



4100 Orme Street, Palo Alto, CA 94306
 Telephone: 650.856.0877
 Website: www.briones.pausd.org

Upcoming Events

- Thur Nov 4**
PTA Exec Meeting 7.00PM
- Tues Nov 9**
Vision Test Gr. K, 2 & 5
- Wed Nov 10**
Restaurant Night (Oregano's)
- Fri Nov 12**
School Wide Lice Check
Custodian Day
- Tue Nov 30**
All School Assembly "Happy Birds"
- Thu Dec 2**
PTA Volunteer Holiday
Breakfast 8.30 – 9.30AM
- Wed Dec 8**
Restaurant Night (The Counter)



No School on:
 Nov 11
 Nov 24 - 28

Contents

Principal's Message	1
Upcoming Events	1
Message from PTA	2
PiE Donation Matching	3
Guess Who?	3
Friendship Bench	4
Restaurant Night Flier	5

Principal's Message

By Matthew Nagle

Dear Briones Parents

Congratulations, you survived the Halloween Parade, the Harvest Festival, and Halloween over three consecutive days! The students, of course, enjoyed every bit of it. Many thanks to all the parent and teacher volunteers who made these events so successful.

Now, important items for November:

- Like any good parent, I check all the candy that my kids collect on Halloween. Admittedly, I love the sweets, but I do make it a point to eat a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. With the holidays approaching and with them the usual full-court press of candy and cookies, I invite you to ensure that your child is eating right and staying active on a daily basis. Do your best to skip the cupcakes and candy for the informal birthday celebrations that some classrooms hold after lunch recess and after school. Send your child with fruits and vegetables for lunch and leave the processed sugary, salty foods at home - and should you need some help, feel free to drop off any remaining Halloween candy for my personal inspection! Our PTA has a Wellness Committee that works to improve the healthy options for students and has posted on the web site a letter that lists many such food choices. As a result of parent Suzanne Sullivan's collaborative work with school and district personnel, Juana Briones has been chosen to pilot a new lunch program, the *Kid's Way Café*, which has already begun offering organic yogurt, carrot sticks, and edamame.
- As for exercise, our school has a robust physical education program. Encourage your child to take full advantage of it by remembering to



wear tennis shoes. We also have a running/walking lunchtime club, which should make its first appearance soon. It is good practice for our signature event in March, *The 2011 Juana Run*. Make sure your child participates in the sprint, the mile, or even the big one, the 8K. This year, make it a goal to expose your child to a healthy lifestyle by training now for the 2011 Juana run. Every student should participate and now is the time to become accustomed to walking/ running a mile or more.

- The regular attendance issues have come to the forefront again, perhaps because students and staff are sniffing from colds and allergies as the seasons change. We have had a significant increase in the number of late arrivals. Our new computer student information system requires us to log attendance immediately when the bell rings at 8:15AM, so please invest those few minutes in the morning to ensure a prompt arrival. If your child is late, (s)he must go to the office for a tardy slip. Curiously, the office staff has noticed an inordinate rise in the number of parents taking their children out early. If your child needs to leave class early—for an unavoidable doctor's appointment, for example—then you must obtain an official 'Permit To Leave School' from the office. Hand this to the teacher, so that your child can be released from class. I will be following up attendance issues by sending out reminder letters in November. When children arrive late or leave early, it disrupts the entire classroom. Please see me if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Message from your PTA - Oct 2010



Dear Juana Briones Parents,

What an exciting month October was! The Fall Picnic kicked off our fall events. To those who participated awaited a pleasant surprise - a table full of healthy snack options for the kids. Local businesses - The Milk Pail and Sigona's - provided these yummy and healthy food options to show that kids can enjoy healthy food. Snacks don't have to be artificially sweetened and colored. Thank you to Rebecca Scholl and Suzanne Sullivan for raising awareness to the health and wellness of our children.

