Coming Up

Monday, December 2 - Saturday, December 7
Brent Book Fair - Library
Hours:
Monday - Wednesday: 8 - 8:30 a.m. & 3:30 - 5 p.m.
Thursday & Friday: 8 - 9 a.m. and 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday: 10 - 2 p.m.

Volunteers needed. Contact Bettina Schewe at bettina.schewe@k12.dc.gov.

Wednesday, December 4
LSAT Meeting - Library
6 - 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 6 - Sunday, December 8
PTA Christmas Tree and Holiday Sale
Friday, December 6th - 4 - 7 p.m.
Saturday, December 7th - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday, December 8th
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
preorder today at brentelementary.org
Please contact Alyson Lewis at alysonandjeff@gmail.com if you are willing to volunteer!

Wednesday, December 11
Open House at Jefferson Academy
801 7th Street SW
6 - 7 p.m.

Today - TUESDAY, December 3 is the LAST day to Pre-Order from the Holiday Sale!
The Brent Christmas Tree and Holiday Sale is THIS weekend!! The playground will be turned into a winter wonderland and we will be selling hundreds of gorgeous Christmas trees! This is one of Brent’s biggest fundraisers and we need your help to make it successful! The website (www.brentholidaysale.com) will only be taking orders through Tuesday night! If you pre-order, you can save $10 on delivery.

Santa is Coming to the Brent Holiday Sale!
Come by the Brent Holiday Sale on Saturday or Sunday from 10-2 and get your picture taken with Santa!! And, of course, while you are here, in addition to getting your tree and festive decor, you can pick up a Limited Edition Brent 2019 Christmas tree ornament designed by Brent parent Roopa Kosuri!
Girl Scout Toy and Book Collection at Brent Christmas Tree and Holiday Sale
Brent’s Girl Scout Troop will be collecting new, unwrapped Toys and Books for the Children’s National Dr. Bear’s Closet. These donations are given to patients and families during their hospital stays to provide comfort and offer distractions. Drop off unwrapped Toys or Books at the Girl Scout Table on Saturday between 10am and 3pm.

Book Fair This Week
The Book Fair is in full swing. Please check out the wonderful selection of books and get some holiday shopping done while supporting our library.

The fair is open every morning from 8 - 8:30 a.m. and after school, on Monday to Wednesday from 3:30 - 4:30 pm and Thursday and Friday from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. The last opportunity to shop for books will be Saturday from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

A Note from DCPS Food Services Regarding System Wide Billing Issue
Thank you for your patience as the Food and Nutrition Services Team worked through some critical updates of the school meal payment system. The MySchoolBucks meal payment portal has been reactivated as of Monday, November 25th. You can now view and manage your student’s meal account. Please note that students are never denied a meal, and your student(s) were not impacted during this update. If you have any questions regarding your student’s meal account, please contact the Food and Nutrition Services office directly at food.dcps@k12.dc.gov.

Brent Celebrates Inclusive School Week – December 2 - 6
This week is National Inclusive School Week, which celebrates the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students who are marginalized due to disability, gender, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, language preference, and other factors.

Brent is recognizing this year’s theme “Charting The Course For Inclusive Schools” with two school-wide events:

“Build a Ship of Hands” will reflect each student’s unique take on coloring and decorating a hand. Use the template provided by the Inclusive Schools Network (attached) to create a visual of the ship we are steering in our own school – the contributions of individuals and how we all come together to shape an inclusive environment. We will proudly display these hands to celebrate everyone’s contribution to inclusive schools.

At “Mix it Up” day during lunch, each student(K-5) will be combined with different table mates to encourage students to identify, question and cross social boundaries. To consider how the value of inclusion can grow at school and at home visit: LINK: https://inclusive schools.org/guiding-questions-to-navigate-your-journey-to-inclusion/

It is that time – The Brent Spelling Bee Kicks Off with 3rd – 5th Classroom Bees Before Winter Break
It’s that time again, classroom spelling bees for 3-5 graders will take place in the upcoming weeks. All students have received their study list before Thanksgiving break. Contact Dayon Hairston at dayon.hairson@k12.dc.gov for an additional copy. All students in those grades will participate in their classroom spelling bee before Winter Break and the top three spellers from each class will go on to participate in the school-wide spelling bee to be held in January 2020. Good luck to all Brent spellers!

Brent Trot for Hunger Raises $2,481!
A big shout-out goes to the Brent families and friends who participated in last week’s Thanksgiving Trot for Hunger which benefited SOME (So Others Might Eat). The Brent Elementary Bears raised $2,481.12 and we were the 6th-highest team fundraiser! Thanks for everyone’s support, and see you next Thanksgiving! See photo on front page.

