

# Juana Briones Banner

Principal's Message.  
*By Mike O'Neill, Briones Principal*



Contents

Principal's Message	1
PTA Prez's Message	2
eScrip	4
Events details	5
Box Tops/Labels Info	6
Editor's Note	7
Briones Cheer	6
Room parent/thanks	8
Site Council	9

UPCOMING  
EVENTS

- ◆ Ice Cream Social & Pizza dinner 09/05
- ◆ Baja Fresh fundraising 09/08
- ◆ Back to School Nite 09/09
- ◆ PTA Mtg 9/15, 7pm
- ◆ Picture Day 09/29
- ◆ Fall Picnic 10/1
- ◆ Black & White Ball 10/4
- ◆ Bike/Walk to school week 10/6-10/10
- ◆ H'ween parade 10/31

Dear Juana Briones Families:

I want to welcome everyone back to school. Many of you are returning families, others are new to Juana Briones, and a group of you are coming to school for the first time. Whether you come from across the street or another part of the world, you are a valuable part of the Briones community. Thank you for being here!

I am beginning my second year as Principal at Juana Briones, and ninth in Palo Alto Unified. Before Juana Briones, I taught fourth and fifth grades at Walter Hays Elementary School and was Assistant Principal at Terman Middle School. My wife is an elementary school teacher in Palo Alto.

One of our school's greatest assets is the tremendous sense of community. It is important that students and families know that there is an entire school committed to their success. I am calling on all members of the Juana Briones community to help build on this strength. To support this goal, you can:

- **Join PTA.** Our PTA plans school events, contributes time and financial resources to the school, and advocates for children at the local, state, and national level. Volunteer opportunities exist for any schedule and talent.
- **Invite** children and their families for a "play date." Share a meal, go to the park, or just relax in the back yard. This is a great way to share your knowledge of the neighborhood and make our new families feel at home.
- **Visit the office.** Our school secretaries, Maria and Sharon, keep things running smoothly. I am available to meet new families, answer questions, and address any needs you may have. While parents are welcome to come by my office at any time, I will reserve time for parent office hours.
- Ask teachers about volunteer opportunities in the classroom. Some teachers use volunteers to lead groups, read with

# Juana Briones Banner

students, or drive on field trips.

- **Attend** school and neighborhood events.

Juana Briones Elementary  
School  
4100 Orme Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Phone:  
(650) 856-0877

Fax:  
(650) 856-3750

Good communication is a goal shared by the school and PTA. We will work hard to encourage this by publishing a monthly newsletter, updating the school web site (<http://www.briones.pausd.org/>), my blog (<http://juanabrionesnews.blogspot.com/>), eNews, PTA bulletin board, and of course, personal interaction. I am also excited to continue the use of our phone message system. I will occasionally send out a recorded message with important information and updates. Because you probably receive many telephone sales solicitations, I will clearly identify myself and promise not to sell anything. Teachers may communicate to families through email, phone conversations, meetings, parent/teacher conferences, progress reports, and newsletters.

I also want to remind you of two important school policies. First, students should not be on campus unsupervised prior to **8:05 AM** or after **2:50 PM** (we do not provide supervision). Although I am a dog lover, we ask you not to bring your dog on campus when students are present or during school activities.

We are pleased that you are joining us on our journey. Bon voyage and best wishes for a successful school year.

## PTA Co Presidents' Message.

By Heidi Emberling and Carolyn Cooper

A warm welcome to all our new and returning families! We are pleased to be your 2008-2009 parent representatives and look forward to working with you in the coming year. The Juana Briones community is filled with hardworking administrators, teachers, parents, and students. We are constantly amazed at the creativity and enthusiasm of our teachers, the dedicated efforts of our parent volunteers, and the many achievements of our talented students. Our theme this year is "Healthy Community, Healthy Planet." Right from the start, we introduced eco-friendly reusable



# Juana Briones Banner



cups at our Welcome Back potluck and we hope each family brings these cups to our many social events throughout the year so we can do our part to help the environment. Please bring your ideas for keeping our community healthy and eco-conscious to our first parent-teacher association (PTA) meeting, coming up on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Dinner will be served beforehand at 6pm and childcare will be provided. We're going to try a few new things this year to make our PTA meetings more productive and interesting for all parents. At this first meeting, we will break into small groups to discuss your priorities and goals for the coming year. Join us for what is sure to be an engaging evening!

