

and your neighborhood school, please visit the PAUSD web site (www.pausd.palo-alto.ca.us) and click on the Budget Information button on the main page. You will find background on the crisis, names of important players, and possible points of departure for parent involvement in this complex situation.

Routinely updated by District leadership, most PAUSD principals have adopted a wait-and-see attitude, cautious yet hopeful that the draconian cuts suggested by some state leaders will never materialize. Whatever happens, our goal is to preserve the vitality and integrity of classroom instructional programs and to minimize the impact that revenue reductions might have on teaching and learning.

Thank you.

—Gary Dalton

PTA President's Message

Wow—two great social events only a week apart! I hope you were able to make it to our Annual Ice-Skating Party held at the Winter Lodge last Saturday, February 1st. Many thanks to Stephanie Langley and Amy Christel for chairing this popular event. Everyone enjoyed the pizza, sodas, hot chocolate, and baked goods, and a good time was had by all.

Those of you who attended the Valentine Social and Silent Auction last Saturday night were also treated to a wonderful time, thanks to Jeanne Chisholm and Jill Bibo who chaired this spectacular event. As the city employee who worked that night at Mitchell Park said, "I have never seen this room look so nice for a party!" The Barron Park Chamber Quartet (with our own Wendy Cornish) played, and several Briones parents and staff provided piano

music during the bidding. After the bidding was over, there was energetic dancing to the Walter Hayes Wildcats, back by popular demand. Thank you to all the businesses, Briones families, and individuals who donated items and events, and thank you to everyone who solicited the donations, organized, cooked, decorated, ran errands, attended meetings, made phone calls, made display boards, helped set up, and helped with checkout and clean up. It was a great event! We still have spaces available for some of our many wonderful parties; look in this week's Banner for more details.

The Juana Run will take place on Saturday, March 1st. We still need



volunteers. Contact Dale Reynolds at 493-2118 if you can be a course volunteer, help distribute neighborhood letters, or help with registration.

Don't forget Pizza Chicago Night on Monday, February 24th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. We invite you and your friends to join us at Pizza Chicago for dinner. If you pay for your meal with Pizza Chicago scrip, 10% of the total goes to the school. You can buy your scrip from Amy Christel ahead of time Wednesdays at school, or you can purchase it from her that night at the restaurant. We'll look forward to seeing you there!

—Lynn Kidder, 493-6575

PTA Co-President

PTA News and To-Dos

Volunteers Always Appreciated!

PTA Nominating Committee is getting ready to swing into action. Please give some thought to what you might like to do next year. If there is an event or



a job in the PTA that appeals to you, recruit a friend and consider signing up to tackle the First Day Coffee, or Ice Cream Social, or any of the many other events that the PTA sponsors. Let the nominating committee know what you'd like to do by contacting Suzanne McKenna at 856-4192.

FYI

Children's Theatre Outreach

The Palo Alto Children's Theatre will be doing an outreach performance at Juana Briones this spring. Tryouts will be open to any child in the 3rd to 5th grade and will be held March 18th and 19th at Juana Briones. Rehearsals will be every Tuesday through Friday after school until the performances on April 24th, 25th, and 26th.

A Big Thank You goes to Ruchita Parat, who has volunteered to be our Children's Theatre Liaison. Contact her at 858-1209 with questions. The Palo Alto Children's Theatre is one of the best in the country—don't miss this great opportunity to become involved!

Upcoming Lecture on Racial Prejudice

Mark your calendar. Dr. Edmundo Norte will be speaking on Racial Prejudice Awareness on Tuesday, March 4th from 7:00 to 8:30. This is a joint Parent Education event sponsored by both the Juana Briones and the Barron Park PTAs.

State Budget Developments

On January 10th, Governor Gray Davis proposed taking local property tax revenue away from Palo Alto Unified and a few other school districts. PAUSD could lose up to \$24 million from this one proposal, six times what we expect to lose from all the other proposed budget changes combined. If you'd like to educate yourselves on these issues and join the discussion about them, here are some sources of information:

On the web:

Summary from PAUSD:

www.pausd.palo-alto.ca.us/

Click on Budget Information, and follow links near the bottom of the page.

Another summary of the issues:www.sbsd.k12.ca.us/gbp/TalkPts.pdf

Letter from Assemblyman Joe Simitian:www.pausd.palo-alto.ca.us/district/superintendent/SimitianLetter.pdf

Resolutions on the education budget adopted by the 6th District PTA (Santa Clara County):

www.sccoe.org/district6pta/budget-res2003.pdf

Or contact:

Erwin Morton

Co-Director of Legislation, PTA Council

Director of Legislation, 6th District PTA

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OR

Kate Hill

PTA Council President

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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