

# THE TUES. NEWS

3-10-2020

## BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### **Tuesday, March 10**

Progress Reports sent home - K - 5th ( some students)

### **Wednesday, March 11**

PTA Board Meeting  
6 - 7:30 p.m.

### **Friday, March 13**

Club Day #4  
Uniform Free Day

### **Saturday, March 14**

Brent Spring Gala  
7 - 11:30 p.m.  
AJAX  
1011 4th Street NW  
ASL Interpreters provided

### **Monday, March 16**

Trimester 2 Learning Showcases  
1st - 5th

### **Tuesday, March 17**

Trimester Music Concert  
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
Hoisl, Berg, Maschari, Arbuckle,  
and the Brent Honors Choir. Stu-  
dents should wear white top, black  
bottom

Ward 6 Middle School Discussion  
Jefferson Academy 6:30 - 8 p.m.  
RSVP below <https://bit.ly/38vf1eM>

### **Wednesday, March 18**

Diversity Working Group  
6 - 7:30 p.m.



### **Friday, March 20**

Professional Development Day  
No School for Students  
Innovation Learning Programming  
Available  
Register at [innovationlearning.com](http://innovationlearning.com)

### **Kindergarteners Visit the National Portrait Gallery**

Throughout February in the atelier, kindergarteners honored Black History Month by studying the portraiture work of Kehinde Wiley and Amy Sherald, the first black artists commissioned for official Presidential Portraits. They discussed the importance of

having a diverse representation of artists throughout the National Portrait Gallery, as well as other art museums around the world. The children read the book Parker Looks Up by Washington D.C.'s own mother-daughter author duo, Parker and Jessica Curry. This book tells the now famous story of Parker visiting the National Portrait Gallery and the impact that viewing Michelle Obama's portrait, someone who looked just like her, had on her self-confidence and self-love.

On March 4th, The Wonderful

Kingdom Kids went on a field experience to The National Portrait Gallery where they participated in the interactive Portrait Detectives program. The story of Parker Looks Up came to life as they viewed many portraits, highlights which included Kehinde Wiley's portraits of Barack Obama and L.L. Cool J, Amy Sberald's portrait of Michelle Obama, and Betsy Grave Reyneau's portrait of George Washington Carver. The kindergarteners also had the opportunity to create a variety of their own portraits in the gallery's hands-on "Explore!" Room. Portrait making continued upon their return to the atelier, where each child was invited to create their own self-portrait inspired by the works of Wiley and Sberald, celebrating their diverse and unique identities. See photos on the front page.

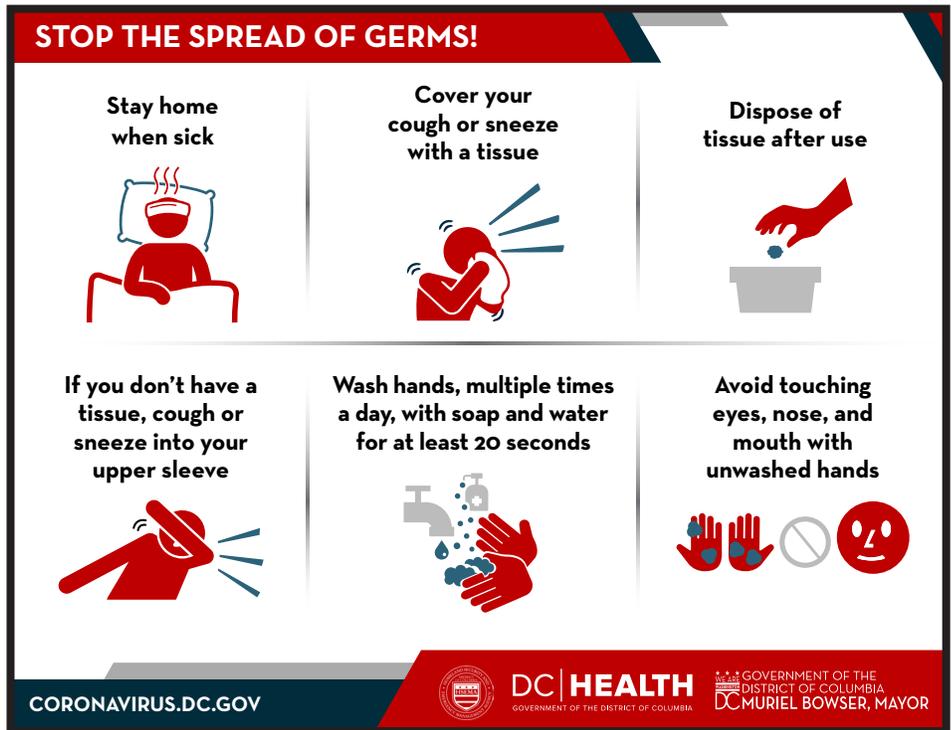
### Pets on Brent Grounds

DCPS policy prohibits bringing pets or other animals on school grounds without prior permission by the teacher and/or principal. This important safety protocol includes the front garden, playground and blacktop.

### Living Wax Museum - March 24 at 1:15 p.m.

Do you love going to museums? Have you ever been to a wax museum? If you have not you would have a good time coming out to see what it is all about and seeing our wonderful Brent Students become a live exhibit!

Come to Brent's 2nd annual wax museum on Tuesday, March 24



at 1:15 p.m. in the Multipurpose room!

If your child still wants to participate it is not too late. You can contact Ms. Hairston at dayon.hairston@k12.dc.gov.

