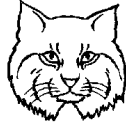


The Briones Banner

March 19, 2004
Volume 22 Issue 12
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PTA President:: Debbie Sutherland and
Suzanne McKenna
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Distribution: Jose Tochez
Next Copy Deadline: Mon., March 29, 2:40pm



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

spring break

April 5-9
Early dismissal April 2



Calendar

Fri. April 2	Early dismissal at 1:30 PM
Mon. April 5 – Fri. April 9	Spring Break
Mon. April 19	PTA meeting, 8:30 AM

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

Principal's Message

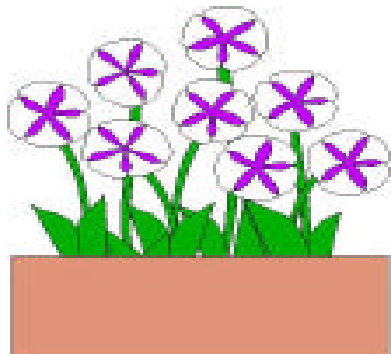
I have been afforded numerous opportunities to see our greater community in action recently, and it's extremely gratifying to be involved in the kind of constructive community involvement that makes Palo Alto such a great place to live and work.

On February 28, more than 1,000 runners and dozens of volunteers gathered for the eighth renewal of this neighborhood tradition benefiting Barron Park and Juana Briones Schools. Perfect weather greeted striders of all ages and abilities, as they tested themselves on the five-mile, one-mile, and short courses near our school. We are indebted to sponsors, race organizers, and the many volunteers who made this event the best Juana Run yet. We need to recognize and extend a big thank-you to Dale Reynolds and Karen Saxena for heading up this effort.

The Juana Run was not the only major community event in Palo Alto on February 28. Across town at Hewlett Packard, more than 125 parents, teachers, school administrators, and other community members were in the final phases of pulling together the creative thinking that went into three days of strategic planning. Healthy, forward-thinking school districts use strategic planning to reassess direction and focus for the purpose of improving outcomes for students. Discussion was lively and constructive and centered largely on learning and achievement, the social and emotional well being of students, and the development of new funding sources during this time of declining revenues. I will be able to share more about the specifics of the community's accomplishments in a future Banner issue.

Back at Juana Briones, community interest and action have already made a critical difference in the return of our garden. We have a plan, and it's being executed. If you've passed through the area behind

rooms 4-8, you have probably seen the maze of trenches for rainwater diversion and irrigation. That's just a beginning. Although there are many amenities that we intend to develop over time, we always have room for



visionaries, or folks who just like the feel of a shovel in their hands.

I am also thrilled to report that the Palo Alto Foundation for Education and the Peninsula Community Foundation funded two separate \$2,000 grant proposals for a total of \$4,000, to support the development of the garden as an extension of the classroom. (It's more than just seed money, to be sure.) We appreciate the generosity of these two foundations, but perhaps more importantly, we appreciate their sense of community in funding these visions. I must extend a special thank-you to Sue Garadis, Pamela Dappen, and Cara Stoneburner for authoring these proposals.

If you're a community minded rototiller or weed puller, please call me at school or contact Cara Stoneburner at 856-0208. Let's get ready for spring planting.

—Gary Dalton, Principal

PTA President's Message

Thank you Juana Run Volunteers

Spring has sprung -- so quickly, and just in time for the Juana Run! The weather couldn't have been more cooperative -- it was a stunningly beautiful day to come out and run! Many thanks to Karen Saxena -- and her host of volunteers -- led at Briones by Dale Reynolds, Sawako Tajima and Heidi Stein -- for pulling off another extremely successful event. I want to thank all of you who spent any time volunteering for helping with the race. Special thanks to Sawako for finding all the people needed to stand on street corners and direct traffic -- and everything else! Thanks to Michelle Wu for organizing the phone system to call everyone in the school and remind them of the race and volunteer opportunities! The race would have flopped without your valuable assistance! The 7th grade Cadette Girl Scout troop, under Jill Dinneen's supervision, also deserve special thanks for working the refreshment tables (for the fourth year in a row), as do the Den 5, Pack 52 boys for delivering flyers throughout the neighborhood and Troop 52 boys for stuffing race day packets.

Ask Your Child About the Worminator!

Ask your children about the recycling assembly provided by Rock Steady Juggling last week. They learned, hopefully, the five elements of recycling -- reduce, reuse, recycle, composting and _____ (your job to see if they remember!) -- while watching juggling and the Worminator in action. (I'm still hearing about the Worminator from some students this week!)

