

Juana Briones Banner Lite

November 15, 2007
Volume 1, Issue 2

Principal Mike O'Neill
PTA Co-Presidents: Ilona Sockol & Julie Williams

Why I'm giving a piece of the PiE...and why I hope you will, too.

By Julie Williams, Briones PiE Rep

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As we move forward into the New Year, I would like to share both the good news and the challenges we still face. The good news is that our kids attend one of the finest school districts in California, with many nationally-recognized achievements. Unfortunately, California state funding is so low that if we solely depended on it, as many of our neighboring districts do, our kids would have no art or music teachers, class sizes up to thirty children, no credentialed librarian, and no funding for classroom supplies. In short, our state's public schools are operating on a shoestring budget, which is bad news for everyone.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ No School Thanksgiving 11/22-11/25
- ◆ Teacher's Lunch & Cookie exchange 12/13
- ◆ No School Winter Break 12/22-1/6/08
- ◆ PTA Mtg 7pm 2/11
- ◆ Ice Skating Party 2/22
- ◆ International Potluck 3/4
- ◆ PTA Mtg 7pm 4/14

Luckily for us, this town refuses to give up on excellence. We have a parent-run non-profit group, Partners In Education (PiE), which raises money every year across the district to fill gaps in state funding. Last year, Juana Briones received over \$94,000 in PiE money, making it possible for us to offer Spectra Art, lab science, and classroom aides across the school. We need your help to meet our annual goal. So far, we've recruited only 18% of Briones' families to contribute to the PiE fund, less than half the current district average! **Folks, if we don't give, we won't receive.** And our school needs this money to bring your children the high quality education you've come to appreciate

I don't know about you, but I'm always uncomfortable talking about money this way. As local homeowners with one family income, my husband and I are familiar with the heavy pressures of tax bills and the high cost of living in this town. Like many couples, we also donate volunteer hours to school service. Like everyone, we must balance our priorities.

We made a conscious decision to donate to PiE this year, and we hope you will join us in doing the same. To us, PiE money is about cherishing our children, and it reflects our deep belief that a high-quality education is one of the best things we can provide them. PiE money means that our sons Tommy and Jimmy, along with their classmates, will benefit from having an art teacher, be able to experience lab science, and receive personal attention from classroom aides. PiE money also means our dedicated teachers get the valuable classroom resources they need to excel. And remember, all donations are **100% tax deductible**. We're proud to support PiE and we hope you are too.

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PiE has sent appeal letters in the mail, and I've sent home reminders in Friday folders. You can easily pick up a donation form in the main office or even donate online at: www.papie.org. The asking amounts are merely guidelines. Any amount, even a few dollars, can make a big difference. Please join me in contributing to this worthy cause on behalf of all our children. And thank you for being an important part of this wonderful Briones community.

Juana Briones Elementary School

4100 Orme Street
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Phone:
(650) 856-0877

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(650) 856-3750

What a Gathering!

By Lori Krolik

Thanks to everyone who turned out for the Harvest Festival and Great Gatherings event on October 27th. We had a beautiful fall day, filled with fun activities for everyone.

More than 35 Great Gatherings events were offered this year for adults and kids alike. The Great Auction consisted of more than 15 different items up for bidding. A big thank you goes out to the many families and teachers who donate their time and energy to host these terrific events. And thank you also to everyone who signed up to attend. Because of your generosity, we raised more than **\$24,000** for Juana Briones School.

The Great Gatherings and Great Auction is Briones' main fundraiser for the year. Funds raised in the past have been used for Young Authors' Day, Battle of the Books, the Third Grade Theaterworks Program, part of the new mural and reading garden outside the library, supplies for art and science, and new curtains in the Multi-Purpose Room. We hope to use the money raised this year for other programs and supplies that make our school the exceptional place that it is.

We're on the Web!
www.briones.pausd.org

Email:
juanabriones@yahoo.com

If you missed out on signing up for one of our fantastic Great Gatherings, there may still be spots available! These gatherings are a lot of fun and a great way to meet other Briones families. Please contact the hosts or a Great Gatherings Committee member for more information.

