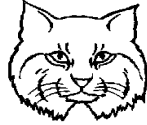


# The Briones Banner

March 18, 2005  
Volume 23 Issue 11  
Principal: Gary Dalton  
PTA President: Suzanne McKenna, Jill Bibo  
Banner Editors: Susan Voll, Barb Mackraz, Jenny Kiratli  
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Juana Briones Elementary School  
4100 Orme St. Palo Alto CA 94306  
415 856 0899

*spring break is  
coming soon!*

March 28 - April 1  
Minimum Day Mar. 25



Don't forget to set your  
clocks ahead on April 3rd!

## *Calendar*

Mar 21	West Bay Opera at Briones
Mar 23	Ability Awareness: Hello Lunch
Mar 25	Minimum Day, 1:30 dismissal
Mar 28 – Apr 1	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL
Apr 4	Back to School
Apr 5	Juana Briones Night at Hobee's
Apr 11	PTA Meeting at 8:30am

## *President's message*

### **PTA Meeting**

Our next PTA meeting, coming up on **Monday, April 11th at 8:30 AM** is one that you should not miss. We will have two very important agenda items. Mandy Lowell, Vice President of the Board of Education, will be our guest speaker discussing the PAUSD parcel tax. In addition, the slate of officers for the 2005-2006 school year will be voted in. Please refer to the list of officers on the next page.

### **PAUSD Parcel Tax Information**

The current parcel tax of \$293 is set to expire in 2006. It provides \$5.5 million annually for PAUSD programs including class size reduction. In order to ensure the ongoing quality of the PAUSD education programs, funds from the existing parcel tax plus additional funds are needed, to offset the loss of funding from the State as well as other increased costs.

On February 8th, the Board of Education voted to place a parcel tax measure of \$493 on the June 7, 2005 ballot. If passed, the new parcel tax will replace the current parcel tax and will provide \$9.3 million annually for 6 years. Funding from the parcel tax will be used to retain teachers and avoid teacher layoffs, preserve small class sizes in K-10 and restore some of the more critical cuts to secondary class offerings, counselors, and elementary literacy, math and art. For additional information, visit [www.pausd.org](http://www.pausd.org) or call Cathy Kroymann at 321-4133.

The Parcel Tax is an extremely important issue that will affect the future of our schools. If you can dedicate some time to this important issue, please contact Becky Epstein,

our Briones Parcel Tax representative, at [Epstein@meer.net](mailto:Epstein@meer.net) to find out how you can help.

### PTA in Action:

Mission successful! New Black-out curtains were installed in rooms 10, 13, and 14. These classrooms will now be able to use the overhead projector and conduct other activities where these curtains will drastically improve the overall classroom environment. Also, the garden committee worked very diligently this past Saturday. The garden is looking terrific and we are making progress!

### Upcoming Events:

- **Monday, March 21st**, *West Bay Opera* will be coming to Briones to perform two assemblies for the entire school. Please contact your child's teacher if your child would like to participate in the chorus.
- **Tuesday, April 5th**, *Briones Dinner Night at Hobeas*. Come eat with other Briones families and Hobeas will donate a portion of the proceeds back to Briones.

◦ **Adolescent Counseling Services** is putting on a parent education program titled, *Everything You Wanted to Know About Your Middle-Schooler, But Were Afraid to Ask*. This is sponsored by Escondido, Barron Park, Nixon and Juana Briones PTAs and will be held in the **Barron Park multi-purpose room**. There are two opportunities so that you will not miss out on this important parent education event.

-Tues., April 5th 8:30 am – 10:00 am

-Thurs., April 7th 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm



### Saturday Evening, April 16th – 2nd Annual Spring Fling

Come enjoy this fun event dancing to the Wild Cats at the Foothills Swim and Tennis Club. Reserve your babysitter now so that you can join in on the fun!

Spring is just around the corner and such a great time of the year! It also means that Spring Break is just one week away (March 28 – April 1st). I hope you all have a relaxing and fun Spring Break.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments at: [jillbibo@aol.com](mailto:jillbibo@aol.com).

