Coming Up

Saturday, December 2 - Friday, December 8
Brent Book Fair
Library
Dec 6 - 3:30 - 6:30 -p.m.

Wednesday, December 6
LSAT Meeting
6:30 - 8 p.m.

Friday, December 8
Parent Coffee with Principal Lycknell
8:30 - 10 a.m.

Saturday, December 9
EdFest 2017
11 - 3 p.m.
Stadium -Armory
Visit Brent at booth 1118

Monday, December 11
Myschool DC Lottery Opens
Deadline for PS - 8th - March 1

Wednesday, December 13
ECE - 1st Grade Winter Concert
6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
ASL Interpreters Provided

Thursday, December 14
2nd - 5th and Honors Choir Winter Concert
6 - 6:45 p.m.
ASL Interpreters Provided

Brent’s Christmas Tree and Holiday Sale Continues the Tradition
This past weekend, the Brent Christmas Tree and Holiday in its seventh year, continued to serve not only as a fundraiser but as a community gathering with former Brent families and Capitol Hill neighbors coming to the Brent playground to pick out Christmas trees, buy cookies, select wreaths and garland. An event as successful as the Christmas Tree and Holiday sale has its partners. Tues News would like to give a huge shout out to Bookstore Movers, a local moving company. With each tree weighing at least 50 pounds
and over 1000 trees to unload off a semi-truck, the fabulous and fantastic Bookstore Movers crew was instrumental in getting the sale set up. (Brent community – support this local business and think about Bookstore Movers for your moving needs). Also, please take a moment to thank and congratulate the events leads, Josh Drobnyk, Alyson Lewis and John Fleming who worked so tirelessly to ensure another terrific event. And for the over 90 volunteers at the event, thank you for launching the holiday season for the community. See photos.

PTA ANNUAL FUND
Thanks to all of the families who have contributed to the PTA Annual Fund! The Annual Fund campaign ended this week with 62% of Brent families contributing $98,407, with at least another $3000 still to come in from employer matching funds. This means we are short of our goals for 90% family participation and $120,000 raised. But it isn’t too late to give! You can still give online at bit.ly/BrentFund or drop a check in the PTA lock box in Brent’s front office. And we’ll do occasional updates on how additional fundraising is going.

Shopping on Amazon?
Don’t forget to go through https://smile.amazon.com and select Robert Brent Parent Teacher Association as your charity. Amazon donates a % of every purchase to the school. It works with Prime!

Alert - No December PTA General Meeting
Due to the Holidays, there will be no general PTA meeting. Meetings will resume in January!

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 before school from 8:00 - 8:30 am and after school from 3:30 - 4:30 pm. On Wednesday it will be open until 6:30 pm.

You can also shop online at http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/brentelementaryschool3.

If you can help with the book sale and/or the pack-up on Friday, Dec. 8 at 4:30 pm, please contact Ms. Bettina (bettina.schewe@dc.gov).

Jefferson Academy Principal Provides an Update to Brent PTA
During last week’s PTA General Meeting, Jefferson Academy Principal, Greg Dohmann, briefed the meeting on topics including academic life, extracurricular activities, and the upcoming modernization. After the briefing there was an open question and answer period which included information about several recent successes at the school but also information around the challenges, including some around Middle School life in general.

Like all PTA General meetings this year, it was broadcast via Facebook Live, where it can be viewed after the fact as well. If you are interested in watching Principal Dohmann’s presentation and the discussion that followed, it can be found starting at the 26:45 mark of the Facebook Live video. It is preceded by a briefing by Principal Lycknell regarding how Brent is readying it’s students for the transitions between the major student milestones, including the one between elementary and middle school.

I am Jazz Reading - December 7
We’re excited to share that on December 7, 2017 many classrooms at Brent will be joining schools in DCPS and across the nation in a reading of I Am Jazz in support of 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. I Am Jazz, written by Jazz Jennings and author Jessica Herthel, is a first-person account about being transgender. Look for a letter from your child’s teacher with more information about how you can initiate and continue this conversation at home.

Research shows that the way families respond to LGBTQ youth can affect their health and mental health outcomes and decision-making later in life. By working together, we can help to ensure that all students not only feel supported, but also develop into the healthy, happy young adults they all have the potential to become.

For more information about how DCPS is working to make our schools more inclusive, please contact the Office of Youth Engagement at (202) 442-5065 or via email at dcps.lgbtq@dc.gov.
Brent students. If you are interested in your family participating, please email Wanda Edwards at wedwards@springboardkids.com.

**Winter Concerts - December 13 and 14**

Our Winter Concerts are coming up fast and our young musicians are excited to show off what they know! Our ECE - 1st grade students will be performing on December 13 from 6:00 - 6:45 PM and our 2nd - 5th grade students and the Brent Honors Choir will be performing on December 14 from 6:00 - 6:45. I am asking that students arrive at 5:40 PM on their respective evenings wearing concert white/black (i.e. white shirt/blouse/dress, black/dark bottoms). The concerts will start promptly at 6:00 PM so I encourage you to arrive early to secure a seat.

**Principal Update**

Dear Brent Community,

Over the weekend, I witnessed the spirit of the Brent Community through the incredible Holiday Christmas Tree Sale. Run by a team of dedicated and hard working parents and an army of volunteers, the sale launches the holiday season for the neighborhood. I met many former Brent families who not only came back to pick up a beautiful Christmas Tree and wreath but also gave several hours of their weekend to help out the sale. This is one of the many things that make Brent so special – a tireless commitment to creating a wonderful and beautiful elementary school experience for Brent students. Thank you to all to creating a memorable weekend.

**Rising Tides After School Program Update**

Rising Tides is an after school program that helps students with their math, leadership and team building skills. The program ran for 8 weeks in the spring of last school year and was expanded this year to include 8 weeks in the fall. Rising Tides meets from 3:30 PM-5:30 PM on Tuesday-Thursday afternoons. The first hour includes math practice in Ms. Wilson’s room. The second hour is spent at X Park with team building and leadership games led by Ms. Wilson’s husband, Coach H. We are at a midpoint in the fall session and have had 16 students participating in the program consistently. Rising Tides is grateful for support from the Brent PTA and Teacher Volunteers for helping the program to run smoothly. We look forward to closing the Fall session and starting the Spring session after Winter Break. See photos.