Finally, **BRAVO** to a wonderful committee who made the Great Gatherings and Great Auction such a success! This amazing group of women consisted of **Heidi Axtell, Heidi Emberling, Debbie Levis, Anne-Marie Macrae, Rita Boyd, and Ilona Sockol.**

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Briones Book Fair

By Co-Chairs Cindy Chun and Lottie Price

We had a fantastic turnout for the Scholastic Book Fair, resulting in a 6.5% increase in sales over last year! Librarian Laura Losier was able to take 175 books (value of \$2,200) from the Book Fair to add to the library, and received the balance of profit in cash (just under \$1,900) which will be used to buy even more great books for the library. Many thanks to our terrific volunteers: Kat Alioshin, Toni Marinovich, Pauline Navarro, Jewel Hutt, Heidi Axtell, Gretchen Reynolds, Carol Kibler, Lorie Englhardt, Trang Nguyen, Haejin Ahn, Chris Lee, Luisa Klovdahl, Sandy Passell, Anna Ma, and Liken Hogo –we couldn't have done it without your help! Special thanks also to Laura Losier and all the 5th graders who helped ensure that our free PTA-sponsored book program ran smoothly.

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E-Scrip works!

By Lisa Marcacci

Join the 64 Juana Briones families and friends who are participating in e-Scrip. It is possibly the **easiest way to raise money for our school without costing you a dime!** All you need to do is go to escrip.com and register your grocery card, debit card, or credit card. Many merchants you already use will begin donating a percentage of your purchase to our school. If you shop at Safeway, Draegers, Andronicos, A.G. Ferrari Foods, Mollie Stones, Whole Foods or Piazzas, the rewards can be extremely beneficial for the school. And not just grocery stores are involved. Do you eat at Baja Fresh or Le Boulanger? Do you shop at Eddie Bauers, Macys, Officemax, or Big 5? These are just a few of the hundreds of stores that participate in the e-Scrip program.

Our PTA budget for the 2007-2008 school year includes a goal of raising **\$5,000** through e-Scrip. We need your help to meet this goal

If you have any questions about the e-Scrip program or about how to get started, please contact: Lisa Marcacci at marcacci1@aol.com. Thank you again for your support of our school!

We're on the Web!
www.briones.pausd.org

Email:
juanabriones@yahoo.com

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Introducing Renee
Goumas

Hello new friends. I am the new face you'll see over here at PAUSD Special Education Preschool Services. I invite you to come by any time M-F 8:30am-11:30am and introduce yourselves. I work with Peggy Syvertson, Mary Jude Doerpinghaus, Kerri McSherry, Joanne Soraghan, Judy Crosariol, and many other amazing and wonderful people. My official (and unofficial) titles are the Special Education Preschool Front Office Clerk/Secretary/Staff Coordinator/Renaissance Woman! Have a great holiday season and I look forward to meeting you soon.

***Renee Goumas
Palo Alto Unified School District
Special Ed. Preschool Services
Juana Briones OH Dept.
856-0834 ext. 209
856-7435 FAX***

PTA President's Message

By Ilona Sockol

Dear Briones Families,

Between our Book Fair, Harvest Festival, and other schoolwide celebrations and performances, it's been a whirlwind season for all of us on the PTA. We hope that you and your children were able to enjoy all of it! I want to offer my deepest thanks to the many, many folks who stepped up to help out.

As our school grows and thrives, we realize that it can be harder and harder to feel like you're getting the most current Briones news. So this year, with generous parent assistance, we will be sending home newsletters about every other week.

You will continue to receive the Briones Banner newsletter monthly, thanks to the dedicated work of Jenny Kiratli (kiratli@va51.stanford.edu) and her husband, Mike Holland. The Banner will contain articles, notes from the principal, and information on district-wide events. Please feel free to contribute news to the Banner! Here is the Banner deadline schedule for the year:

Thursday 11/29 (Banner sent home 12/7)
Thursday 1/17 (Banner sent home 1/25)
Thursday 2/21 (Banner sent home 2/29)
Thursday 3/13 (Banner sent home 3/20)
Thursday 4/17 (Banner sent home 4/25)
Thursday 5/22 (Banner sent home 5/30)

In addition to the Briones Banner, we are adding a one-two-page Banner Lite mid-month, thanks to our generous parent team of Heidi Emberling (heidi@emberling.com) and Khurshid Gandhi (khurshidgandhi@yahoo.com). Once again, please feel free to submit articles! Here is the schedule of Banner Lite deadlines:

Friday 12/14 (Banner Lite sent home 12/21)
Friday 2/8 (Banner Lite sent home 2/14)
Friday 4/4 (Banner Lite sent home 4/11)
Friday 5/9 (Banner Lite sent home 5/16)
Friday 6/7 (Banner Lite sent home 6/13)

Once again, I want to thank everyone for contributing your time and energy to make Briones such a vibrant and caring place.

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