Please note the change of date from the previous email that went out on Monday, February 24th, the date has changed due to conflict in schedules for several of the students.

### Brent Spring Gala Q & A

Join the Brent Community for the annual Brent Gala this Saturday, March 14th from 7:30-11:00 p.m. at AJAX DC. ASL Interpreters will be provided. For more information visit brentelementary.org.

### Club Day #4 and Train Your Brain Spirit Day

Friday, March 13th is the fourth and final Club Day of the school year. It is also a "Train Your Brain" Spirit Day! Students and faculty

are encouraged to wear their favorite exercise clothes and activewear for "Train Your Brain Day". We workout our brains each day at school. On Friday our clothes will match! Students choosing not to participate in this theme should wear their regular school uniforms.

### Brent Spring Gala - FAQs

The gala committee is getting excited for the big event this Saturday at AJAX! We've heard a few questions and comments from parents and wanted to be sure you have the answers:

*What should I wear to the gala?*

Ms. Sadowsky said it best: "Wear what makes you feel special." You'll see some parents love dressing up in cocktail dresses and suits, others prefer a smart casual outfit, and everything in between.

*What does a ticket to the gala get me?*

When you purchase a gala ticket, you get a kid-free evening of fun with the Brent community. Wine and bites from local restaurants are included. Cocktail tickets can be purchased for \$5. Plus, your ticket sale is directly benefiting the school.

*I don't know anyone who's going, what should I do?*

We would love to see you at the gala so here are a few ideas: Bring a friend! The gala is open to everyone in the community and all are welcome. Many of the teachers and staff attend so chances are you'll see a familiar face. Also, volunteering (<https://signup.com/go/SgrkTSB>) is a great way to check out what happens without paying for a ticket or worrying about what to wear. And if the cost of a ticket is keeping you from saying yes, reach out to Denise Diggs at [denise.diggs@k12.dc.gov](mailto:denise.diggs@k12.dc.gov).

*Any bidding advice?*

All bidding, except for three LIVE auction items are done through your phone. You'll receive text updates when you've been outbid. So stay alert during the night!

This year we've also added a STEAL CARD. It gives you a chance to win any SILENT auction of your choice like a travel destination or the artwork you promised your kid.

Our pro tip is to team up with another family to split the cost of an item if bidding gets really high.

And be on the lookout for deals on



your everyday expenditures like a gift card to Trader Joe's or a free week of aftercare from Innovation Learning.

*What are the different ways to bid?*

Most of the items are silent auction. You'll see a starting bid and a minimum raise. The highest bidder wins!

There will be three items in the LIVE auction. At the gala, an auctioneer will announce these items and parents will bid by raising a hand.

The Instant items are ones you can purchase without bidding on. These include spirit parties, t-shirts and more. The class art and banners also have a Buy Now option.

*How much are you looking to raise?*

This year we would love to hit \$100,000 gross revenue!!! We're at \$33k with sponsorships and ticket sales but we need your help to get us to our goal.

*Shoot! I'll be out of town that weekend.*

We'll miss you! But you can still participate by purchasing a virtual ticket for \$5

*I haven't bought my ticket, is there still time?!*

Yes!!! Buy your ticket today before the price goes up to \$125 on March 12. (Alert: that means buy it by tomorrow night!). We'll be selling tickets at the door so walk ins are welcome. Volunteer opportunities are still available - please signup (<https://signup.com/go/SgrkTSB>)



## Principal's Corner

Dear Brent Community,

Brent's Listening Sessions are quickly becoming essential to growing our mechanisms of access, inclusion, reflection and action. We launched in 2017-2018 with Student Listening Sessions and have since added both Family Listening Sessions and Faculty Listening Sessions to the routine. This letter will describe Family Listening Sessions: our mission, participation data and some of the things we have learned thus far. The mission of Brent's Family Listening Sessions is to amplify and harmonize our many voices into collective action through face-to-face storytelling and experience gathering. In 2018-2019 we held eight listening sessions, two sessions with military families living on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (representing 14 families), 3 sessions with families of new second-fifth grade students (representing 10 families), and 3 sessions with families of kindergarten-first grade students who did not attend PS/PK at Brent. So far in 2019-2020 we have held 3 sessions with families of Black and/or African American students and are scheduled to hold a series this Spring with families of fourth and fifth graders.

Listening sessions are iterative. The more we listen, the more we learn; the more we learn, the more we need to listen for new or refined points and perspectives.

This iterative process, though, still fosters tangible outcomes that have thus far included:

- A more explicit process for identifying formal and informal leaders from our pool of listening session participants.

- A compilation of themes specific to and across listening sessions. This compilation is a working document that will be revised as we hold more listening sessions.

- A convening of Community Leadership Group representatives (LSAT, PTA, DWG, and SIT) to analyze listening session data and identify points of action and further inquiry. Each of the representatives then returned to their respective members to present and discuss these possibilities. The list of actions and further inquiry was long but included adaptive (building relationships by saying hello on the playground, extending the Brent Buddies program, or offering more community programs that do not have a shared goal of fundraising) and technical (revising the Summer Mailing, setting clearer expectations for classroom communications, or making budget documents more widely available) leadership moves.

- A commitment to continued dialogue, within and beyond listening sessions. Dialogue is, in fact, an action.

Thank you to all of our listening session participants, our listening session committee leads (parents Kim Barry, Sarah Carr, and Danielle Drissell and faculty member

Mike Mangiaracina), our Community Leadership Group representatives, and our community for recognizing the potential of this work to grow not only what we do but also who we are.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell  
Principal