PTA Planning for Next Year -- Can You Help?

Suzanne McKenna and the nominating committee are still seeking volunteers for PTA positions for next year. If you are interested in 3rd Grade Bike Safety, 5th Grade Bike Safety, Traffic Safety, 1st Morning Coffee, or PTA Meeting Hospitality, give Suzanne a call at 856-4192 and sign up to assist the PTA! The slate of officers for 2004-2005 was posted in the office this week. Please be sure to have a look at it. We will be voting in these officers at our next PTA meeting in April. The slate will also appear in our next Banner.

Return of the Battle of the Books

Thanks to Laura Losier, school librarian, the Battle of the Books is back! The 3rd graders will be competing this time. Their battle will take place on April 1st. If you're interested in helping with judging, please contact Laura. If you have a third grader, please support them in this endeavor. Read and review their books with them, and most importantly, cheer them on!

Shall We Dance?

Mark your calendars now for the next major social event for Briones parents -- our first ever **Dance Party!** The Foothills Tennis and Swimming Club



and the Walter Hays Wildcats are booked for the night of 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 friends and dancing to some of the best live music to ever come out of the Palo Alto schools!

Can you believe it? Spring break is right around the corner.....

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

PTA News

Terman Welcomes Incoming Sixth Graders and Families. Come to our 4th Annual Spring Social, April 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The Terman PTA would like to invite incoming sixth graders and their families to join us at our Spring Social. It's our first chance to welcome you to your new school! We'll serve dinner from 5:30 -6:30. Afterwards, the fun begins! While the adults attend a PTA meeting (where they'll elect next year's PTA officers), we'll give incoming students a tour of the school, answer questions, and meet some students and teachers. We'll even have supervised activities for younger siblings.

For dinner sign-up forms and more information, please contact Debbie Sutherland (493-1782 or MarkJSuth@aol.com) or Marilyn Putney (494-0284 or mputzini@yahoo.com). Be sure to ask about our "Buddy Program" for new families. We're looking forward to meeting you!

FYI

Science Detectives Camp During Spring Break



Looking for something exciting for your 2nd or 3rd grader to do over Spring Break? The week of April 5 - 9, from 8:30 am to noon, Science Detectives Camp will be held in the Juana Briones MP Room. The cost is only \$50 and

scholarships are available.

Participants will trace the travels of renegade NASA astronaut, Amelia Spacehart, through our solar system.

Along the way they will engage in hands-on science activities designed to help them solve the mystery of where Amelia is going. Campers will build model planets from the inside out; conduct experiments with states of matter; experience a variety of scale models; build their own telescopes; and learn about the moon's phases. In the end campers not only discover where Amelia has been, they also help her solve her own mystery!

For a PDF application contact Cara Stoneburner at cara@seti.org. This event is sponsored by the Juana Briones PTA and the SETI Institute.

The Bidding has Begun; PAFE Online Auction Benefits All PAUSD Schools

Bid on more than 175 great items, including catered dinners, vacation homes, camps & classes for kids, desserts delivered to your door, getaways, handmade art and jewelry, and more. Also, this year you can select "Just Buy It!"-to purchase specific science equipment for Gunn and Paly. Don't wait—auction closes Wed., Mar 24. Log on now at <http://www.pafe.org>.

Life Skills: Defining Long-term Success in a One Minute World

Saturday, March 20, 9:00 a.m.-noon. This PAUSD and PTA Council sponsored event is a grassroots effort to create neighborhood/community environments that provide more nurturing & respect for young people. Topics will include: educating/mobilizing youth & adults to examine what young people need to be successful & to avoid risky behaviors; recognizing & responding to teen depression. The distinguished

panel includes Nik Kaestner (Gunn), Carol Zepecki (Director, Student Services, PAUSD), students from PAUSD secondary schools, and Jay Thorwaldson (Editor, Palo Alto Weekly). Location: YMCA, 3412 Ross Road, Palo Alto. Info & RSVP: Judith Don, 856-9622, jdon@ymcamidpen.org

Mime Performance at Cubberley



"Bili" will be presenting his one-man mime show at Cubberley Theatre, Thursday, April 29, 7:30 p.m. This is a benefit performance with proceeds going to JLS, performed by Juana Briones parent, Jeff Cabili. Come for an evening of unique entertainment filled with magic and surprise. The show will last approx. 1 hour and 20 minutes and will feature several skits on various themes. Tickets are \$16 for adults and \$9 for children. Call 856-5188 for more information.

Reminder

Juana Briones Kid's Club and all other PACCC centers will be closed Friday May 14th for a staff development day.

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