Remember, the PTA is all about you—parents and teachers who care about our children's education. Please contact either one of us if you have any questions or would like to get involved. Carolyn has a second grader, Megan, and a sixth grader, Justin, in his first year at Terman this year. Heidi has a second grader, Geordie, and an incoming kindergartener, Sarah. Both of us have greatly enjoyed our time at Juana Briones and are happy to give back to this community that has given us so much. Please feel free to share your ideas with us!

***Stay informed!***

***Subscribe to ENews***



*Briones' weekly email containing news of upcoming events and information at your fingertips*

***To subscribe send an email to***

**[briones-request@laki.pausd.org](mailto:briones-request@laki.pausd.org)**

*with the word "subscribe" in the body of the message.*

# Juana Briones Banner



## eScrip

By Lisa Marcacci

### What is eScrip?

eScrip is a fantastic resource for fundraising where participating business partners contribute a percentage of your grocery loyalty cards, credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to the school, group or organization of your choice

### How to sign up?

eScrip has made the sign-up and renewal processes as quick and easy as possible: Visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and click on "YES! Renew", or follow easy steps to register your VISA, and other major cards to eScrip. The process takes less than 5 minutes! Be sure to designate Juana Briones as the recipient of funds.

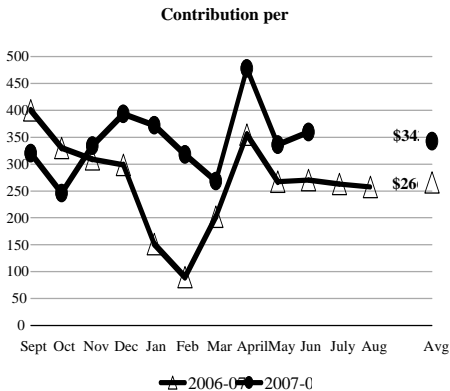
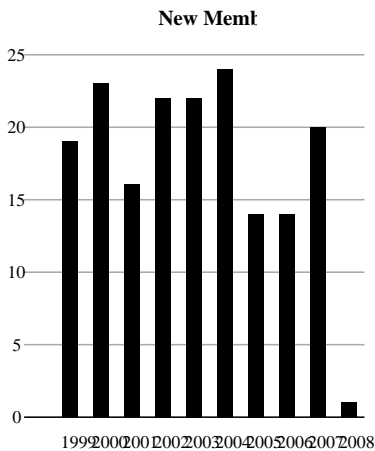
### How are we doing?

Currently we have just 165 individuals signed up to support our school, less than half of these people currently have students attending our school. If we can get at least 50% of our families signed up, we can significantly increase the amount of contributions made to Juana Briones. Last school year (2007/2008) 21 new families signed up, and that means we have plenty of room for improvement!

From January to June 2008 we received on average \$355.30/month. Let us try and make it \$500.00/month. Please sign up and ask your families and friends to sign up also. Family and friends do not have to live in this area. We receive contributions from Safeway stores in Southern California, Hawaii and Nevada, in addition to the neighbouring stores at Mountain View, Palo Alto, Redwood City, and Menlo Park!

Thank you for taking the time to support Juana Briones School.

**Questions?** Contact Lisa Marcacci: [marcaccijl@aol.com](mailto:marcaccijl@aol.com)



# Juana Briones Banner

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Back to School Ice Cream Social and Pizza Dinner



**Friday, September 5 - 5:30-7:30**

Don't miss this fun annual tradition! Welcome new families and catch up with returning friends! Enjoy pizza dinner and drinks with ice cream sundaes for dessert, served by Briones teachers and parents. Meal tickets- including one of each item- cost \$5 OR bring your own dinner and picnic on the lawn.

**See you there!**

### A Fund-Raising Fiesta at Baja Fresh!

**Monday, September 8**

Take a night off from cooking and join school friends and families for a muy rico dinner at Baja Fresh. Raise money for our school at our first monthly fundraising dinner. With each flier and your meal receipt, Baja Fresh will generously donate **15%** of your bill to Briones School. Be sure to present your promotional flier when you order. Fliers are good all day (10am-11pm), and take-out is included! Watch for the flier in your child's backpack, or pick one up in the office. Baja Fresh is located at the corner of Los Robles and El Camino Real, tel: 424-8588...



### BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT (Parents Only)

**Tue, Sep 9 - Grades K-2: 6-7pm; Grades 3-5: 7-8pm**

Meet your children's teacher and visit the classroom during an hour-long Back-to-School night. (Please make other arrangements for children - parents only!)



### JUANA BRIONES PTA MEETING

**Monday, September 15, 7.00 pm**

Listen, learn and be a part of the Briones community of students, teachers, and families. Parents are strongly encouraged to join the PTA (\$10/member) and to take a role, small or large, in school activities and discussions. You don't need to be a member to attend PTA meetings, but **YOUR** involvement is always welcome.



# Juana Briones Banner

Box Tops and Campbell Labels Collection competition:



Box Tops for education and (Campbell's) Labels for education are a couple of programs that help the school raise money. Last year we raised over \$300 for the school and this year we hope to double the amount.



Box tops are present on many products like Nestle Juicy Juice, Cheerios, Betty Crocker Products, Kleenex, Ziplock bags, Chex products, Hefty brand products, Pillsbury products, Huggies diapers and many more. See the complete list at:

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/Downloads/Global/products.pdf>

Campbell labels can be found on all Campbell Soup products, V8 juices, Pepperidge farm products (such as Goldfish crackers etc), Prego sauces. See the complete list at:

[http://www.labelsforeducation.com/pdf/eligible\\_products.pdf](http://www.labelsforeducation.com/pdf/eligible_products.pdf)



Quite simply, all that is required is to collect box tops (expired ones not accepted) and Campbell labels (UPC code required). Our school can benefit greatly with increased awareness and participation in these programs.

This year, there will be a contest held among all the classrooms to see which classroom collects the most of each. Each class will be provided with 2 ziplock bags - one for box tops and one for the Campbell labels. There will be 3 deadlines, -- Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, Jan 9<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>. The winning class teacher as well as students will get a **prize!! Hurrah!** So, go ahead and get involved. Request your grandparents, relatives and neighbours to hold on to their box tops and labels for you. Keep a sharp eye out to collect as many as you can and help your class win the prize(s)!

Happy snacking and collecting and Good luck!

Questions: contact Khurshid Gandhi at [khurshidgandhi@yahoo.com](mailto:khurshidgandhi@yahoo.com)

**As always, don't forget to turn in old cell phones and empty printer cartridges to the school office. We can get \$\$ for them too!!**

**THANKS!!!**



# Juana Briones Banner



## Editor's Note:

A Big Welcome to all Juana Briones families. This is my first year as the editor of the Briones Banner and I welcome feedback from our community. The Banner will be a monthly publication to keep our parents and community informed about the various ongoing exciting events and information related to our school.

If anyone is interested in a co editor/layout/distribution position, please contact me (650-813-1895 or [khurshidgandhi@yahoo.com](mailto:khurshidgandhi@yahoo.com)).

Look for new and exciting columns in the Banner.

**Kids Cubby:** to feature contributions from kids. Art, pictures, poems, articles, jokes are all welcome. .

**Parents Pad:** to welcome communication from the parent community. Feel free to share events, news that affects the community etc

**Teachers Table:** A voice for teachers to participate - information, class anecdotes etc welcome.

Please email contributions (preferably in Word format) to [khurshidgandhi@yahoo.com](mailto:khurshidgandhi@yahoo.com)

It is an ongoing effort to make sure that there are many efficient avenues of communication with the Briones community. The communication team this year comprises of:

E news                      Annet Dragavon ([annetdragavon@yahoo.com](mailto:annetdragavon@yahoo.com))

Briones website        Aisha Zakariya ([aishapz@gmail.com](mailto:aishapz@gmail.com)) & Jenny Zhang ([jennyzzh@yahoo.com](mailto:jennyzzh@yahoo.com))

Briones Banner        Khurshid Gandhi ([khurshidgandhi@yahoo.com](mailto:khurshidgandhi@yahoo.com)):

The school website has already been updated and is undergoing further improvements. Visit it at [www.briones.pausd.org](http://www.briones.pausd.org) for school information as well as for details of upcoming events.

