

The Briones Banner



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Juana Run

This Saturday Feb. 28
We'll see you there!



Calendar

Saturday, February 28th	Juana Run
Thursday, March 11th	Minimum Day
Friday, March 12th	Local Holiday – No School

The Briones Banner is now also available on the Briones web site at www.briones.palo-alto.ca.us/

Principal's Message

The starting gun for the Juana Run sounds tomorrow, and more than 1,000 runners are expected to participate!

This annual dash through our neighborhood is an important fund-raiser for Barron Park and Juana Briones Elementary Schools, and it's a fine example of the enduring community spirit on this end of town. I hope to see all of you here, whether you are running, cheering for participants, or supporting race organizers as one of the many volunteers who make the race possible. (In fact, if you want to help, please check in at the registration desk. Race organizers might need some last minute support.)

Please encourage your children to enter the age group races held after the 8K race. The children's races are a personal favorite of mine, and I hope to see a few more of our students in the pack this year. For more information, visit the Juana Run web site at www.juanarun.com

The money raised by the Juana Run has always meant a great deal to both schools because it has enriched instructional programs. This year, whatever is raised becomes even more significant given declining tax revenue for the coming year.

Momentarily in early February, the 2004-05 budgetary situation seemed to stabilize. A \$3,000,000 structural deficit didn't disappear, but it was about to be balanced by 19 proposed budget reductions amounting to \$1,500,000 and by an offer from the Palo Alto Foundation for Education to raise \$1,500,000 during the coming school year.

Almost before local educators drew their next breaths, the District received more disappointing news. Its contribution to the Public Employees Retirement System ballooned unexpectedly to more than \$200,000, and the County Tax Assessor told PAUSD not expect any growth in property tax revenue for the 2004-05 school year, constituting an additional shortfall of \$800,000. The District's \$3,000,000 deficit for 2004-

05 suddenly grew to more than \$4,000,000.

Pursuant to numerous recent meetings and forums designed to explain the District's fiscal challenges and to secure community input, PAUSD's Board will hear and discuss budget options at a special meeting on March 3 following the March 2 election. On March 9, the Board is expected to formally decide how it plans to cope with the \$4,000,000 deficit and balance the 2004-05 budget. The District must have a plan for a balanced budget by June 30.

Even more alarming is the possibility that the \$4,000,000 figure could grow if actual property tax revenue falls below current projections in 2004-05. Given the slow rebound of the Bay Area economy, such declines are a distinct possibility.

Thus far, I have only mentioned local issues. No one is sure what might happen if the state bond issue on the March ballot does not receive voter approval.

Where will the State look to fill the \$15,000,000,000 hole in its budget?

As we move into the spring, I encourage you stay abreast of local and state budgetary issues by visiting the PAUSD web site.

—Gary Dalton

President's Message

Juana Run? If you do, tomorrow is the day for the 8th annual race held to benefit Juana Briones and Barron Park schools. It is an amazing day to be a part of whether you are a runner, an observer or a volunteer in this event. For the past several years, I have been involved with coordinating and handing out prizes after the races. I am always amazed at the wonderful energy that this event fosters. Everyone is out doing something healthy for their bodies and having a great time as well. So, make sure that you and your family come out and support this fun event!

The Briones nominating committee has started to meet and discuss the openings for next year's PTA roster. There are many jobs opening up this year that we would love for each of you to consider taking on. Currently, we are looking for a secretary, a



treasurer and a vice president for next year's officers. Please consider stepping up to take on one of these very important jobs. Think about how you would like to contribute to Briones next year and say yes when a nominating committee member contacts you. It takes all of us to make Briones the wonderful school that it is!

A huge thank you goes out to Carolyn Cooper for organizing a luncheon for the teachers with a Mardi Gras theme! Carolyn has a way of putting on these fabulous events and making it look so easy!!! The teachers were so lucky to receive this special treat. Thank you Carolyn!

Save the date for a new event for Briones parents this year, a dance party! We have already booked the Foothills Tennis and Swimming Club and the Walter Hays Wildcats have agreed to be our band for this upcoming event. It will be held April 24th and it is sure to be a fabulous party. Please save the date and secure a babysitter now. This promises to be a great night to spend with our friends dancing to some of the best live music to ever come out of the Palo Alto schools!



There is no PTA meeting in March, but remember that Thursday, March 11th is a minimum day and Friday March 12th is a school holiday.

See you all at the run!

—Suzanne McKenna, 856-4192

FYI

Emergency Information Update

Parents please keep the school updated regarding any changes that may occur regarding how to contact you during school hours.

The school needs to have current addresses, telephone numbers and emergency contact persons on file with the student's emergency card. This is the main source of information the school uses when parents need to be reached.

Parents may call the school (856-0877) to update any information changes.

Taming the Homework Dragon Seminar

A new seminar for parents and children to be held at South Hill Community Church in San Jose, on Saturday, February 28, 2004, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fee is \$49.00/person (before 2/13/04), and \$59.00 after 2/13/04. For more information and to obtain a registration form please call 408-356-1002.

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