Jill Bibo, PTA Co-President

### Juana Briones PTA Roster

2005-2006

Office                      Nominee

President, Suzanne McKenna

Executive VP, Ilona Sockol

VP Ways and Means, Annet Dragavon

VP Community Activities, Lynn Kidder

VP Communications, Jenny Kiratli

Recording Secretary, Pauline Navarro

Treasurer, Cindy Chun

Auditor, Sara Bala

Parliamentarian, Sandy Passell

Historian, Linda Elias

Council Rep., Heidi Axtell

Council Rep., Becky Epstein

## FYI

*At Briones*

### Lunch Supervisors Desperately Needed!

Please contact Gary Dalton at 856-0877 if you can join us at Briones as a campus supervisor at lunchtime. These can be paid or volunteer positions. Mr. Dalton would really appreciate hearing from you if you can help. Thanks!

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### Around the District

#### Adopt an Apricot Tree for the Summer

This Sunday, March 20, 1:00 p.m. The City of Palo Alto is renovating Briones Park this summer and will incorporate historical plants into the



design such as the type of rose at the Juana Briones house, and the reintroduction of the Apricot trees. Briones Park was an apricot orchard

before it was made into a park.

But some helping hands are needed this Sunday and over the summer. The trees need to be potted up and cared for until the planting in the Park in September. We will be giving Adoption Certificates to the children who sign up to adopt and care for the trees. The trees will have their names on the nursery tags, and children will receive care instructions and graph paper to monitor the progress of their trees. In September, together we will plant the trees into the Park with Canopy. Children will be able to visit their tagged trees, when they come to play at their park.

If you would like to be a part of the new mini-orchard at Briones Park, please contact Jana at Canopy at [info@canopy.org](mailto:info@canopy.org) or 964-6110. For information about the project, please contact Kate Rooney 617-3127 or [katerooney@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:katerooney@cityofpaloalto.org).

### **Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra - March 20**

21st Annual Bach Celebration -- 3 concerts celebrating Bach's 320th birthday. Young musicians (many from Paly and Gunn), plus alumni & guest professionals. Program highlights include: Brandenburg Concerto #6 in B Flat, Violin Concerto No. 2 in E. Sun, Mar 20, 7:30 p.m. at Valley Presbyterian Church, 945 Portola Rd, Portola Valley. Tickets \$12 (students & seniors \$10) at the door or thru PACO. Info: 856-3848, [info@pacomusic.org](mailto:info@pacomusic.org), <http://www.pacomusic.org>

### **Measure A (Parcel Tax) Information**

The PAUSD parcel tax will be Measure A on the June 7 ballot. Get informed on the issues!

(1) INFO ONLINE about the PAUSD budget & the parcel tax: [www.pausd.org/community/downloads/brd\\_ed/parcel\\_tax.pdf](http://www.pausd.org/community/downloads/brd_ed/parcel_tax.pdf)

(2) INFO IN PERSON - 2 Question & Answer forums, for ALL members of the community. Invite friends & neighbors--especially those who don't have kids in school! PAUSD administrators & a Board member will be there to answer YOUR questions about the PAUSD budget, the State budget, & District operations. Please join us - Thursday, March 24, MP Room, El Carmelo Elementary, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Wed., April 6, Library, Terman Middle School, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

### **Recognizing Individuals Who Enrich Our Youth - Nominations Due March 25**

*Honorary Service Awards -- Call for Nominations.* Each year PTA Council recognizes individuals and organizations who have dedicated their time, talents and energies toward the enrichment of our community's children and youth, making contributions well beyond the requirements of their jobs. Recipients do NOT have to be PTA/PTSA members, school staff or parents.

If you know someone who is exemplary, please send your written nomination, including reasons why you believe they should be recognized, to Melissa Baten Caswell at [mbcaswell@yahoo.com](mailto:mbcaswell@yahoo.com) or c/o PTA Council, 25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto 94301, by Friday March 25th. Awards will be presented at the Annual PTA Council Luncheon on Friday, May 20th.



