Coming Up

**Monday, December 11 - Thursday, March 1**  
Myschool DC Lottery Window for PS - 8th

**Friday, December 22 - Tuesday, January 2**  
Winter Break  
No School for Students and Teachers

**Wednesday, January 3**  
LSAT Meeting  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

**Friday, January 5**  
Parent Coffee with Principal Lycknell  
8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

**Monday, January 8**  
Brent Open House for Prospective Families  
9 - 10 a.m.

**Wednesday, January 10**  
Brent PTA Board Meeting  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 17**  
Diversity Team meeting  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

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**Safety Alert**  
Last week a Brent student suffered minor injuries after being struck by a taxi when walking home from school. This occurred at the corner of Pennsylvania and 4th Street SE at about 5:15 p.m. All of us on Capitol Hill witness daily drivers who are in too much of a hurry, distracted by GPS or text messaging or simply appear to be lost and struggle with the one way streets. These distractions are compounded in the winter when the sun sets earlier. Please let this be another reminder to be extra attentive when navigating through our neighborhood.

Brent has also requested a DDOT Traffic Study to assess the number and placement of our crossing guards; it should be completed before the end of the calendar year.

**2nd Grade Realistic Fiction Publishing Party**  
On Friday, second graders welcomed families into their classrooms to share their realistic fiction stories. Students worked diligently for weeks to write stories inspired by their own lives or the lives of people they know. Our authors created original characters and developed a set of interconnected character traits that informed their writing. Our published stories featured paint-
1. The fall session of Rising Tides, Brent’s after school academic program, has successfully concluded! With many thanks to Ashli Wilson and Hyon Herbert, this 8-week session included many of our 4th and 5th grade students for nearly 24 additional hours of math support and recreation.

2. Jon Berg, second grade teacher, led the school in its participation in The Human Rights Campaign’s Welcoming School’s National “I Am Jazz” School and Community Readings on December 7th! The event was organized to support transgender and non-binary youth, and to help schools like Brent to take steps toward ensuring that they are safe and affirming spaces for all children. Many Brent classrooms participated in reading and discussing the book, and we hope to hear more about the experience from Mr. Berg on January 17th.

3. The Diversity Working Group hosted a Ward 6 Town Hall Event in October with DCPS Chancellor Antwan Wilson, several senior DCPS staff members and Ward 6 State Board of Education representative Joe Weedon. Participant
notes and feedback from the gathering were passed along to Wordna Warren, who heads Equity and Diversity work in the Office of Instructional Practice, and notes of gratitude were received from her and several other participants.

This group is most vibrant when it includes many voices. Whether we are discussing serious topics, planning events and actions, or sharing our experiences, it is good to have people in the conversation who collectively see Brent from many angles. All in the Brent community should make a plan to participate in at least one Diversity Working Group meeting next year.

Before we all head off for Winter Break, I wanted to provide a quick update on Brent’s outdoor access weather policies. The idea of physical activity and preparedness is important to our school philosophy, and we know that people feel temperatures differently. Staff are currently meeting to review and revise Brent’s policies for extreme cold/ hot temperatures and for bad air quality days. Parents will receive this policy as part of a welcome letter following Winter Break.

I also want to take a moment to reflect on the end of 2017. Brent had a strong start to the school year and we have already seen tremendous growth from our students. I continue to be amazed at the thoughtfulness, dedication and mutual desire to grow that define our Brent community. Thank you for being our partners in shaping this community and for bringing us the students that fill it with life, purpose and joy. Have a wonderful Winter Break and I look forward to continuing our good, hard work in the new year.

In partnership,
Norah Lycknell
Principal
Brent ES