Coming Up

**Tuesday, September 17**
Innovation Learning Enrichment Class Registration Open. Classes begin the week of 9/26. Visit innovationlearning.com to enroll.

**Wednesday, September 18**
Diversity Working Group Meeting 6 - 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, September 19**
Math Night 6 - 7:30 p.m.
ASL Interpreters Provided
Pizza for all (6 - 6:30 p.m.)

**Saturday, September 21**
Jefferson Middle School Community Open House 7th & I Street, SW 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 25**
PTA General Meeting 6 - 7:30 p.m.
Childcare provided
ASL Interpreters Provided

**Wednesday, October 2**
LSAT Meeting 6 - 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 9**
PPTA Board Meeting 6 - 7:30 p.m.

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**Thursday, October 10**
Brent Class Banner Parade 2:45 p.m.

**Friday, October 11**
Parent Teacher Conferences No school for students No Innovation Learning programming

**Monday, October 14**
Columbus Day
Brent Closed

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**Brent’s 12th annual Math Night is this Thursday!**
Come join us for a fun night of math games and pizza for all of our K-5 families. As we have done in year’s past, pizza will be served from 6:00-6:30 p.m. and then for the next hour, you are invited to walk around the cafeteria and classrooms on the first floor to join your child for math games led by Brent’s teachers. Please see flyer for more information. Hope to see...
you there! ASL Interpreters will be provided.

Volunteer at Math Night!
Mr. Mangiaracina, the Brent science teacher, would love to get some help with Math Night this Thursday. Please sign up for an easy 30-min shift at https://tinyurl.com/ybc7tj2b. If you would be willing to help coordinate other volunteers at the event, please contact Mike Mangiaracina at mike.mangiaracina@k12.dc.gov.

Also, this is a “green” event! Participants (adults and children) are requested to bring reusable water bottles or cups to reduce waste. Disposable cups and water will be available on request, however, and the water fountains at the school will also be available for use.

Innovation Learning Fall Enrichment Classes Enrollment Now Open
Innovation Learning has released a robust catalog of Fall enrichment classes. Families can find the catalog on Brent’s and Innovation Learning’s websites. Enrichment classes begin the week of September 26 and run through December 16, 2019.

To register for any of these enrichments please call 1-866-239-3661 or go to www.innovationlearning.com/brent-elementary/ and click on the “New Families” button if this is your first time with us and you haven’t previously registered for Innovation Learning’s before and after school programs. This will send you to our registration page. You will see a blue bar at the bottom of the page that indicates “Enrichment Registration - Brent Elementary” click the green button underneath that says “Click to View Offerings.” Clicking on this button will show you all the enrichments offered at Brent ES this Fall! Please note: all new families will be charged an annual registration fee of $50 per Child or $75 per Family. Current Innovation Learning families register online at your Innovation Learning Parent Portal. All students enrolled in an enrichment activity will be picked up by an Innovation Learning instructor to meet their Enrichment Teacher. Students will be provided a snack at check in. All students must be signed out by an authorized parent or guardian using a PIN that is provided at registration. Any students not picked up promptly at the end of their enrichment will be added to the Innovation Learning after school program and charged the drop-in rate of $21.85.

See the New Jefferson Middle School!
Come to the Jefferson Middle School Community Open House – Phase 1 Modernization Completion
Saturday, September 21 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Phase I of Jefferson’s renovation is complete, and the students have had several weeks to settle into their new classrooms. Come see the new Jefferson Middle School at the School Community Open House!

Jefferson Middle School Community Open House
7th & I Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024
Saturday, September 21, 2019
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

You will see an impressive new lobby, new science classrooms, new pick-up drop off area, a straightened hallway on 1st floor, renovated auditorium, partially completed cafeteria (remained completed in Phase II), and bright, well-lit spaces. From the exterior - all new windows, a new roof (even though it looks original), a new entry ramp and a host of other upgrades, renovations and features.

There will be a hot dog cookout (sponsored by Capital Community Partners), a Bounce House (sponsored by Capital Yacht Club Community Chest), members of the construction team, and student lead tours.

Whether this is your first time in the school, or you remember what it used to look like - you will walk away impressed.

