

# The Briones Banner



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*Happy Holidays!*

School resumes Monday  
January 5



## *Calendar*

Dec. 21–Jan. 2	Winter Break
Mon. Jan. 5	School resumes
Fri. Jan 9	Bingo Night in MP Room
Mon. Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, no school
Fri. Jan. 23	Semester break, no school
Fri. Jan. 31	Ice skating at the Winterlodge

\*\*\*The Briones Banner is now also available on the Briones web site at [www.briones.palo-alto.ca.us/](http://www.briones.palo-alto.ca.us/)\*\*\*

## *Principal's Message*

Winter break is upon us, and the New Year is not far behind. Let me be among the first to wish you a Happy New Year. Whether the coming New Year is truly happy will probably depend on the level of prosperity or health we and our loved ones ultimately experience. If we had to choose between the two, I think most of us would take health. As the adage goes, if you have your health, then you have everything. Good health in late 2003 and early 2004 seems harder to come by with a dangerous flu bug making the rounds. Although no one seems immune, the young seem to be particularly vulnerable. I urge you not to take this latest outbreak lightly. That simple cold may be something more.

Make sure you and your child get plenty of rest and stress-free downtime. Eat a balanced diet and drink plenty of fluids. Make sure that hand washing is a routine practice. Stay away from people who don't feel well

and are manifesting symptoms. When flu-like symptoms are evident, take yourself or your child out of circulation and monitor those symptoms very carefully, especially fevers.

Sometimes, when your child does not feel well, it is difficult to decide whether or not to send him/her to school. Your attention to some simple guidelines in making this decision can have a very positive impact on how many students, parents, or staff members ultimately come down with a given illness.

A child must not be in school when he/she:

- is nauseous or vomiting, or has vomited during the night before school;
- has diarrhea;
- is frequently coughing, sneezing, or has a runny nose;
- shows evidence of a possible communicable disease, such as a rash, fever, or unusual sores;

- has a fever; (If a child has had a fever, he/she may not return to school until it has been normal for 24 hours without drug therapy.)
- has a sore throat;
- generally feels poorly;
- has unusually watery, burning, or red, crusted eyes.

We know that many working parents have a hard time dealing with sick children in light of their employment obligations. But, adherence to the above guidelines might actually limit the duration of a child's illness and the amount of school or work ultimately missed.

Hopefully, by following the guidelines, all of us will stay healthier during the flu season and beyond.

Happy Holidays!

—Gary Dalton, Principal

### *PTA President's Message*

It's hard to believe that fall has flown by so quickly and it's now winter break! It's certainly been a busy season for all of us here at Juana Briones and I want to thank you all for helping to make it a wonderful and successful start to the New Year!

Hopefully, each of you received a brand-new, hot-off-the-press copy of the 2003-2004 Juana Briones Student Directory last week. Many thanks to Andrew Cromarty and Barbara Adams for putting together this very thorough and accurate document. It takes many hours of hard work, detailed editing and dogged determination to get the directory published. As someone who uses it until it's dog-eared, I really do appreciate their efforts! The one copy of the directory for each family should have come home with the youngest member of your family enrolled at Juana Briones.

### **Battle of the Books Debuts**

Monday of this week saw the 1st Briones Battle of the Books take place in the MP Room. What a great event it was! Seventeen teams of four each competed and shared their



knowledge of the eight battle books. Several things about this event amazed and delighted me! First, the numbers – sixty-eight fourth and fifth graders signed up to participate. We have 5 fourth and fifth grade classes at maximum capacity – 100 students in these grades. That means a whopping 70% of students participated! Even better, the conversations I heard on the yard during Monday's recess were all about the books. Students were comparing notes and information, quizzing each other in preparation. How often does that happen? If your child was involved, ask them what they thought. I'll be looking for feed-back and I'm hoping we can make this minimally an annual event – maybe even an every semester event. Congratulations, Laura Losier on a job well-done! Thank you for bringing the Battle of the Books to our school! And, thanks to all the parents who read the books as well so that they could serve as judges and to the parents who helped with the snacks for the battle.