### *Upcoming Great Gatherings events:*

Mar 19  
"Poetic Justice" Murder Mystery (Adults)  
April 8  
Cosmos and Karaoke (Ladies)

### **Health Choices From A Woman's Perspective - April 16**

Keynote speech (Dr. Fred Luskin), "The Healing Power & Medical Benefits of Forgiveness," followed by lunch and your choice of workshops. Sat Apr 16, at Paly, 50 Embarcadero Rd, 9:30 to 4:00. \$25 (incl continental breakfast & box lunch). Flyer, full details, & registration info: [http://www.paadultschool.org/pdf/health\\_choices.pdf](http://www.paadultschool.org/pdf/health_choices.pdf)

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### ***In the Community***

#### **Palo Alto Junior Tennis League - Open House March 19**

For boys & girls ages 8-12. Open house, registration: Sat Mar 19, 1:00-4:00 p.m., at Cubberley tennis courts, 4000 Middlefield. Practice & matches, Sat afternoons, Apr 9 - May 7, same location. \$40 fee includes team t-shirt, awards, & end-of-season pizza party. Bonus: FREE racquet for first 50 who register. Info: <http://www.paloaltotennis.com>, or MJ Miller, 851-3822, [mjm@divcap.com](mailto:mjm@divcap.com)

#### **PYT Presents "The Wizard of Oz"**

Dorothy soars over the rainbow to Oz, where three friends, a wicked witch, and a wonderful wizard teach her to appreciate all she has at home. L. Frank Baum's beloved novel

and the classic movie take on an added dimension with exciting flying effects! Showing at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts from Saturday March 12th to Sunday March 20th. Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$16 for seniors and children 12 and under. For more information, visit [www.pytnet.org](http://www.pytnet.org).

## Windy Hill Kids' Film Festival.

A festival of, by, and for young filmmakers (in grades 4 thru 12). Categories: Drama, Comedy, Documentary, Instructional,



Animation, & Music Video. DVD format only, 20 minutes max, PG-13 or below. Deadline (postmark) Mon March 21. ALL accepted entries will be shown at the festival, Sat Apr 9, at Menlo School. Info, entry form: [windyhillfilmfest@yahoo.com](mailto:windyhillfilmfest@yahoo.com), 851-5778.

## Community Q&A Forums on Parcel Tax Election

District administration and a Board member will hold two question-and-answer forums for all members of the community, to respond to questions relating to the upcoming June parcel tax election. We hope you will join them and bring your questions about the district budget, the state budget, and any other questions you may have about district operations. Thu Mar 24, MP Room, El Carmelo Elementary, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Wed Apr 6, Library, Terman Middle School, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

\*\*\*\* Save The Date! \*\*\*\*

## Let's \*Really\* Talk About College.

A Panel Discussion for parents of elementary, middle and high school students. Interested middle- & high-school students welcome! Wed Apr 13, Theatre, Paly, 7:00-9:00 PM Sponsored by the SHARE Committee. Info: Louise Singleton, [louissecs@aol.com](mailto:louissecs@aol.com)

## A Message About SCHOOLPOP!

Dear Parents & Supporters:

Our school has enrolled in Shop & Earn, the year round fundraising shopping program from Schoolpop, Inc. It's the easiest way to raise needed money for our school. *Shop & Earn* allows everyday shopping from websites, select stores and catalogs to support our school and it doesn't cost a penny extra. In fact, not only can our school earn money from your shopping but you can save money on your purchases with the weekly merchant specials! Join today at [www.schoolpop.com](http://www.schoolpop.com) and make your everyday purchases support your school every day!

Beth Doss, Account Manager,  
Schoolpop Inc.

Work: 866-386-3383 ext. 303, Fax:  
770-638-5126, [bdoss@schoolpop.com](mailto:bdoss@schoolpop.com)

Schoolpop Inc., a LoyaltyPoint company (LYLP), is America's leading provider of non-traditional fundraising programs with over 50,000 schools and nonprofits enrolled. Start your shopping at [www.schoolpop.com](http://www.schoolpop.com) and support your favorite school or nonprofit!



## Huge Rummage Sale

The Mother's Club of Palo Alto & Menlo Park (PAMP) is sponsoring a multi-family sale of used clothing for babies, kids and maternity sizes. Over 40 families will be selling. There will be great deals and great bargains, including toys and baby equipment. Admission is \$5.00 per family.

This parent-volunteer organized event will take place on Saturday, March 26, 10:00 to 12:30 pm, at the Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Rd.

To donate items or for more information go to

[www.pampmothersclub.org/rummage-sale.htm](http://www.pampmothersclub.org/rummage-sale.htm)

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