4th and 5th grade families from Jefferson Feeder Schools of Amidon-Bowen, Brent, Tyler and Van Ness Elementary Schools are especially encouraged to attend. It would also be great to see our neighborhood realtors see the wonderful asset and help spread the word to new families.
Brent ES Nut Free Reminder

Brent is a nut-free school. This includes the school building, the playground and the front ground. This policy covers before, during and after school hours. We have several students with life-threatening nut allergies so it is critical that no food products containing nuts are brought into the building. Common nuts include: peanuts, almonds, brazil nuts, cashews, chestnuts, filberts, hazelnuts, hickory nuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pistachios, walnuts and pine nuts. This is not an exhaustive list so even less common nuts such as beechnuts, butternuts, chinquapins, gingko, hickory nuts, lychee nuts, pili nuts, and shea nuts can be very dangerous to some Brent students. Always read ingredient list product allergy warnings. Remind your child that students are not allowed to share or trade food at Brent. By complying with Brent’s nut-free policy, we can keep all our kids safe.

English as a Second Language Referral Forms

We have been receiving questions regarding the ESL (English as a Second Language) referral forms that were sent home last week.

If another language is declared in the Home Language Survey in the enrollment form, schools are required to refer students for English proficiency screening. If you received a referral letter, this is because your child’s enrollment form indicated another language in the home language survey. This is to ensure that students who do need language supports are identified and served. We understand that not all students who speak another language at home will need this service.

We have also heard from parents who stated that they either filled in the form incorrectly or that they declared a heritage language that extended family members speak, but that the student does not speak. If this is the case, kindly go to the main office and update your child’s Home Language Survey to “No.” If another language IS spoken at home, but you choose to opt out, the referral letter also indicates what to do if you would like to decline screening; however, even after screening there is another opportunity to decline ESL services so the initial step is strongly recommended.

If you have further questions about ESL screening, please reach out to Sharon Santos, Brent’s ESL point of contact at sharon.santos@k12.dc.gov.

Brent PTA Welcome Picnic a Success

Thanks so much to our wonderful Brent community for making this year’s Brent family welcome picnic another great success! The volunteer effort was amazing - so many parents showed up to help with everything, both those who...
had signed up in advance and those who simply stepped in. The book and bake sale tables looked wonderful and were full thanks to many members of our community—over 2,000 books found new homes and lots of treats were thoroughly enjoyed.

Your contributions ensure that Brent’s volunteer ethic and cherished community traditions will continue to make our school great. It was great especially to see so many new Brent families, so many members of the school community and former Brent students at the event (you may have recognized a couple of the volunteers).

Thanks again to all! Special thanks to Sarah Carr, Brittany Poley and Ellen Psychas for overseeing the book sale, to Adi Segal and Rachel Usdan for coordinating the craft table, to Francine Asche for coordinating the face painting, to Jessica Champa for overseeing the bake sale, to Danielle Drissel for coordinating the new/returning families and Brent buddy sticker system at check-in and to the Brent parent grill team, coordinated by Raphael Kozolchyk, who returns enthusiastically year after year. Thanks to Katie DeValle and Elizabeth Hanna for running the Brent Store. And special thanks to Denise for everything she does to make the event possible and Brent’s custodial team, Jason Lawrence, Victor Berry and Michael Minor for all their hard work.

And one more thanks to Meg Shapiro of the Jeanne Phil & Meg team at Compass for their sponsorship of the picnic.

We’d love any feedback or suggestions for next year’s picnic - please email Diana Rubin at diana.
Anacostia Watershed Society’s First Ever Nature Journal Competition Honors Brent Students

Congratulations to former and current Brent students Clara Merrick, Zaida Slakey, and Liev Dorn. These three students won the Anacostia Watershed Society’s first ever nature journal competition, and were honored at the annual AWS River Heroes gala Monday night. Brent students from 2nd-5th grade created nature journals last spring, observing, sketching and writing about plants, birds, weather, rocks and any other natural wonders they discovered. AWS chose three winners in this citywide competition, and Brent students won all three places! Congratulations to Clara, Zaida and Liev, and to all of the students who entered this new competition.

Shop at Harris Teeter? Earn cash for the PTA.

REMINDER: THIS NEEDS TO BE RE-LINKED EACH YEAR

1. Harris Teeter School Code: 7117
2. Link your VIC card to Brent
3. Call 1-800-432-6111, option 3, if you do not know the first eleven digits of your Harris Teeter VIC number.
4. Harris Teeter gives Brent 5% back on all of your purchases.

Tues News Spotlight
Parent Leadership
Danielle Drissel
Chair, Diversity Working Group

On behalf of the Brent Community, thank you again for chairing the Diversity Working Group (DWG). Before we begin, how is the start of school going for your two children, Evelyn and Alexander?

