



BRENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PTA General Meeting **Wednesday, November 9th** **6:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.**

1. Welcome and Upcoming Events-Adondra Woods

- Veteran's Day Observance will be November 11th at 11:00am in Folger Park.
- School Open House on November 15th from 6:00-8:00pm at the Hill Center. Brent will be one of the featured schools.
- Jefferson Academy Information Sessions on November 17th at 9:15am and December 6th at 9:15am. Meet at the Jefferson Academy Principal's office.
- Brent Fall Play-"Aladdin" will be November 18th at 6:30pm and November 19th at 1:30pm in the Brent Multipurpose Room.
- Brent Publishing Party on November 29th from 6:30-7:30pm.
- Holiday Tree/Wreath/Plant Sale on December 3rd and 4th from 9:00am-4:00pm. Pre-orders can be made through the Brent website at www.brentstore.org.
- Brent Open House on December 8th at 9:00 am. Meet outside of the front office.
- Holiday Staff Potluck on December 15th. Additional volunteers needed, please see Adondra Woods if you can assist.
- Middle School Information Sessions continue. Kipp Academy provided an information session prior to this PTA general meeting. Look for details of other upcoming information sessions.
- Please consider joining the PTA. We currently have 346 enrolled children at Brent. We have 64 families enrolled as PTA members. Cost is \$20/yr. Please see the Brent website or Adondra Woods.

2. Museum and Field Studies Subcommittee Update-Paul Sherman

- Rockeros concert raised \$2,600. This event was a huge success!
- We continue to work on spring field trips which include walking tours, art exhibits and increased involvement of museum coordinators. If interested in viewing or discussing the museum matrix by grade level, please contact Paul Sherman.
- Holiday Tree/Wreath/Plant Sale on December 3rd and 4th. We have already pre-sold over \$1,000 worth of items in less than 24hrs! Please consider supporting Brent PTA efforts by purchasing your holiday items through us.

3. Green Team: Urban Canyon-Heidi Johnson

- The Urban Canyon was dedicated last Thursday. City Councilman Tommy Wells was on hand to cut the ribbon. The entire project was funded by obtained grants.
- Kudos to the Green Team for another Brent perk!

4. Spring Gala 2012 Update- Kurt Sanger

- This year's gala will be Saturday, March 24th.

- Our committee is working hard to plan a fun night while training new volunteers on this vital project to ensure its existence for years to come.
- Additional volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs. Please contact Kurt Sanger.
- Auction items are needed. Please contact Adondra Woods.

5. Room Parent and Museum Coordinator Update-Jason Townsend

- If you are not receiving e-mails from your class room parent, please contact Diana Williams.

6. Fall Festival Update and Highlights-Adondra Woods

- Another successful community event. This event broke even and was not intended to serve as a Brent fundraiser.

7. Budget Update-Brian Williams

- We currently have transitory numbers which should serve as a call to action.
- Discussion about current additions and deductions.
- We need your help and support, consider giving to this year's Capital Campaign.

8. Capital Campaign Update-Greg Herrick

- Currently we have raised \$30,000 from 58 families.
- With use of our website, we have seen an increased number of \$10-20 donations.
- Last year we raised \$53,000 from 98 families.
- This year's goal is \$75,000.
- The average household donation is \$500.
- Please consider giving what you can. All donations are greatly appreciated.

9. Chinese at Brent: Language Committee and Specials Presentation-Tobie Meyer-Fong

- Today's Chinese program has evolved over the last five years.
- We applied for and received TCLP grants for an unprecedented five years.
- A grant through the Confucius Institute allowed for five Brent teachers to travel to China and provided Chinese workbooks for 2nd thru 5th grades.
- Brent is the only non-emersion elementary school to have a Chinese program for Pre-K thru 5th grades.
- Kat Cummings is the Special Room Parent. Please direct any questions to her.
- Please consider volunteering for this subcommittee.

10. Responsive Classroom Presentation-Whitney Paxton and Sarah Ewbank

- Brent's approach to working with children.
- Not a curriculum but a program with seven guiding principles.
- Seven Guiding Principles: 1. Social curriculum is as important as the academic curriculum. 2. Process and content go hand and hand. 3. Cognitive growth through social interaction. 4. Five social skills: cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control. 5. Knowing the children we teach individually and culturally. 6. Knowing the families and working together as partners. 7. How adults interact serves as models for kids/community. 8. Collaborative problem solving to make students part of the solution leads to better teamwork.

- Ways that this is presented at Brent: morning meeting in all classrooms to provide a consistent start to the day, interactive modeling such as use of the quiet sign and walking in a straight line, use of positive language in a direct, authentic manner to keep the children action-oriented and to show faith in the children, logistical consequences by responding individually and flexibly, guided discovery through use of materials, academic choice to increase motivation and creativity and working with families to identify and share noted insights at both home and school.

11. Principal's Question and Answers-Peter Young

- Is there a plan to fix the air conditioning system in the cafeteria? DCPS has completed Phase I repairs at Brent. Phase II includes the air conditioning system which will be done in 2014.
- What is DCAS testing all about? Here at Brent we do not teach to the test. We make every effort to review the assigned material as developmentally appropriate.
- Will there be a 5th grade graduation this year? Yes, every year this is the "it" field trip. In the near future, there will be a small working group started to plan the event.
- What efforts are being made to increase safety on the playground? We no longer allow swinging/hanging from the spider top. If you observe other unsafe behaviors, please bring it to my attention.
- How does the new math program work? This new program affects 3rd and 4th graders. We have completed a pre-assessment with this year's first graders to establish a baseline. This new program allows us to move students to the appropriate level faster. We will have more details to come in the near future.
- Could you please explain the new out of bounds attendance policy? This is a new DCPS-wide policy. Any out of bounds student that has 10 or more unexcused absences during the school year will be returned to his/her boundary school the following school year.
- What is the status of the Afterschool Program? We will be having our first Afterschool Program meeting on December 14th from 6:00-8:00pm in the Brent Library. If you want to be involved in the process, please come to the meeting. Goal is to have next year's selection chosen by June 15th, 2012.
- Is it possible to have the teachers sweep the playground for all children at 8:50am to ensure that our children are taken inside? Yes, we will implement this immediately.
- Could you explain the tardy versus absence listing? If a child arrives after 8:45am, he/she is marked tardy. There is a two-week window after that date to allow for a reason for tardy/absence to be submitted. Please provide the note/e-mail to the teacher who will then ensure that it gets to the front office.
- What is being done to promote health sanitation? We remind the children to wash their hands regularly. If a child is sick, we asked that you keep them home until well. If their absence exceeds five days in row, then he/she needs a note from a provider detailing the illness.

12. Closing Comments-Jason Townsend

- Thank you for coming! Happy Holidays and we will see you at our next PTA general meeting in January.

Next PTA Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 7th from 6:30-8:30pm, Brent Library