Coming Up

**Wednesday, February 26**
Brent Community Meeting
6 - 7:30 p.m.
Childcare and ASL interpreters

**Sunday, March 1**
Family Game Night
4 - 6:30 p.m.
American Legion

**Monday, March 2**
Read Across America Day (regular uniform day)

Last day for MyschoolDC Lottery Applications PS3 - 8th

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

**Wednesday, March 11**
PTA Board Meeting
6 - 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, March 13**
Club Day #4
Uniform Free Day

**Monday, March 16**
Trimester 2 Learning Showcases
1st - 5th

Community Meeting this Wednesday, February 26th
We will hold our monthly Community Meeting this Wednesday, February 26th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room. Childcare will be provided.

Photos: Scenes from Friday, February 14 Club Day
The Community meeting will be a follow-up to January’s State of the School presentation on Brent’s modernization and expansion and
will include a Q&A, a discussion about swing space, and a launch of our advocacy campaign.

Read Across America on Monday, March 2nd
On Monday, March 2, Brent Bears will honor Read Across America by celebrating a nation of diverse readers, characters, and authors. The community will begin the day by coming together for an all-school meeting led by our first graders. Classes will continue to celebrate throughout the day with read-a-thons and special project work with their book buddies that celebrate the diversity of our communities and favorite characters. March 2nd is a regular uniform day. Throughout the month of March, all Brent classes will use a world map on the first floor to track the diverse settings in which the books we are reading take place.

Mark Your Calendars for March 25 Community Meeting
Mark your calendars now for the PTA Community Meeting Wednesday, March 25 from 6 - 7:30 p.m., where Brent parent, Obstetrician/Gynecologist, and educator Carolyn Gorman will lead a parent education and discussion session on how to talk to about sex with children of varying ages.

Health Update - 2019-nCoV
Brent has received communication from the DC Department of Health regarding the 2019-nCoV, the new corona virus that causes respiratory illness with cases reporting in a growing number of countries. The DC Department of Health and CDC are working together to mini- tor the situation.

Though the CDC has identified the risk to the American public to be low, DC Health is making sure DC is prepared if a case is identified in the District. School shave been encouraged to emphasize routine sick policies, including the exclusion for children who have had a fever with in 24 hours. You can find updated information about 2019-nCoV, local surveillance data, and answers to frequently asked questions on our website at https://dchealth.dc.gov/coronavirus.

Ward 6 Middle Schools Discussion on March 17
What are the greatest assets and challenges for our middle schools? How are our middle schools preparing students for high school and beyond? Join us for an evening panel discussion: “Ward 6 Middle Schools Today & Tomorrow,” featuring principals from Capitol Hill Montessori, Cardozo Education Campus, Eliot-Hine Middle School, Jefferson Middle School Academy, and Stuart-Hobson Middle School. Hosted by the Ward 6 Public Schools Parent Organization, this event is open to parents, middle school students (current and rising), and educators from all wards. Register today as space is limited.

Event: Ward 6 Middle Schools Today & Tomorrow: A Discussion with Principals

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Location: Jefferson Academy, 801 7th Street Southwest
Register here: https://bit.ly/38vfIeM

**Childcare is available for those who register for it on Eventbrite invite. E-mail any questions to w6pspo@gmail.com.
Thank you from the Annual Fund!

A tremendous thank you to all the families and friends that participated in the 2019-20 Annual Fund Drive. We are thrilled to announce that through your generosity we were able to raise a total of $110,840! (92% to goal with 53% family participation)

These dollars ensure that current programs, resources and efforts stay alive, that we continue to have the means to grow, and that every year we have the ability to meet our students and families where they are. We recognize that each and every one of you made a conscious choice to show your support and we wanted you to know how invaluable that is to us.

Again, a HUGE thanks and wishing you all a wonderful rest of the school year!

Sincerely,
Tara Goldenberg & Piper Campbell
Annual Fund Co-Chairs

New School Picture Vendor for School Year 2020-2021

Elementary school is a wonderful and magical time! Students have so many firsts at this age—first friendships, first school play, first school dance . . . School pictures are an important reminder of this time. For the past three years, we have struggled to work with our picture vendor to provide both quality pictures and accurate picture packages to Brent families.

As a result, Brent has moved to change picture vendors and with the PTA Board’s agreement, will work with Victor O’Neill studios for school photography next year. Victor O’Neill studios works with many DC schools and is comparable in price to our current vendor. The studio earlier this month received a Best of Falls Church business award that “honors the achievement and accomplishments of local businesses in Falls Church.” The studio has agreed, at Brent’s request, that weather permitting, pictures be taken outside. Additional lighting equipment will be provided to ensure high-quality pictures. Thanks to families for their patience and candid feedback.

Girls on the Run Spring Season!

Registration is still open for the Girls on the Run spring season! Girls on the Run welcomes 3rd – 5th grade girls who want to become more active and learn more about the 5Cs: Confidence, Competence, Caring, Connection and Character. Practices begin on March 2nd and will be held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:45. The Girls on the Run culminating 5K will be held on May 17th at Anacostia Park. This season all runners must be able to commit to attending both practices weekly. Questions: Email Coach Kadash at emily.kadash@k12.dc.gov. Registration closes March 15th.

Registration link: https://www.raceplanner.com/register/index/GOTRDCSpring2020
Dear Brent Families,

Budget season for Fiscal Year 2021 has launched!