Please feel free to contact any of the above to communicate your ideas or comments. Let us work together to make Briones the best it can be!

## The Briones Cheer



**Cheer, Cheer for Briones School**

**Sing to her praises, follow her rule**

**B-O-B-C-A-T-S**

**Briones Bobcats are the best!**

**Teachers and students They all are grand**

**Making Briones best in the land**

**Team work, team sports**

**We have fun**

**Briones is number ONE!**



**Go Bobcats!**

# Juana Briones Banner



## Become a Room Parent & Make a Difference

During Back to School night on Sept 9, parents will be asked to sign up to volunteer in the classroom. Of these jobs, Room Parent is especially key. Whether the job of Room Parent is handled by one individual or shared by 2 or 3, Room Parents play a major role in the classroom and our school. Among the important duties of Room Parents are organizing class lists, and coordinating volunteers for special projects, field trips, and class parties. Room Parents also act as liaison between the classroom and the PTA. This may include attending PTA meetings, writing articles for the Banner, coordinating family participation in Teacher Appreciation Week and other school events, and communicating important PTA information to families. Being a Room Parent is a great way to get involved and make a positive difference in your classroom, and at school!

## Many THANKS to:

**Lori Krolik** for organizing the **back to school potluck**. We had our biggest turnout ever. It was a happy evening with not only paperwork getting done, but old and new families (re) connecting and having a fun time. Also helping were **Dawn and Peter Hill, Debbie Levis, Andrea Aslan, Casie Walker, and Carolyn Cooper**. Thanks to the **dads who pitched in for clean up, including Matt Passell, Dan Cooper, Tom Jacobowsky, Greg Simon and Kenneth Cramer**.

Thank you!



**The Teacher Luncheon** was a lip smacking success. This was held on the Monday before classes started for the school year. It was ably organized by **Amy Hartinger**. Helping Amy were **Julie Williams, Trang Nguyen, Susan Gray, Khurshid Gandhi, Heidi Emberling, Sandy Passell, Carolyn Cooper** and our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade helpers, **Bryn, Camille and Megan!** Thank you!

**Kelley Washburn** for organizing the first day Coffee for Parents. We had a super turnout and hope to see everyone at the upcoming PTA meeting too.

# Juana Briones Banner

## The Juana Briones School Site Council

**What is the School Site Council?** The School Site Council (SSC) is the vehicle through which the school community comes together to chart the school's path to academic excellence. The SCC is a state-mandated group of elected parents, teachers and staff, each serving a two year term. The Council is responsible for establishing school goals and developing a plan to achieve them. This includes allocating School Improvement Program (SIP) funds received annually from the state. The SIP stresses that those individuals closest to the students should be involved in making significant decisions affecting the instructional program and vision for the ongoing improvement of the school.

Juana Briones Elementary  
School

4100 Orme Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

Phone:  
(650) 856-0877

Fax:  
(650) 856-3750

**Who is on the School Site Council?** The Juana Briones School Site Council is comprised of five staff members and five parents. Staff members currently include Sue Garadis, Teri Johnson, Beth Mills and Principal Mike O'Neil. The parent members who are slated to serve through the 2007-2008 school year are Yishai Steinhart and Dan Nakamura. Completing their two year term at this time are Carolyn Cooper and Jenny Kiralti.

**Why join the Site Council?** Serving on the council is a great opportunity to learn more about the school operations, budgets and academic success. You will meet other parents and teachers and work directly with the principal. You will have the obligation and privilege to make decisions that will best serve the whole school community.

**What is the time commitment?** The Site council meets once a month in the school office from 5:30 to 7:30 pm for a traditional dinner meeting, hosted by council members. The 2008-2009 council will confirm time to fit the needs of the members. Generally, all work is done at the meetings, with very little, if any, outside time commitment.

**How to get involved?** If you are interested, please let Mike O'Neil know and complete a questionnaire available in the office. Your name will be on the ballot and an election will be held at Back To School night on September 9th. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask any of the current council members or Principal O'Neil.

We thank you for your interest.