Staying fit and healthy is also one of the goals of our annual Walk & Roll to School Day. It was great to see so many of you walking or riding your bikes to school, or even carpooling! This day emphasizes the many ways we can arrive at school and be conscious of our health and environment. We encourage you and your children to practice Walk & Roll to School on a regular basis, not only once a year. The City of Palo Alto has put together a map of all bike lanes which makes it easy to bike around town. Pick up a map at the local library or view it online at www.cityofpaloalto.org.

Did you know that Palo Alto was designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community? It is committed to promoting and encouraging bicycling as a safe, healthy, economical, environmentally friendly mode of transportation. We, at Briones, agree with this, and on October 15th all the 3rd graders took part in Bike Safety Day. Kudos to Jenny Zhang who coordinated this important educational day, lead by the teachers, and assisted by many parent volunteers. It is our duty as parents to keep reminding our children of the importance of riding safely.

We hope you all had a chance to see Pumpkin Fiesta, starred and crewed by some of our very talented 3rd, 4th and 5th graders. The production was part of the Outreach Program of The Palo Alto Children's Theatre (this program comes to school every three years). The kids worked very hard for six weeks, and in the end put on an amazing performance. A big thank you (again) to Rebecca Scholl for coordinating this. The PTA installed a new and professional microphone system on the stage of the MP Room which was first put to use in this production. It will certainly serve the school for years to come. Thank you to the Tway-Fan Family for donating almost half of the cost of this microphone set.

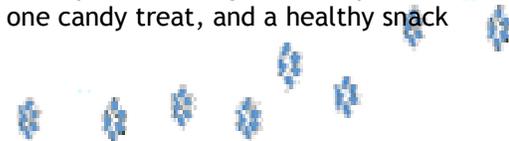
Restaurant Night at Hobee's was a success! Many families enjoyed a night out with other Briones families, and at the same time helped the school raise money. We hope to see you at our next Restaurant Night at Oregon's on November 10th.

November 8th through the 17th is the PiE (Partners in Education) matching program. If you haven't yet donated to PiE, this will be a great opportunity to do so, as each dollar you generously contribute is matched! PiE is the only fundraising organization permitted to pay for salaries during the school day. PiE supports staff such as classroom aides, spectra art instruction, and science specialists. PTA cannot pay for "staff" during the school day; PTA pays for "stuff". We thank you in advance for your generous contributions!

We hope that you enjoyed our Harvest Festival and that you have signed up for one of our exciting Great Gatherings. If you didn't get a chance to sign up, please check with Debi Snipp (debisnipp@sbcglobal.net) or Susan Gray (sgray.gray@gmail.com) whether there are still available spots at a Great Gathering of your choice.

And last, we do hope you had a fun Halloween weekend - please set a good example for all kids by packing your kids' lunch with not more than one candy treat, and a healthy snack next to it, to balance things out.

Eynat Eliraz (PTA President),
Dilshad Simons (Co Executive VP),
Lisa Jiang (Co Executive VP)



Next Copy Deadline: Nov 28, 2010

Eynat Eliraz (middle): PTA
President (eynat@yahoo.com),
Dilshad Simons
(dusimons@yahoo.com) &
Lisa Jiang (jiang_lisa@yahoo.com):
PTA Co-Vice Presidents



Meet your PTA Board!

President

Eynat Eliraz

Executive Co-VPs

Dilshad Simons &

Lisa Jiang

VP Ways and Means

Jian Ma & Anna Ma

VP Community Activities

Debi Snipp

VP Communications

Aisha Zakariya

Amrita Bajaj

Secretary

Jen Schultz

Treasurers

Yvonne Li

Auditor

Heidi Axtell

Parliamentarian

Susan Gray

Council Chair #1 Esther Fan

Council Chair #2 Ginger Levy

Check

www.briones.pausd.org "PTA
Tab" for all our Committees
& Volunteer Members!

GUESS WHO? Can you identify this member of Juana Briones?

We have so many wonderful teachers and staff at Juana Briones, so the Banner thought we can try to get to know them a little better! Test yourself and see if you can figure out whom we are describing below:

1. Enjoys seeing bright and eager faces every morning!
2. Has taught at Briones for 10+ years!
3. Graduated from Santa Clara University and earned teaching credentials from San Jose State University.

