

THE TUES. NEWS

2-23-2021

BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Coming Up!

Thursday, February 25

Jazz & Friends
National Reading

Friday, February 26

Black History Month Virtual Wax
Museum

Brent PTA Trivia Night
8pm

<https://fundly.com/brent-trivia-night>

Saturday, February 27

Community Book Exchange for 4th
and 5th

1:30 - 3 p.m.

Garfield Park

Sign up for the Grade 4-5 Playdate at:

<https://cutt.ly/gkuX3qH>

Tuesday, March 2

Principal Coffee

8:30 - 10 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89773362628>

us/j/89773362628

Meeting ID: 897 7336 2628

Passcode: Brent2020!

Wednesday, March 3

LSAT/PTA Board Joint Meeting

6 - 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 5

Parent-Teacher Conference Day

No school for students



Coming Up!

Thursday, March 11

DWG Book Club - Courageous Conversations

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84544396517?pwd=K1d5TUvpakUrSFFLUWNQeDQ0Y0tMUT09>

6517?pwd=K1d5TUvpakUrSFFLUWNQeDQ0Y0tMUT09

eDQ0Y0tMUT09

Meeting ID: 845 4439 6517

Passcode: DWG

Great Job Lego Challenge Participants!

Thank you to the 30+ families that participated in the Lego Challenge this weekend. We had a Fun'd time on a very cold morning. Congratulations to our Winners!

Use of Color- Team Murray

Story - Team Taylor

Artistry - Team Miller

Originality - Team Gerety

Complexity - Team Malex

Grand Prize - Team Moore

A HUGE thank you to Labyrinth Games & Puzzles for judging the competition and donating prizes for the winners.

Join the Brent Parent Advocates group!

We are a group of parents advocating to the District/DCPS to ensure that Brent has the resources needed to safely provide 5 days of in-person instruction, with a teacher, for all of its students who wish to return to in-person learning by Fall 2021. We are working alongside other parent and school groups, on behalf of our children. To learn more and to join, please email Rebecca Saxton-Fox rsaxtonf@gmail.com.

REMINDER TO REGISTER FOR TRIVIA NIGHT & DONATE TO BRENT!!

Missing sitting at a table playing trivia with friends? This is your chance to do just that - you and your team will participate together in a break out room and discuss and decide answers to each round TOGETHER!!

Thank you to our amazing sponsors!

The Trebek (\$5000): Jeanne Phil Meg Real Estate Team

The Championship (\$2000): Capitol Hill Auto Shop

The Double Jeopardy (\$500): Taoti Creative

Register Here: <https://fundly.com/brent-trivia-night>

Suggested donation of \$50 per household or \$75 to pre-select your team. Teams will discuss answers for each round via Zoom breakout rooms

The site allows you to choose one ticket at a time but you are welcome to go back in and purchase multiple items or simply choose Donate and email cmportolese@gmail.com with the ticket items you would like your money to go towards

Join the Brent Community for our

first ever Trivia Night Friday, Feb 26th at 8pm. This meeting of the minds is sure to be a "fun'd thing" to do during a cold winter night! Purchase Wild Cards in packs of 1 or 3 to help your team get closer to the prizes or enhance your evening with the VIP Refreshment Package! This is a great chance to connect with other parents like we normally would at drop-off and in-person events! See you there!

Proceeds from Trivia Night will support PTA fundraising efforts which offset about a third of Brent's non-DCPS operating budget. PTA funds cover a large portion of the school's non-personnel expenses, allowing the school to use DCPS funds for additional staff like focus teachers and movement coach. Additionally, PTA funds support professional development for teachers, smart boards and other classroom supplies and community events.

DCPS Panorama Survey for Families

For the last 4 years, DCPS has asked families to fill out the Panorama Survey. The family survey provides feedback to DCPS Central Office and school administration as well. View DCPS' results from last year at bit.ly/dcpsfamily.

You may complete the survey online between February 22 and March 19, 2021. The survey website works for computers, tablets or smartphones and is available at bit.ly/dcpsfamily. You can complete the survey online in about 10 minutes. Your responses to this survey are both voluntary and confidential. To ensure your feedback stays anonymous, DCPS partnered with Panorama Education to hold and manage survey responses. Neither DCPS nor any school will be able to tie responses back to specific parents.

DCPS wants to make sure every voice

is heard. Please submit one survey per school. If you have more than one child in the same school, please submit only one survey for the oldest child you have in that school. If you have children in multiple schools, please submit one survey for each school. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please visit dcps.dc.gov/surveys.

Thank you for your participation in the DCPS Panorama Survey!