Evelyn and Alex are off to a great start. They are forming great bonds with their new teachers (Ms. Arbuckle and Mr. Meneghello). And they are happily swinging from the monkey bars and playing kickball with friends old and new.

Tell us a little about your educational and professional background?

My elementary school days were in Catholic school in PA. I went to middle school and high school in public schools in MA. I moved to DC in 1992 to go to Georgetown University. I left to go to law school at Boston University, then moved back to DC as a health regulatory lawyer. I’ve been a federal employee for five years, after a decade at a large law firm.

The mission of the Brent Diversity Working Group is to advance the school’s commitment to recognizing, respecting, valuing, and promoting diversity by serving as a resource and liaison for students, families, staff, and faculty on issues of equity through education, outreach, and advocacy. How does this mission shape this year’s goals for the Diversity Working Group?

Brent is such an amazing community, with so many resources. My goals for this year are for the Diversity Working Group to bring people together, to facilitate conversations in which all voices are heard, and to help all members of the Brent community to thrive.

Tomorrow is the first meeting of the Diversity Group (Wednesday, September 18 at 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.). What is on the agenda for the meeting?

Our first meeting should give folks a good overview of what Diversity Working Group does and how they can be involved. We’ll reflect on individual experiences during the first weeks of the school year. We’ll discuss our four areas of focus for the year: social events; cultural celebrations; supporting Rising Together, Brent’s affinity group for students of color; and promoting inclusion and social justice. We’ll sign up volunteers. At this and every meeting we

Photo: Ms. Drissel with husband, David, and children, Evelyn and Alex.
have time for anyone to raise new issues. As an extra bonus, tomorrow’s attendees can win tickets to a discussion and book signing with Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor at Eastern High School this Saturday!

Can you tell us about the Brent Buddies program?
The Brent Buddies program is a joint effort by the Diversity Working Group and the PTA, which pairs current Brent families with new families to ensure a smooth transition into Brent. Teachers and staff work hard to help students adjust to their new school. Brent Buddies is our way of trying to make sure their families feel equally welcome and supported.

The Diversity Group Working Group leads several incredible social events, including the Multicultural Night, Family CommUnity Dance and Family Fundays. Why are these social events important to Brent?
The school experience allows our kids and teachers to form strong bonds. It can be harder for families to make these connections. The DWG social events give parents and caregivers opportunities to move beyond playground small talk and get to know one another. Multicultural Night and the Family CommUnity Dance are school-based celebrations of our entire community. Family Fundays are weekend “field trips” to allow Brent families to explore a special event in the city together.

How can parents new to Brent participate in the DWG?
All Brent families, old and new, are welcome to participate in DWG! Our meetings (the third Wednesday of every month) are always open to all. Folks who can’t make it to meetings are equally welcome to volunteer and attend events. Signing up for our emails is a good way to learn about specific opportunities. Email danielle@websterious.com to join the fun!

September Specials Newsletter
The September Specials Newsletter is now posted on website. Check out all the happenings in Brent’s specials classes by visiting the September Specials Newsletter at http://www.brentelementary.org/specials.html

Principal’s Corner
Dear Brent Families,

Our big and obvious goal is to grow student learning. In order to do so, Brent fosters an equivalent culture of adult learning. This year, we revised our fifth operating principle to capture its importance: We will provide broad and inclusive opportunities for collective planning, transparent communication, and continued adult growth.

Adult learning takes many shapes at Brent. Grade-level and content teams meet several times each week to analyze student data and to plan for classes and individual students, collaborating to better instructional practice. All faculty members engage in twice weekly professional development on topics ranging from trauma-informed practices to the evolution of learning standard rigor across grade levels. Our two instructional coaches (up from one last year) dedicate their time to supporting teachers’ growth goals. And faculty frequently apply for and attend outside classes and conferences of interest.

One story of powerful adult learning emerged last week as our K-5 Focus Teachers, Interventionists and Instructional Coaches thought about the many ways to be informed as researchers of students’ understanding and experience. They observed in classrooms, unpacked a unit at their grade level, and used conferring as their research tool. In this work, participants honored our first operating principle, seeking and leveraging understanding about individual students in order to advance their learning. Check out the accompanying pictures that capture this work.

Rightfully, adult growth is a significant point of investment – this year, between the PTA and DCPS Title II funds, we have dedicated $35,000 to adult growth. Importantly, our vision of adult learning is one based on strength, not deficiency. Our faculty members
reflect on their own instructional goals and then seek the learning that will fulfill those goals. It is a mechanism of empowerment, one that contributes to teacher satisfaction and retention and that positively influences students.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell

Principal