Coming Up

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

**Sunday, September 23**
Brent Family Picnic
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
X Park - 464 2nd St SE
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.

**Wednesday, October 3**
LSAT Meeting
6:30 – 8 p.m.

**Friday, October 5**
Principal's Coffee
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Brent Banner Parade
2:45 p.m.
Parents can view the parade from the drop-off section of the Brent playground

**Monday, October 8**
Columbus Day
No school for students, teachers and staff

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Photo: Brent’s Science Teacher, Mike Mangiaracina was honored last night as the Anacostia River Educator of the Year!

**Brent’s Science Teacher, Mike Mangiaracina, is Awarded Anacostia River Educator of the Year**

Brent’s Science Teacher, Mike Mangiaracina, was honored last night as the Anacostia River Educator of the Year! The Anacostia Watershed Society gave out the award as part of its annual River Heroes event at the District Win-
ery at Yards Park. Mr. Mangiara-cina has been connecting Brent to the wonderful education programs at the Anacostia Watershed Society for years now, including 4th grade’s participation in the Rice Rangers program, and 2nd grade’s meadow restoration work with Project Song. Mr. Mangiara-cina also partners with AWS in his neighborhood, organizing an annual Bioblitz in Takoma Park. Congratulations Mr. Mangiara-cina! See photo.

This Sunday - Brent Family Welcome Picnic

The Brent family welcome picnic (rescheduled date!) is this Sunday, September 23 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at X Park. This is an annual event 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 activities. New this year is a Brent buddy meet-up for new families. Buy your family wristband online by Friday, September 21 for $15 (brentelementary.org/picnic) or $20 (per family) day of. All proceeds benefit the Brent PTA. Picnic food available for purchase or you’re welcome to bring your own.

We’re still looking for volunteers to staff various picnic stations for a one-hour time slot. It’s a great way to see friends and meet new members of the community. Please sign-up at https://tinyurl.com/ybxmvnpr. We could also still use some additional baked goods for the bake sale to be sold at the picnic. Please visit https://tinyurl.com/yadtaovm to sign up.

Many thanks to the Jeanne Phil & Meg Team/Compass for their generous sponsorship of the picnic.

School Supply and Field Experience Fee Reminder

It’s not too late to pay this year’s school supply fee and field experience fee. In fact, it’s the perfect time! As we approach the end of the first 6 weeks of school, classes will begin preparing for their first field experiences of the year and will dig into their field experiences funds. Rather than ask families to pay for individual trips or supplies, we collect these important fees. If you haven’t already paid the fees, you can do so here: www.brentelementary.org. Just click on the big green Pay School Fees button.

Join the Brent Directory – Make Contacting Other Parents (and having them contact you) a Snap!

AtoZ Connect is a free school directory service that allows parents to search for families by phone, address, or name. It is a great way for our Brent families to connect and maintain community. Please sign up at login.atozconnect.com. The Brent Operations team verifies that everyone who applies to join the Brent A-Z Directory is a Brent family so families can be assured their contact information is used just by the community.

Join Us for the Diversity Working Group Meeting Wednesday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m.

The first Diversity Working Group (DWG) meeting of the year is right around the corner on Wednesday, September 19 at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are open to all. Please join us! We have a full agenda including: Hispanic-Latin Heritage Month, Brent Buddies, DWG Reading Spotlight, and a Rising Tides Update. Looking forward to seeing faces old and new.

Due to a scheduling error, this meeting is occurring on Yom Kippur. We apologize and commit to avoid conflicts with religious holidays going forward. Minutes for all DWG meetings are on our webpage under the Parents tab on the Brent website. Questions about DWG? Please email Danielle@websterious.com.
DCPS 5 Million Minute Reading Challenge
The District has challenged the entire DCPS community to read five million minutes by December 24, 2018. Each student is asked to read every single day.