Announcing DCPS's Snack and Supper Program

We are excited to share with you that starting Thursday, February 25, 2021, Food and Nutrition Services will be providing students learning in the classroom with the opportunity to receive snack and supper to take home with them. For students who are virtual, families can arrange to pick up snack and supper at 3 p.m. Monday – Friday.

We know that many families are struggling to put food on the table and with the use of USDA waivers we are able to meet students where they are to fulfill this critical need. Food Service Staff will distribute a pre-packaged meal kit containing 1 supper and 1 snack to students in the classroom for them to take home. Students can take the supper/snack meal kit even if they didn't receive breakfast or lunch from school that day. Snack and supper will be free for all students.

Families can sign up for the program by contacting Denise Diggs at 202-698-3364 or at denise.diggs@k12.dc.gov.

DWG Book Study: Courageous Conversations - Thursday, March 11, 11 - noon

As a part of the Brent Diversity Working Group's ongoing efforts to foster conversation and growth around conversations about difficult subjects such as race, racism, ethnicity, and privilege, we'll be engaging in a conversation and shared reading of *Courageous Conversations About Race* by Glen Singleton. For the next meeting, please read chapters 6 & 7. The text can be ordered at East City or borrowed from Brent (email BrentDiversityWG@gmail.com if you'd like to check out a copy). Even if you weren't able to read the chapters or haven't joined before, you're still welcome to come join in the discussion.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84544396517?pwd=K1d5TUprvakUrSFFLUWNQeDQ0Y0tMUT09>

Meeting ID: 845 4439 6517

Passcode: DWG



Principal Corner

Dear Brent Families,

DCPS released FY22 School Budget allocations last Thursday night. You can find more information about funding sources, allocations and the budget development process on DCPS' new budget website: <https://dcpsbudget.com/>.

Brent's projected enrollment is flat for the coming school year. Enrollment is the most significant driver of Brent's FY22 allocation of \$5,300,048, an increase of \$171,424 from FY21. One way to think about the FY22 allocation is that it allows us to maintain all FY21 positions (accounting for slightly lower purchasing power) and grow our FY21 half-time psychologist position to full time in FY22 (a required role but one that we would have chosen to grow to full time given available funds). As we launch our budget planning process, the conversation will be more nuanced than this baseline. Though the budget timeline is short, the following steps capture that nuance and shape our final decisions:

LSAT Meeting, 2/23: The LSAT is the group elected to advise the budget planning process. This meeting closed due to confidential staffing discussions, will include an analysis of overall allocation, a discussion of school goals, an examination of potential budget models, and the creation of draft recommendations.

Round #1 of Budget Petitions Due, 2/23: Though DCPS allocates both overall funds and positions, many (but not all) of those positions are flexible. The petition process allows for principals to appeal for the flexibility required to meet the school's goals.

Round #2 of Budget Petitions Due, 3/1: This second round of petitions allows for further appeals based on DCPS' response to Round #1 Petitions. It is rare that this round of petitions is necessary.

Principal Coffee, 2/2 at 8:30am-10:00am: At this Principal Coffee I will align our draft budget and school goals and offer them for community discussion.

LSAT/PTA Board Meeting, 2/3: Our Brent budget is composed of both the DCPS and PTA budgets. The PTA budget allows us to focus 100% of our DCPS budget on personnel and as such, this meeting will address the fiscal collaboration necessary to reach our overall school goals. The full PTA budget process, including space for community input, begins in April.

Final School Budgets Due for DCPS Approval, 2/4

The approach to and sequence of the DCPS budget process is similar to previous years – and yet the pandemic continues to reveal entirely different demands. Chancellor Ferebee directed schools to budget for a regular school year with the caveat that flexibility or separate funding models may be necessary. In addition, the District introduced two forms of funding to support this flexibility. First, outside of central office staff and resources, DCPS sometimes identifies initiatives that will be centrally funded. In the coming budget year, two such initiatives are technology (1:1 for grades 3-5 and 1:3 for

grades K-2) and custodial supplies necessary for COVID safety, relieving school communities of these significant expenditures. Second, Brent will receive additional stimulus funding in the approximate amount of \$69,059 to provide supplemental services to accelerate learning recovery and support students' social-emotional development. These funds are separate from the FY22 allocation. We expect that DCPS will soon outline the guidelines for these funds to include summer programming, acceleration academies and high dose tutoring as Chancellor Ferebee explains in this article. (<https://wtop.com/education/2021/02/how-dc-schools-plan-to-help-students-catch-up-on-lost-pandemic-learning/>)

I hope to see you for the Principal Coffee on March 2nd and look forward to providing additional budget updates in next week's Tues News.

Sincerely,

Norah Lycknell