### **Yum, Cookies!**

The teachers were delighted with the Cookie Exchange, snack and lunch the PTA provided for them on



Thursday. A special thanks to Carolyn Cooper and Lynn Kidder for organizing these events and to all the bakers who contributed their delicious and beautiful cookies and treats.

### **Direct Appeal Efforts Our Best Ever!**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Direct Appeal campaign this year. You have helped make this the most successful campaign ever. The participation rate is up to 52%! I can't tell you how wonderful that is – it's a real vote of confidence in the PTA and our goals to have the community show their support in this way! If you have yet to contribute, we could still use your help – and you can take advantage of the tax deduction. Contributions of any amount are welcome – and show your support for your school, PTA and the programs we provide.

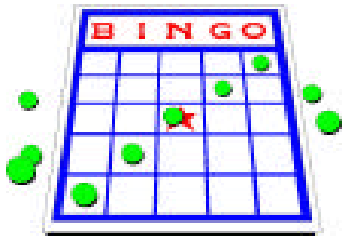
### **Whew! Time to relax**

So, now, take a load off your feet, relax and enjoy the holidays! I hope each and every one of you has a joyous two weeks and that the beginning of your New Year is wonderful! We want you back well rested! We'll be looking for volunteers in January for the Juana Run and our Ability Awareness Week.

For now, however, Happy Holidays!

—Debbie Sutherland (493-1782, MarkJSuth@aol.com)

### Spreadsheet Wiz Needed for Key Juana Run Volunteer Job



Come join the Juana Briones Community and play BINGO! Bring the entire family and your lucky penny to increase your chances to win prizes. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Bingo cards sold at the door will be \$2.00 each. A minimum of one card per player is recommended. So join us on Friday, Jan. 9, 6:00 – 9:00 PM at the MP Room. Any questions! Call Dena McLerran at 650-493-8760 or 650-814-0707. The event is sponsored by the Juana Briones PTA; net proceeds will go to the PTA.

Are you a spreadsheet wiz who'd like a short-term volunteer job? If so, the Juana Run needs you. The success of the Juana Run depends on many race day volunteers. In this essential job you'll keep track of them, coordinate with committee chairs regarding openings, and send out reminders (via email in most cases). The job requires about one to two hours per week through February. For more information or to volunteer please contact: Heidi Stein, [heidi\\_stein@hotmail.com](mailto:heidi_stein@hotmail.com) or Karen Saxena, [Heypalermo@aol.com](mailto:Heypalermo@aol.com).

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

# FYI

### Barron Park Holiday Party and Donkey Parade on 12/20

The Gunn High School Chamber Singers will be featured in a caroling parade through the Barron Park neighborhood starting at 2:30 pm Saturday, December 20. The parade will be led by the community's famous donkeys, Perry and Niner. The event begins at Bol Park (corner of Laguna and Matadero). Parents, grandparents, kids, teenagers, bikes, scooters, strollers, rollerblades, and pets are welcome! After the procession through the neighborhood, refreshments will be served at Barron Park Elementary School at about 3:15 pm, with a special performance by the Gunn Chamber Singers. For more information call

Don Anderson at 494-8672 or email [don@donanderson.us](mailto:don@donanderson.us).

### Ice Skating at Winterlodge

Mark your calendars, pull out your mittens and get ready for a winter evening of family fun. On Friday, January 31, 2004, our annual Juana Briones Ice Skating Party will be held at the Winterlodge in Palo Alto. From 5:30 to 7:30 PM, we'll be skating and having pizza and baked goods for sale. Come skate and have a great time. Don't be late! More information to come in the next Banner.



### Soccer Camp at Gunn

Come and join the coaches and varsity players of Gunn High School for a day of fun and soccer at the Nor Cal Soccer Academy, Sat. Dec. 20 at Gunn High School. This camp is for boys and girls ages 6-13. Check-in and registration is 8:30 am. Camp runs from 9 am to 3 pm. Registration is \$55. Bring soccer shoes, ball, shin guards, sneakers, water bottle and snack. Camp will include skill development, tactical field training, competitions and games. Questions: contact David Burgee @ (408) 858-6177.