Please motivate your child to read and join our school in helping DCPS reach the collective five million minute goal! To log your child’s reading, please follow these directions:

1. Go to https://brentes.beanstack.org and select “Log in with Clever” at the bottom of the page. Students sign in with their student ID as the username and their birthdate (MMDDYY) as the password. Or you can go to the Clever site at https://clever.com/in/dcpsk12, login and then click on the “Beanstack” option (under Library).

2. In Beanstack, click on the “Log Reading” button at the top left corner.

3. As your child logs reading, he or she will earn virtual badges and special recognition.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Bet-tina (bettina.scheewe@dc.gov).

Fourth Graders (and their families) Can Visit National Parks for Free
With the pass, fourth graders can bring family and friends on adventures free for a full year.

Visit https://everykidinapark.gov to sign up for the park pass.

Volunteer Clearance - Make-Up TB Testing at Brent, Tuesday, 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 in advance so an accurate count is needed.

Some Tickets still available for the DC United Game
Thank you to all who have purchased tickets in the Brent block to join us for our first Brent Elementary Day at D.C. United on Saturday, October 13th at 5 p.m. To those who have not yet purchased tickets, there are still some available and they can be obtained via the link below. Come join your fellow Brent Bears as D.C. United and Wayne Rooney take on FC Dallas. Tickets are $30 or $35 (plus taxes and fees).

Go Brent Bears and Go DC United!!!
https://fevo.me/brentelementary

Ward 6 Community Event, Building Community in Diverse Schools, September 30 from 2 – 4:30 p.m. at Watkins Elementary
While many schools in DC are almost entirely segregated by race and class, there are some schools, often in gentrifying neighborhoods, with a more diverse population. But within these schools, segregation and inequities persist (and are often reinforced). At an upcoming Ward 6 community event at Watkins Elementary, parents across the District will come together to share stories about what’s working (and not working) in building healthy, respectful, and equitable communities in gentrifying schools.

The event will feature psychologist and cultural competence expert Dr. Samantha Sweeney; Allyson Criner Brown of Teaching for Change; and a panel of parents sharing their personal lessons learned. Also, to be discussed: How can schools build a more diverse PTO, or hold more inclusive social events, or just how to connect with other parents from different backgrounds?

Snacks will be provided and child-care is available. Please RSVP via this Eventbrite
Dear Brent Families,

As we close out the first six weeks of school (really seven weeks because of the later PK start), we stretch our focus from building classroom communities to discovering how those classroom communities shape our school-wide routines, practices and ways of being with one another.

This week, appointed (younger grades) and elected (older grades) student representatives will meet to determine school-wide rules. These representatives will bring one important classroom rule to the meeting, seek understanding of the other representatives’ contributions, and narrow the list to five school-wide rules.

Next week, school-wide representatives will share the five school-wide rules in grade-level assemblies, describing their purpose and meaning and asking their peers to commit to our collaboratively-created school expectations. These assemblies are also a chance to emphasize our school values and traditions and an opportunity to introduce other important adults in our community such as our custodial team and members of the Metropolitan Police Department Officer Friendly program.

We will culminate our first six (or seven) weeks with our Banner Parade on Friday, October 5th, at 2:45 p.m. Each class, dressed in colors that coordinate with their class name, will march outside of Brent and to the cheers of our community. Family members are welcome to join us in the outdoor viewing area – more details to come next week!

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell
Principal

Photos: Scenes from the Spectacular Dolphin’s science class
On behalf of the entire Brent Community, thank you for serving as PTA co-president. First, tell us about your children who attend Brent!

We have two Brent Bears. William is in Ms. Werstuik’s 4th grade class, and Emma is a 2nd grader in Ms. Laskowski’s class. William has been busy counting down to today because it’s the first day of Brent’s cross country team practice. And both of them are already asking about the school play and the Holiday Sale. They love to help sell those Christmas trees!

Why did you get involved in the PTA?

