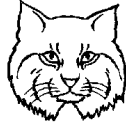


The Briones Banner

September 13, 2002
Volume 21 Issue 1
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Distribution: Jose Tochez
Next Copy Deadline: Mon., September 23, 2:40pm



Juana Briones Elementary School
4100 Orme St. Palo Alto CA 94306
415 856 0899

Briones Harvest festival

Sat. Oct. 5, 3-7pm
Come for the fun and
stay for dinner



starting to fill in nicely. We'll let those tender young shoots spread and strengthen their roots before we turn students loose to play out there. Although it's beginning to look useable, truly establishing the lawn may take until the end of October.

People ask me whether the latest phase was "crazy" or "a nightmare." I actually prefer the terms "demanding" or "hectic" to describe what occurred. It was a very busy period that I knew would eventually end and I was confident we would be ready for the first day. The job was made easier by our patient and flexible staff. There was much they could have complained about, but they didn't. If something was missing or malfunctioning, they let me know and went off to do the next important thing they needed to do. Attitude is everything.

Similarly, I have to salute parents for both your patience and support. Instead of wringing your hands or being negative, you asked how you could help -- and you did. Your support was especially important when we opened the storage containers and during the PTA-sponsored Parent Work Days the

Calendar

Mon., Sept. 16	Local holiday, no school
Tue., Sept. 24	TB testing for volunteers
Sat., Oct. 5	Harvest Festival
Mon., Oct. 14	Picture Day

Principal's Message

We're off and running, having completed our first 13 days of school. Despite the current construction and dramatic changes to our playground, teachers and students are focused and finding a comfortable groove for optimal teaching and learning.

I am sure many of you who visited our campus in July and August had your doubts that we would open on time. Thanks to a tremendous effort by a long list of hard-working individuals, a great deal of last-minute progress was made. Although there's still much to fine tune in some of the spaces recently reoccupied, it could be a lot worse. We have what we need to be productive.

I suppose the most disappointing thing is not having access to the grass. Until the first week in August, the grassy area was a maze of trenches and mounds of earth. Brown and yellow were the dominant colors. The lawn was not watered over the summer to accommodate trenching and heavy equipment crossing the playground. The area has been re-seeded and is

weekend before school started. Dozens of you spent many hours helping us put classrooms back together and generally assisting teachers in their preparations for the new year.

I have been surprised, however, by how few people have asked when this project will be completed. Perhaps



you've given up on my prognostications. I have to admit that palm readers on El Camino could have done a better job predicting progress than I did last year. But, I'm going out on a limb again this year and predict that most of the work will probably be completed by winter break -- if not sooner. How's that for covering all my bases? ("Probably" is a very handy word.)

Before I close, I would be remiss if I didn't have at least one item specifically related to our primary missions of student learning and student achievement. In August, many of you received your child's STAR test results. The data forwarded to you by PAUSD were for assessments administered last April and May. Included were results for both the Stanford 9 and the California Standards in reading, writing, and mathematics. As you may have noticed, the emphasis was on the State's standards instead of the Stanford 9, a change that reflects constant work by the State to better assess our students and schools. Although no one has approached me seeking clarification of the material sent, we're here to help you decipher the data you received if you need it.

In a future Banner, I will cover the State's increasing emphasis on assessing student progress on California standards and the gradual move away from the Stanford 9.

—Gary Dalton, Principal

PTA President's Message

Welcome to the first edition of the 2002 – 2003 Banner. The Banner is distributed every other Friday and is an important source of information about what's happening at Juana Briones. The newsletter regularly features an article from our principal, Gary Dalton, a president's message from Lynn Kidder or myself, and news of the many and varied activities that make Briones, PAUSD, and Palo Alto such a great community.

The school campus may look different with renovation underway, but the Juana Briones spirit of dedication to the students is clearly evident. Over the last 10 years, with my 3 children I have been involved in the school community in a variety of ways, but in my role as PTA president this past year I have developed a much greater appreciation for the effort required to provide such a full and enriched educational experience. While for any one person or small group of people this would be an overwhelming task, with the amazing spirit of cooperation among the staff and parents at Juana Briones it is not only possible, it is fun and exciting! The PTA plays a significant role in this ambitious effort, and your participation is critical for your child's educational success and the success of all Juana Briones students.

PTA volunteers have been hard at work to make the new school year a positive and enjoyable experience for students, parents and staff. During August and September we focused on the logistics of back to school and took some time to get to know each other. The Fall Harvest Festival and mini-auction on Saturday October 5th will be our chance to put all the work of starting a new school year behind us and have lots of fun. Details of this much loved event are attached to this newsletter.

Also in this addition of the Banner you will find information about **PTA membership, volunteer opportunities, fundraising, upcoming PTA events, and a heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers** who helped get the school year off to a smooth start. I look forward to working with you as we continue the Juana Briones tradition of excellence in education.