****GALA CYBER SALE****
Get your Brent Gala ticket this weekend only for $75 - the lowest price we’ve offered!!

Our annual night of fun + fundraising will occur on Friday March 14 at AJAX. So get your tickets now to join friends, faculty, and your community to benefit Brent.

This special price will only last until Sunday, Dec 8 at midnight. Tickets will be available starting Jan 1 at $100 each.

Click here to buy: https://e.givesmart.com/s/xrHQMMnFRCN/e/f31/

Gala committee members will be available at the Holiday Tree sale to facilitate ticket sales as well.
Interested in Brent’s Chinese Program?
Brent has partnered with Chinese Language Academy to offer Chinese classes after school. This is an immersive program that uses projects, games and other age appropriate methods to provide students with an introduction to Chinese (Mandarin) language and culture. We will be offering two classes in the Spring semester.
- Mondays from 3:34-4:45 p.m.: PS - 1st grade (minimum age 4 as of Jan 1)
- Mondays from 4:45-5:45pm: 2nd grade - 5th grade

Interested to learn more? Visit our class! Parents (and students who want to check it out) are invited to visit our Chinese class on Wednesday, December 11th from 5:15-5:45pm. Please email Gretchen Phillips at (gretchen.phillips@gmail.com) if you are interested to join the class or learn more about the program.

Music Notes
The Lion King Jr. Update
Two weeks ago the Spring musical, The Lion King Jr., was announced and I am incredibly excited for our 2nd - 5th grade students! A packet was sent home in TuesNews two weeks ago with all of the information regarding this year’s play. Here is a link to the Dropbox folder with the following: The play packet (which contains the Google Doc to sign up to audition) and all of the audition materials (script and music): https://tinyurl.com/r3ghzen

Rehearsals will be on Wednesdays (3:30 - 5 p.m.) and Fridays (4:45 - 6 p.m.) and the auditions start the week of December 9 (forms are due no later than December Honors Choir

For the last three years DC Public Schools has hosted a city-wide honors chorus that consists of the best singers in DCPS. Brent Elementary School has participated each of those years and I am excited to announce that we will be participating again this year. Students in grades 3rd - 5th are invited to audition on Friday December 6 from 8 - 8:35 a.m. in the music room. Students that would like to audition will be asked to sing the first verse of “The Star Spangled Banner” by memory. The practice files as well as the rubric that will be used to assess the auditions can be found here: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u8t BMC0c6w6an/AACg7p4Jy_u_PJ7eKp7BjQo3a?dl=0
Principal’s Corner

Dear Brent Families,

Today our 1st-5th Grade students will come home with their Trimester Special Subject Report Cards for Art, Music and Science.

Last year we shifted to a trimester structure for these special subjects. We did so to honor our second operating principle: We will employ instructional structures and strategies that emphasize depth in learning. Our previous model of once-a-week annual specials was not achieving that depth; now, weekly and intensive 12-week special subject cycles have brought us closer to that goal. Special subject teachers and their students have built closer relationships, content more explicitly connects from one day to another and over time (and, thus far this year, loss of content because of the gaps between trimesters appears insignificant), students see special subjects as having the same import as the “core subjects” like reading, writing and math, and opportunities for family engagement – such as last week’s Learning Showcases – are more prevalent.

The trimester structure also requires a different report card schedule and format because our DCPS Report Cards operate on quarters. This means:

- Trimester Report Cards will be sent home on December 3rd, March 24th, and June 19th (sent home with DCPS Report Cards).
- Art, Music and Science Grades will be updated on the DCPS report card at the end of each trimester. Grades will only be recorded for the subject that the student attended – so, at the end of the year, only one of the four grading periods will have a posted grade.

Art, Music and Science teachers have created their own report card that reflects all of the learning standards for a trimester but also aligns with the DCPS grading system in its components:

- Skill Progress: B for Beginning, D for Developing, or S for Secure
- Overall Numerical Grade: 4 for exceeding expectations, 3 for meeting expectations, 2 for falling slightly below expectations, or 1 for falling far below expectations

Narrative Comment

While it can take a moment to digest another report card, we believe the Trimester Special Subject Report Cards best allow us to name and celebrate student progress. Still, as part of its study on report cards, the LSAT will analyze the format and timing of Trimester Special Subject Report Cards to identify the points of revision to meet that goal.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell