  
Library

**Thursday, September 13**  
5th Grade Parent Meeting Re Overnight Trip to Camp Fraser  
5 p.m.  
Room 308

**Wednesday, September 19**  
Diversity Working Group Meeting  
6:30 p.m.  
Library

**POSTPONED to Sunday, September 23**  
Brent Family Picnic  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
X Park (464 2nd St SE, Washington, DC 20003)  
Volunteer Today  
ASL Interpreters Provided

**Tuesday, September 25**  
TB Testing Make-Up For Volunteer Clearance  
Part 1 of 2 – Skin test  
8 – 9:30 a.m.  
RSVP to Denise Diggs at denise.diggs@dc.gov.

**Wednesday, September 26**  
PTA General Meeting  
6:30 – 8 p.m.  
Childcare provided  
ASL Interpreters Provided

**Friday, September 28**  
TB Testing Make up for Volunteer Clearance  
Part 2 of 2 – Skin read  
8 – 9:30 a.m.  
Must have completed Part 1.

**DCPS / DGS Drinking Water Testing Information for Brent Elementary**

The health and safety of our students are paramount to all of us at DC Public Schools (DCPS). To ensure the safety of the drinking water within schools, the Department of General Services (DGS) conducts water testing in all DCPS school buildings. Parents should review the letter regarding DCPS water safety and water testing from Carla Watson, DCPS’s Chief Operating Officer. We have also
included the November 2017 test results attached to Tues News. If families have questions or need additional information, please contact Denise Diggs at denise.diggs@dc.gov.

DCPS Letter Re Lead Testing in Water from Carla Watson, Chief Operating Officer, DCPS (attached)

Brent ES Lead Water Test Results (attached)

The Kids Ride Free - New SMART Trips For Students – Update

Due to the demand of the Kids Ride Free Program, new card requests system-wide are put on hold until October 1. However, Brent was allocated 75 SMARTrip cards to distribute immediately. This week, staff will allocate cards to students who travel to Brent via metro or bus and then distribute the remaining cards starting with 5th grade students who returned the pink SMART Trip card request form. After October 1, all requests for SMART Trip cards will be processed. In the meantime, students can still use DC One cards for travel on metro or bus. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Diggs at denise.diggs@dc.gov.

FAMILY PICNIC POSTPONED TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Brent Family Welcome Picnic Reminder (and Volunteers Needed)

Please plan to join us Sunday, September 23, a week later than originally planned, from 11-2 at X Park (464 2nd St SE, Washington, DC 20003) for the Brent family picnic, welcoming all Brent community families to the new school year. Enjoy live music, bounce houses, browsing books at our annual used book sale, face painting, crafts, a bake sale and other fun for kids. New this year is a Brent buddy meet-up for new families and a beekeeper. Tickets are $15 in advance (buy online at brent- elementary.org/picnic) and $20 day of. All proceeds benefit the Brent PTA. Picnic food available for purchase or you’re welcome to bring your own. Sponsored by the Jeanne Phil & Meg Team/Compass.

Volunteer: If you can spare an hour of your time to help out that day, we’d really appreciate it. Sign up at https://tinyurl.com/ybxmlvnpr (Google doc).

Bake: We’re also looking for baked items to offer at the bake sale on picnic day. You can sign up at https://tinyurl.com/yadtaovm

ASL Interpreters will be provided for this event.

Last Call - 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, September 23. 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 transporting 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 organizations 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 information.

Volunteer Clearance - Make-Up TB Testing at Brent September 25 (Part 1 – skin test) and Friday, September 28 (skin read)

Heidi Johnson, a nurse practitioner on the Hill, will conduct TB tests at Brent on Tuesday, September 25 from 8:00-9:30 a.m. (to conduct the skin test) and on Friday, September 28 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, September 21. The serum for the test must be purchased so an accurate advance count is needed.

Brent at DC United

Join us for our first Brent Elementary Day at D.C. United on Saturday, October 13th at 5 p.m. as D.C. United and Wayne Rooney take on FC Dallas! Tickets are $30 or $35 (plus taxes and fees) and are available via the link below. Buy your tickets today to ensure you will be part of the Brent section.

Go Brent Bears and Go DC United!!!

https://fevo.me/brentelementary

Specials’ Newsletter Now Available Online

Visit http://www.brentelementary.org/specials.html to view the latest specials’ newsletter.
Calling all Giant Shoppers!
Brent Elementary is enrolled in the Giant A+ School Rewards program. For every dollar spent at Giant, Brent will receive a point. At the end of the month, those points will be calculated into a cash total for the school. If you shop at Giant or use its Peapod delivery service, please register your Giant card with the A+ School Rewards program. It’s easy to do online at www.giantfood.com and unlike some other school rewards programs, only has to be done once. You won’t be asked to reregister each year. Our school’s id number is 40725. Please note that the official school name is Robert Brent Elementary School, so that name will appear on the Giant website. You can sign up by entering the school’s id number or by selecting the school name. See the attached flyer for detailed information about signing up. The PTA also encourages you to ask any family or friends who shop at Giant to designate Robert Brent Elementary as their school. The program only runs until March 16, 2019, so please sign up soon!

What is your new role at Brent?
DCPS created a new operations role at some schools. My role is to ensure high functioning Brent operations so that school leaders and teachers can focus exclusively on student achievement and classroom and instruction. I will oversee much of the work I did as the Administrative Officer – including procurement, attendance, enrollment, parent communications, substitute staffing and emergency and safety but will also oversee facilities and building management.

What are your goals for the year?
Principal Lycknell has set some ambitious goals for the operations team. The overarching goal is the team will enhance operational efficiency such that our physical space and systems are an enabling force for teaching and learning.

The first goal for the team – ensuring a clean and safe school building – is well underway. Under the leadership of our new custodial foreman, Jason Lawrence, and our new custodians Victor Berry and Michael Minor, Brent received a deep cleaning over the summer. Mr. Lawrence instituted a more
systematic approach to building cleaning and the results thus far speak for themselves – Brent is sparkling! The new custodial team also brings extensive carpentry, plumbing and HVAC knowledge along with strong relationships with DC’s Department of General Services, the agency responsible for building maintenance.

Over the course of the year, our administrative operations team will focus more attention to Brent’s administrative functions such as to implement better systems for procurement, enrollment, prospective family outreach and parent and community communications. Katie Ferguson, the newish front office clerk will take on a greater role in procurement and communications with Andrea Casula front office manager emeritus continuing to provide her expertise and dedication.

You have worked at Brent for almost ten years and have been involved at Brent for 14 years. Why?
I believe Brent is a special place and I have been a part of its growth, development and evolution. We are now able to attract and keep the best school leaders, teachers and staff. Our families are dedicated to Brent and work tirelessly to support the school. Every day I get to work with these incredible and dedicated education professionals. I get to interact and support with our terrific students and parents. Most enjoyable, I get to re-live the time when I was a parent of elementary school age children – really a golden time for parenting. I certainly appreciate that time more being a parent to teenagers. It truly is a privilege to work at Brent and support our students, families, teachers and staff.

Photos: Griffin’s then 4, first day at Brent 2007 with brother Mitchell and dad, Eric. Mitchell, then 3, first day at Brent in 2008. Griffin, 14 and Mitchell 12 with Denise Diggs