Coming Up

Monday, December 16 - March 2  
Myschoolde Lottery Open

Wednesday, January 16  
PTA Board Meeting  
6 - 7:30 p.m.  
Library

Friday, January 17  
Parent Teacher Conferences  
No school for students  
No Innovation Learning programming  
Check email for sign-up information

Monday, January 20  
Brent Closed  
MLK Day

Tuesday, January 21  
MLK Poster Making  
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
Room 210

Wednesday, January 22  
Diversity Working Group Meeting  
6 - 7:30 p.m.  
Library

Thursday, January 23  
Innovation Learning Parent Advisory Meeting  
email Nia Holmes at brent@innovationlearning.com to participate.  
6 - 7 p.m.  
Library

Coming Up Cont.

Monday, January 27 and Tuesday, January 28  
Records and Professional Development Day - No School for Students  
Innovation Learning Programming

Wednesday, January 29  
State of our School SY19-20  
Community Meeting  
6 - 7:30 p.m.  
Childcare and ASL Interpreters Provided

Photos: Scenes from last week’s Club Day!  
Parent Teacher Conferences This Friday, January 17th  
Students will not have school or Innovation Learning programming as we dedicate January 17th to Parent Teacher Conferences. Teachers and/or grade levels emailed invitations; sign up today if you have not already!

Panorama Survey for Families - Brent and DCPS want to hear from you!  
In 2017-18, DCPS launched the Panorama Survey to measure social-emotional learning (SEL), school climate, and school satisfaction across
We want to continue to hear from families about what’s working well and how we can continue to improve our schools. The 2019-20 Panorama Survey is being administered from January 13 – February 14, 2020. You may have received a link directly from DCPS via email, and can also use this link: https://bit.ly/dcpsfamily. If you would prefer to fill out a hard copy, you may pick one up and drop it off in the main office.

The DCPS Panorama survey was designed to gather feedback on your child’s social emotional learning (SEL) in addition to your views on parent communication, engagement, and satisfaction with the school and district. DCPS believes that embedding SEL in our classrooms will help schools provide rigorous, joyful and inclusive experiences for all students.

For this reason, you will see questions that pertain to the school and teachers and also to your child’s own learning and academic mindsets.

Please note that your responses to this survey are both voluntary and confidential. For you to feel comfortable sharing your feedback, DCPS has partnered with Panorama Education to hold and manage survey responses. Neither the district nor any school will be able to tie responses back to specific parents.

If you have any questions, please reach out to sara.ewbank@k12.dc.gov or support+dcps@panoramaed.com. Thank you for your participation in this important project!

**SY20-21 Enrollment Alert – Certification of Immunization will be required for school attendance**

Beginning in SY20-21, DC will be enforcing immunization requirements as required by DC law. All students will be required to provide certification of immunization in order to attend school. Please plan annual wellness visit appointments to ensure current health forms will be on file at Brent by that start of the school. Please contact Brent’s school nurse, Nurse Lee at jlee6@childrensnational.org or at 202-727-3890 if you have any questions about the new requirement.

**MLK Jr. Poster Party**

To celebrate MLK Jr. Day the Diversity Working Group would like to invite you and your child to a poster-making party on Tuesday, January 21 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Room 213. All poster making supplies will be provided, however, this event is designed for students who will be accompanied by an adult or caregiver.

**Brent’s Math and Science Day will be held on Tuesday, April 7th**

We are looking for parents and community members who work and/or have interest in math and science including computers, engineering, architecture, medicine, forensics, food, exercise and behavioral science, and more to co-lead an activity and share about your work with groups of students (supported by a Brent staff member).

**Save the Date for our 1st Brent Book Club Meeting**

Join us Feb 6th at 7:30 p.m. for our inaugural Brent Book Club meeting. We will be reading The Dutch House, by Ann Patchett. All Brent members are welcome to participate but space is limited so secure your spot by emailing brentbookclub@gmail.com. A special thank you to the Gorman family for hosting our first gathering.
J.O. Wilson Summer Camp Fair – January 30 6 – 8 p.m.
J.O. Wilson Elementary located at 660 K ST. NE is holding its annual Summer Camp Fair, on January 30 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The fair showcases summer camp options for kids aged 3-18 around the district. Note, registration is opening for many camps in early February and popular camps tend to fill quickly. For more information visit dccampfair.com or email jowilsonpta@gmail.com. J.O. Wilson Elementary is located at 660 K St. NE. See flyer.

Brent Starts Composting! ECE Students Lead the Way!
An average school in the District produces hundreds of pounds of organic waste each day. When schools sort in their cafeterias, food and organic waste gets turned into compost, which can be used to grow more food! Brent’s youngest learners are leading the charge and have started composting their lunchtime food waste. In the upcoming weeks, cafeteria staff will start placing food waste from the kitchen in composting bins. We hope to roll out student cafeteria food waste sorting by the end of the year. See photo.