4. Every day is an adventure with kids who believe that all things are possible.
5. Teaches to learn about the world and its diversity!

See if you or your child can 'Guess Who'?

HINT: Go to www.briones.pausd.org 'Staff Bios'!

[Answer: On Page 4].

Mark Your Calendars:



Next PTA Exec Board and General Meetings:

Meetings are open to all Juana Briones families and staff. Please come!

Please email eynat@yahoo.com **for locations of the Exec Board Meetings**

- Thursday, Nov. 4th (7.00 - 8.30PM)
- Friday Dec 3rd (8.30 - 10.00AM)

All General Meetings are held at Juana Briones School in the MP Room.

- Monday Feb 14th, 7PM

Next Site Council Meeting:

- Nov. 8th (6.30 PM) @ Teachers Lounge
- Dec 6th (6.30 PM) @ Teachers Lounge

Many Thanks to:

Mrs. Levy and Mr. Culbertson for organizing the Halloween parade, which featured an eclectic mix of homemade and store-bought costumes
Sevgi Carefoot and Anne Suri for leading a few dozen volunteers to plan another successful Harvest Festival
Debi Snipp, Susan Gray and all the volunteers that made the Great Gatherings and Silent Auction a success.

IT'S TIME FOR PiE!!

Want to keep science, art and aides in the classroom, then, act Now to Double Your Donation to PiE!

The PiE funds come from parents and donors just like you and are supporting the following programs at Juana Briones: the science program for all students, Spectra Art for all classes, and instructional aides. The PiE donations from Juana Briones parents, and from other PAUSD schools, come back to each school on a per student basis. It is the only private fund that can be used to pay for staff. Although the donation request is \$650, any amount you contribute, whether it is \$25, \$50, \$100, or any other amount of your choice is greatly appreciated! From now through November 19, donations to PiE will be matched dollar for dollar up to a total gift to PiE of \$275,000, thanks to a Participation Challenge Grant from the PiE Advisory Council and other generous donors. Please give today to double the impact of your gift and help PiE earn this challenge grant! You can donate online at www.papie.org/donate, or look for the PiE envelopes in the school office.

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

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

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PALO ALTO
PARTNERS
IN EDUCATION



FRIENDSHIP BENCH FROM CLASS OF 2010



The Class of 2010 Friendship Bench has finally arrived! We want the 2010 alumni to come see where it is and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Please put the word out that the bench is at Juana Briones and has found a lovely spot by the front play structure. Thank you to the students and families of 2010 for donating the bench and to Kim Perlmutter, a neighborhood friend of Briones, for designing and coordinating the lovely changes to the landscape surrounding the bench.



ABOUT THE BRIONES BANNER...

The Briones Banner is a PTA funded newsletter designed to serve as an informational resource to the Juana Briones community. Information is provided as a community service and mention of any service, business or organization does not imply endorsement by the Briones PTA or the Palo Alto Unified School district (PAUSD). The Banner is published monthly (except when holidays interfere).

Submissions and contributions are welcome from the community and can be sent to the Editor (khurshidgandhi@yahoo.com) by email. If the article cannot be submitted electronically, please contact the Editor for instructions. Submissions may be edited for spelling, grammar, clarity and length. All submissions must include name and contact information.

Submission Deadline: The 28th of every month.
Editor: Khurshid Gandhi
Principal: Matthew Nagle
PTA President: Eynat Eliraz

ANSWER for Page 3:
 'GUESS WHO?'

MARIELLEN KLEIN!
 [First Grade Teacher, Room 5].

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Next Copy Deadline: Nov 28, 2010

Juana Briones Restaurant Night Page 7

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Oregano's Wood-Fired Pizza

4546 E Camino (@ San Antonio Road)

Los Altos, CA 94022

Wednesday, November 10th

4:00-9:30pm

*Enjoy Oregano's amazing wood-fired pizzas,
delicious pasta & fresh salads in a warm, relaxing
environment.*

Just present this flyer to your server

&

15% of your bill will be donated to Briones

PTA!!