I’m not sure that I can remember anymore! It just seemed natural. Elementary school is fun. The kids are happy and eager to learn. This is a special time in their lives, and they want to share it with their parents. I watch how students’ faces light up when they see their parents helping with School Picture Day or putting tattoos on for the school’s Earth Day celebration. Who doesn’t want to be part of that?

Over the past three years, you have supported Brent on many fronts. You have managed the critical room parent program; support library and front office operations, manage picture day, and the list goes on. What motivated you to take a leadership role this year?

It’s an exciting time for the PTA. Principal Lycknell has a clear vision for Brent and its future. She and the faculty are making the school stronger every day, and the PTA is providing financial assistance to further their goals. Brent parents have always been active, so it’s an honor to be able to work on their behalf to support the school that we all love.

What are the PTA goals this year?

The PTA wants to engage every family this year. There is something for everyone, and we encourage each family to volunteer for one PTA event or activity. Parent engagement has always been at the core of what makes Brent successful. As we read last week here in the TuesNews, not that long ago a group of parents stood around in Turtle Park and decided to dedicate their time and energy to Brent Elementary. To keep Brent moving forward, all of us must build upon their dedication and pay it forward to the next generation of Brent parents.

The PTA is conducting a financial review this year and then a full audit next year. Why is this a priority for the PTA?

Through the hard work and generosity over the years of many parents, the PTA budget has had the good fortune to grow by leaps and bounds. As any organization grows, the responsible thing to do is to reassess its procedures and practices to see if they still work as intended. This year’s outside financial review will help us assess the PTA’s financial systems to determine if we need to make any changes to reflect the expansion. This review builds toward an independent audit next year. The audit is an opportunity to identify any systemic mistakes that may be happening and correct them.

The nature of many PTAs is to have manual systems. We write checks out by hand and record their purposes by hand. Manual
systems are inherently prone to more unintentional errors than automated systems. The audit will let us know if we’ve been making the same mistakes repeatedly, so that we can fix them. As my 2nd grader recently came home singing, “Everyone makes mistakes, so why can’t you?” It’s normal to make mistakes, but it’s critical to the health of the PTA to fix them.

You and your husband are very active in Cub Scouts. Tell us about the troop and how other families can join.

Our children are members of Pack 230, which is located here on Capitol Hill and has many Brent students as members. But it’s not limited to Brent. Last year the pack had about 100 Scouts from schools all over the Hill. Being part of a multi-school pack has allowed my kids to make friends with kids that they probably wouldn’t otherwise meet. Pack 230 is unique in that it is not sponsored by a school or church, but by Capitol Hill Scouting whose mission is to bring Scouting to as many Hill children as possible. Scouting provides boys and girls with the opportunity to build leadership and life skills through outdoor activities, like camping and hiking, community service projects, and competitions like the Pinewood Derby. Joining the pack can be done easily at tinyurl.com/joinpack230. If Pack 230 doesn’t sound like the right fit for your family, Pack 380 is another great Hill pack that is sponsored by St. Peter’s Catholic Church. Scouting brings our family together to camp, to hike, to build, and to learn, creating bonds that we hope will keep communication lines open into the teenage years.

How should families new to Brent connect with the PTA and get involved?

Bring your family to the Welcome Picnic this Sunday (11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in X Park across from the school). There will be food, music, a used book sale, a bake sale, bounce houses, face painting, crafts and more. If you love to bake, bring one of your tasty treats for the bake sale.

Grab a friend and come to the first PTA meeting of the year next Wednesday the 26th (6:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room). The PTA provides free childcare and dinner for our students, so don’t worry that you’ll need to find a babysitter. At the meeting, we’ll experience firsthand how our children start their school year by sharing their Hopes & Dreams, provide parents with time to visit with PTA committee and event chairs, and have a dialogue with Principal Lycknell about the beginning of the school year.

Go to www.tinyurl.com/helpbrent-bears to see what volunteer opportunities interest you. We’ll put you in touch with committee and event chairs.