Diversity Working Group Message
In memory of Courtney Everts Mykytyn, who tragically passed away recently, the Diversity Working Group would like to share the work she accomplished through Integrated Schools, the organization she founded. Integrated Schools started an online community and movement focused on changing how families select schools for their children - in particular, by asking white families to choose integrated/integrating schools. In her words, “choosing an integrating school is not so much a sacrifice as it is reprioritizing what matters in building a world we want our children to be adults in.” There are 20 Integrated Schools chapters across the country, including one in DC. Please check out the work of Integrated Schools, including an amazing podcast, on the website: integratedschools.org Thank you.
Given the recent international events, I would like to discuss Brent’s emergency planning. Brent’s emergency planning, led by a trained Emergency Response Team, fits into two categories: internal and external preparedness.

Internal preparedness involves evacuation/emergency response protocols and practice, general building and campus security, and communication (such as easy access to a robocall system and a mobile platform for accessing emergency contacts). We meet regularly to review and refine our internal preparedness and identify areas for improvement. For example, right now we are redoing our evacuation exit paths (making sure that classes use both sides of the hallway and stairway and that our older classes are aware of our younger classes) and working with DCPS to ensure our main door locks/card access system are functional.

External preparedness involves engaging with DCPS or other area agencies in the case of an emergency. We have an incident reporting system that captures a huge range of incidents (and immediately disseminates information to the right people and agencies. Brent uses The Rave Panic Button App that allows for silent 911 calls and reporting; it also doubles as a communication device to all staff. Brent also received an upgraded telephone system and now all classrooms and offices are equipped with telephones.

Our biggest area of concern and advocacy with external preparedness is knowing about area events that may impact security. For example, early in the year a House building was evacuated due to a plane entering restricted flight space; we learned of and could attend to the incident because of a parent report and then were able to proactively contact with Capitol police. We are engaging with the DCPS Security Team, MPD and Capitol Police to establish consistent communication routes.

How can the Brent Community Support Brent’s internal and external preparedness for an emergency?
If you hear about an event or incident around Brent that may impact students and staff, call or email the school immediately.

Ensure your family follows Brent’s security procedures. Bring picture ID when needing to enter the building.

Make a plan for your family in the event of early dismissals or off-site evacuations. Brent’s off-site evacuation sites are The Hill Preschool/Church of the Brethren - 337 North Carolina Ave SE- located right next to us and Van Ness Elementary, located at 1150 5th St SE.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

In partnership,
Norah Lycknell
Principal
Brent Elementary Track Team Competes at City-Wide Meet

On January 9th, Brent Elementary students competed at the District of Columbia Interscholastic Athletics Association (DCIAA) Elementary and Middle School Developmental Meet held at the Prince George’s Sports & Learning Complex. Student from across the city competed in a variety of track and field events.

Congratulations to the entire team (see list below) for their training and stellar performances in the following track and field events. The next meet will be the Championships on Wednesday, January 15th.

Girls 55 Meter Dash: Kelly-Bell, Khloee; Logan, Symbal; Paxson, Nora

Girls 200 Meter Dash: Paxson, Nora

Girls 400 Meter Dash: Kelly-Bell, Khloee; Wilson, Natalie; Paxson, Nora;

Girls 800 Meter Run: Logan, Symbal; Wilson, Natalie; Chada, Peyton

Girls 1600 Meter Run: Chada, Peyton

Girls 4x200 Meter Relay: Wilson, Natalie; Sutherland Gabriela; Chada, Peyton, Kelly-Bell, Khloee

Boys 55 Meter Dash: Ash, Kian; Higginbotham, Dylan; Parker, Isaiah; Kozolchyk, Ethan

Boys 200 Meter Dash: Kozolchyk, Alex; Menorca, Samuel; Master, Xavier; Allred, Graham

Boys 400 Meter Dash: Higginbotham, Dylan; Allred, Reid; Parker, Isaiah;
Participation Matters

With our Annual Fund Drive coming to an end, we are at 79% percent of our goal, with 47% percent of Brent families having donated to the Fund. The Annual Fund is the largest fundraiser of the year, contributing a full half of Brent’s non-DCPS operational budget.

If you have not yet given, please know:

These funding shortfalls matter, and we are currently $24,000 short of our goal. Funds raised through the PTA support every aspect of Brent’s unique social and academic model: from the Atelier program, Science, Music and Art; to the Focus teachers we have at every grade that bring deep expertise and capacity, and help ensure every child’s needs are met; to recess coaches, physical education supplies, wonderful classroom spaces and libraries; to professional development for our teachers and tutoring for our students; to the diversity committee and community efforts to build school culture, cohesiveness, and inclusion.

But you should also know that participation matters more. Every contribution, no matter how big or small, is a demonstration of support for the environment we hope to create for our kids, and for the people who help create it. Our goal this year is 100% participation.