—Heidi Stein, 494-8432, PTA Co-president

PTA News

Calendar Correction

You received a mailing late in August that included the school calendar. Please note the January Semester Break is on January 24th and not the 25th as shown on the calendar you received.

Parent Involvement = PTA Membership

Parent involvement comes in as many shapes and sizes as there are parents.



The PTA is where we come together to work toward each student's success. Please return your PTA membership form. Our goal is 100% participation by all the adults in the Briones community. Don't stop there! Please return your volunteer survey so we can match your talents and time to just the right volunteer task. Additional forms are available in the office.

Pour your passion into the well being of children

The PTA supports efforts on a range of topics concerning the well being of all children. Previously, Briones parents

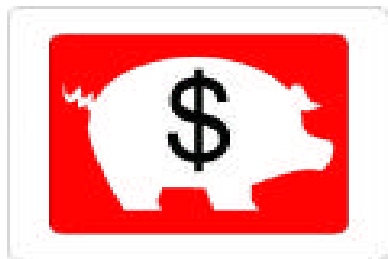
have been involved with issues concerning the environment, health, the media, extracurricular activities and traffic safety. If any of these are of particular interest to you, the PTA would like to help you turn your passion into making a real difference in the lives of kids. Please contact Heidi Stein, 650-494-8432 or Lynn Kidder, 650-493-6575 to find out more.

TB Testing Required for Volunteers

All school volunteers, including field trip drivers, are required to have a current TB test on file with the school office. A district health technician will be on campus Tuesday, September 24th 8 am to 9 am to administer the test. She will be back on Friday, September 27th also 8 am to 9 am to read the test.

Money- how, when and why to give

PTA funds are critical to maintain the enriched learning environment our children enjoy at Juana Briones. The PTA will sponsor 4 fundraisers this school year. The Ways and Means Committee has identified these 4 different efforts as our most successful: 1) **Direct Appeal Campaign**- Direct Appeal campaign letters were sent in August. This fundraiser offers parents and friends the opportunity to make a tax-deductible contribution to the PTA. 2) **Scrip**- A wide variety of businesses



participate in this program. Stores make donations to the school based on the amount of purchases by parents and friends. Look for details on an

attached flyer. 3) **Mini-Auctions**- Fundraisers don't have to be all work and no play. There will be two opportunities this year to bid on an exciting array of items while enjoying the company of other Briones families. Don't miss the chance to bid at the Fall Harvest Festival and again at the Adult Valentine's Party. 4) **Gift Wrap**- the ever-popular gift-wrap sale is back. This previously annual fundraiser is now on an every other year schedule. Stock up! Students will bring home a catalog the week of Sept. 20. The gift wrap will be delivered in time to wrap gifts for all the upcoming holidays. Look for the display at the Harvest Festival. A percentage of sales goes directly to the PTA. For more information contact Avivit Steinhart, 650-843-1965

Attention All Farmers!

The Fall Harvest Festival decorating committee is looking for cornstalks to be tied up as decorations around the yard. We also need pumpkins of any size – so if you have some growing in your backyard or know of someone who does, please call Laura Baldschun (493-9216) or Marilyn Putney (494-0248). We are willing to haul them away!



Attention all painters

Please join us for a fun afternoon of painting signs for the carnival. We will meet at school on Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 1:00. The exact location will be determined based on how the construction of the day is going. The kids can join in when they get out of class. Refreshments provided. Hope to see you there!

—Robin Boselli-Kao

Stay connected

The Juana Briones E-News is up and running. The news is delivered once a week to your email inbox. You'll be kept up-to-date on the Juana Briones calendar, important notices, early dismissals and pertinent community events. To subscribe, just send an email:

To: majordomo@plantain.pausd.palo-alto.ca.us

Subject: Briones

Body: Subscribe Briones

Questions? Call Marilyn Putney at 494-0284 or mputzini@yahoo.com

A most delicious thank you

On Tues., Sept. 3rd, the PTA provided a Teacher's Appreciation Luncheon for all our staff in the renovated Teacher's Lounge. Many thanks to Debbie Sutherland, who organized the event and thanks to Suzanne McKenna, Pilar Badillo, Amy Hartinger, Lynn Kidder, Amy Christel, Kate Hill, Marilyn Putney, Robin Boselli-Kao, Laura Baldschun, Susan Voll and Wendy and Sienna Cornish for their contributions to a lovely luncheon with great food. Recipes available from Debbie upon request!

Items included in the Briones Banner are presented as a community service. The Briones PTA and PAUSD do not necessarily endorse any of the programs mentioned here. For more information about any item, please check to see if complete flyers are available in the school office or are posted on the bulletin board just outside the school office