Brent’s success relies on both DCPS budget allocations and Brent PTA’s funding. Brent’s budget season has two stages in order to design two budgets: DCPS and PTA. The DCPS budgeting process concluded just before February break. The PTA budgeting process will launch in April. Our school goals unify these separate timelines and funding pools. To achieve these goals, we typically use DCPS funds to meet our personnel needs and PTA funds to meet our non-personnel needs, a privilege that maximizes the number of adults and supports those adults with the resources required to serve our students.

DCPS allocated Brent $5,128,624 for the upcoming school year. With changing position costs and new overtime spending requirements, Brent had an additional $86,488 to spend year-over-year. With this funding along with the removal of a general aide position, Brent will employ a Focus Teacher for Kindergarten. The kindergarten focus teacher will work with the kindergarten instructional team to respond to individual student needs consistently and collectively, ensure that all team members have knowledge of the curriculum and student needs and facilitate ongoing, regular collaboration between teachers. This position is critical as it works to provide our earliest learners with a strong academic foundation. The small remaining funds were allocated to custodial supplies.

These budget moves allow us to expand our full-time Focus Teacher model across all compulsory grades, a model that supports differentiated instruction for all students. Thank you to all of the LSAT members for offering their perspectives as we developed this budget. We will now turn to the PTA budget and will begin engaging the community at the April community meeting about how its design and our school goals can be best aligned.

To read more about Brent’s allocation and the DCPS budget process, visit the DCPS Data Center at https://www.dcpsdatacenter.com/index.html. If have any questions or would like to discuss the budget in more depth, please join me for the March 6th Principal’s Coffee from 8:45-10:00am.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell
For the 3rd year in a row, classrooms at Brent Elementary are participating in the Jazz and Friends National Reading! On Thursday, February 27th, 2020 we’ll be joining schools across our city and nation in readings to support transgender youth. D.C. Public Schools is working to make our schools safe and inclusive for our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) students, staff, and families.

This year’s reading showcases five different affirming texts, including: *I am Jazz* by Jessica Herthal & Jazz Jennings; *Julián Is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love; *When Aiden Became a Brother* by Kyle Lukoff; *They She He Me: Free to Be!* and *They, She, He Easy As ABC* both by Maya & Matthew Smith-Gonzalez. Jazz Jennings was one of the first transgender children to talk publicly about her identity and the challenges she has faced.

There are many resources available to help you initiate and continue this conversation at home. Visit [welcomingschools.org/resources/challenging-questions/] for guidance on how to respond to commonly asked questions. HRC Foundation’s Welcoming Schools is the nation’s premier professional development program providing training and resources to elementary school educators to welcome diverse families, create LGBTQ and gender inclusive schools, prevent bias-based bullying, and support transgender and non-binary students.

According to a 2017 HRC Foundation report based on 5,600 transgender and gender-expansive youth, less than a quarter of transgender and gender-expansive youth feel like they can definitely be themselves at school or at home. You can read more at [https://www.hrc.org/blog/hrc-and-uconn-survey-finds-significant-challenges-for-trans-and-gender-expa](https://www.hrc.org/blog/hrc-and-uconn-survey-finds-significant-challenges-for-trans-and-gender-expa). However, when gender-expansive youth feel affirmed, their risk of depression, anxiety and other negative mental health outcomes is greatly reduced ([http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/142/2/e20181436](http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/142/2/e20181436)). DCPS has developed a brochure with resources available at [bit.ly/DCPSlgbtq](http://bit.ly/DCPSlgbtq).

By working together, we can help to ensure that all students feel loved and supported. For more information contact the Office of Youth Engagement at (202) 442-5065 or [dcps.lgbtq@dc.gov](mailto:dcps.lgbtq@dc.gov). You can also visit [dcps.dc.gov/page/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-and-questioning-student-engagement](http://dcps.dc.gov/page/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-and-questioning-student-engagement).
The Gala Committee would like to thank our Top of the Class sponsors for their very generous $5,000 donations!

We ask that the Brent community support these local businesses:

- **Metro Motor** auto maintenance and repair shop (4th & Penn)
- The **Jeanne Phil Meg** team at Compass Real Estate
- **Taoti Creative** creative & marketing agency (Barracks Row)

Next week, we will be promoting ALL of our amazing sponsors in the Tues News. Sponsors have visibility at the gala and on the event website, on a large banner displayed outside the school and on Brent's facebook/instagram pages.

This is a great time to ask your own company/business if they would like to sponsor! Sponsorship levels start at $250. [http://Brentgala2020.givesmart.com](http://Brentgala2020.givesmart.com)

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**DC VETS NIGHT TO ROCK**

Join the American Legion Auxiliary as we roll out the red carpet for the Washington debut of original songs written about the military experiences of two local veterans.

As part of **OPERATION: SONG**, Calvin and John traveled to Nashville and came back with professionally written & recorded songs. Hear their musical stories, "My Happy to be Alive Day" and "Squared Me Away" while benefiting the DC VA Music Therapy Program.

**Saturday, February 29, 2020**
Doors open at 6 pm, program at 7 pm. Gourmet nibbles and a specialty cocktail will be served.
$10 suggested donation. Buy at the door or here: fb.com/ALAPost8.
100% of your contributions goes to the DC VA Music Therapy Program.

The American Legion Post 8, 224 D Street SE, Washington, DC 20003