Thank you so much to all who have given. To those who have not, please take this opportunity to show your support for Brent, and help us close the participation gap. Please visit http://bit.ly/BrentFund to make your donation today, or, if you prefer, use the below QR code--just snap a picture with your phone and follow the notifications to a secure payment link.

Thank you,

Your Brent PTA Board

Nazanin Ash, mom to Kian (4th), Aila (3rd), Soraiya and Leila (PK-4) and Kaivon (Brent alumni); co-president

Neeraj Bhat, dad to Naveen (2nd), Aria (K) and Jaiden (future Brent student); co-treasurer

Ben Champa, dad to Penelope (4th) and Nate (2nd); past president

Cortney Dell, mom to Quinn (1st), Grant (4th) and Merritt (Brent alumni); community liaison

Tara Goldenberg, mom to Luca (1st); co-vice president

Carol Harlow, mom to Chase, (4th); co-treasurer

Margaux Manley Lima, parent to Marina (PK-4) and Catalina (K); community liaison

Keri Maruska, parent to Adam (PK-4), Elena (2nd), Sofia (4th); co-secretary

Kiana Moore, parent to Elliott (4th) and Olivia (2nd); co-vice president

Charrise Robinson, parent to Savannah (3rd); co-secretary

Genevieve Taft-Vazquez, mom to Diego (4th), Sofia (1st) and Charlie (Brent alumni); co-president
Create a kinder world.
Take a week, a month, or a year.
Have fun and complete as many acts of kindness as you can.
Your Kindness Matters!

Presented by

Acts of Kindness

- Smile at 25 people
- Take a treat to your local firefighters
- Do a household chore without being asked
- Donate something to an animal shelter
- Take a board game to play at a senior center
- Read a book to a younger child
- Make a thank you card for your librarians
- Entertain someone with a happy dance
- Create a family gratitude jar
- Cheer for every player on both teams
- Deliver a special gift to a child in the hospital
- Make a new friend or welcome a new neighbor
- Send a card or gift to a military family
- Walk or pet an animal - but ask first!
- Go a full day without complaining
- Hold the door open for someone
- Learn to say “Thank you” in a new language
- Embrace your family with a big hug
- Teach something to a younger sibling or friend
- Write or draw a loving note for someone
- Make and display a “Kindness Matters” sign
- Raise funds and donate to your favorite cause
- Watch the sunrise or sunset together
- Breathe, stretch and think a happy thought
- Cut out 10 hearts and leave them on 10 cars
- Donate needed school supplies
- Thank a bus driver
- Leave a flower on someone’s doorstep
- Be kind to yourself and eat a healthy snack
- Call your grandparents or esteemed elder
- Walk or bike instead of driving
- Say “Thank you” to a police officer
- Bake cookies and share with your neighbors
- Say “Good Morning” to 5 people
- Pick up and recycle trash in your neighborhood
- Take a family walk outside
- Draw a heart in the sand or dirt
- Write a thank you note to your mail carrier
- Make a wish for a child in another country
- Volunteer in your community
- Say “Hi” to someone who looks sad
- Write a happy message with sidewalk chalk
- Paint a kindness rock and randomly place it
- Share food with someone who is hungry
- Sincerely compliment 5 people
- Post a positive message on social media
- Let someone go ahead of you in line
- Help plant a garden
- Reflect on kindness you witnessed during the day
- Create your own kind deed

#GKCfamily

www.greatkindnesschallenge.org
January 10, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This is to advise you that a number of students at Brent Elementary School have been sick with ‘gastroenteritis’ (nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea).

Gastroenteritis is caused most commonly by viruses and bacteria. Viral gastroenteritis often causes large numbers of people to be affected in a short period of time because the viruses involved are highly infectious and pass very easily from person to person. Bacterial gastroenteritis is less readily passed from person to person than viral gastroenteritis, but large numbers of people may be affected if food or water becomes contaminated.

There are many different types of viruses and bacteria that can cause gastroenteritis. Symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and fever. Depending on the specific virus or bacteria, it can take anywhere from one day to several weeks for symptoms to develop. The illness usually lasts a few days to a week. Washing hands and thoroughly cooking food are extremely important in preventing the spread of illness. Cleaning contaminated surfaces is also important in preventing the spread of viral gastroenteritis. Viruses and bacteria are present in the diarrhea of infected persons while they are sick and for up to a week or two after symptoms end. Gastroenteritis is the result of bacteria or viruses passing from stools or soiled fingers from one person to the mouth of the other, mainly due to inadequate hygiene or poor handwashing habits.

**Students with viral gastroenteritis should not return to school until they have been asymptomatic for at least 24 hours.**

If your child should have any of these symptoms, contact your healthcare provider to obtain a medical evaluation. If possible, request that the physician collect a stool sample during the evaluation to aid in rapid identification of the agent. Also, please notify your child’s school nurse at (202) 727-3890 that you are seeing a physician.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John O. Davies-Cole, PhD, MPH
State Epidemiologist