



October 26, 2018



## Keller Among Nation's Top Urban Schools

Keller Dual Immersion Middle School has earned a 2018 America's Best Urban Schools Award from the National Center for Urban School Transformation.

Only 15 schools won the national honor during this month's America's Best Urban Schools Symposium in San Diego. Winning schools demonstrate multiple indicators of excellence for each demographic group served.

"Among the thousands of urban schools throughout the nation, this outstanding school is one of the few able to document that it met all of our rigorous award criteria," NCUST Executive Director Joseph Johnson said. "You should be proud that Keller serves as a model for urban schools throughout the United

States."

Keller Principal Thomas Espinoza said his school has surpassed state levels for each demographic group on assessments.

"It's amazing that out of hundreds of schools nominated, only 15 were winners at the national level," Espinoza said. "It's great to see everyone at Keller recognized for their hard work. Really, everyone had a hand in this."

Winning schools were recognized at the gold, silver and bronze levels, with Keller earning a bronze award. Criteria include high rates of academic proficiency, including for every racial/ethnic group, evidence of high achievement for English learners and for students with

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### NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED –

Accepting a 2018 America's Best Urban Schools Award on behalf of Keller Dual Immersion Middle School is National Board Certified teacher and Spanish Department Chair James Orihuela with Principal Thomas Espinoza. Only 15 schools in the U.S. won the award.

## New Life for Two Old Auditoriums

Construction crews have breathed new life into auditoriums at two of the Long Beach Unified School District's oldest campuses, Wilson and Poly high schools.

Wilson celebrated the grand opening of its refurbished 1929 auditorium this month with an evening of student performances including symphonic winds and strings, chamber singers, guitar ensemble, dance and musical theatre.

Poly officially reopened its 87-year-old auditorium last December with a holiday instrument-

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## Police Share Tips, Treats for Halloween

Long Beach Police Chief Robert Luna and colleagues visited first graders at Muir Academy last week to share Halloween safety tips along with reflective trick-or-treat bags, glow sticks and treats.

Tips from the chief and Long Beach Police Foundation President Bruce MacRae included staying in well-lighted areas, never going out alone, carefully checking treats, carrying a flashlight, and refusing to enter strangers' homes.

The Police Foundation and Domino's Pizza sponsored the visit and goodie bags.

Chief Luna also encouraged the students to stay in school and do their homework.

View more Halloween Safety tips from LBPd by finding this article at [Ibschools.net](http://Ibschools.net).

## Rotary Raises \$55,000 for Literacy Efforts

Long Beach Rotary recently raised more than \$55,000 for its Reading by 9 literacy efforts. The service club has now raised in excess of \$675,000 since the inception of the program 20 years ago.

"This will allow us to continue to provide significant funding to benefit LBUSD preschool and elementary schools, libraries, teachers and most importantly students with our various programs," said Rotarian Frank Newell, a local attorney and Poly High School alum who has supported Reading by 9 for many years. "We intend to continue our Teacher Literacy Grants, our support of the Child Development Center preschools where we provide a book to every child, our donation of Scholastic books to numerous schools and libraries, and other programs as well."

Rotary members donated the funds during the regular meeting last week. Speakers at the meeting included the Long Beach Unified

School District's Cindy Young, who is director of LBUSD Child Development, and Oropeza Elementary School teacher Sylvia Renteria. The second grade teacher is a past recipient of a Rotary Teacher Literacy Grant, and her classroom is visited regularly by one of the Rotary Readers volunteers who read to children in local schools.

In all, Long Beach Rotary has donated more than 250,000 books and e-books to local literacy efforts.

Further information on applying for 2018-19 Teacher Literacy Grants will be posted at [Ibschools.net](http://Ibschools.net) when the grant application window opens later this school year. The grants are available to teachers in preschool through third grade, including special education, offering \$500 to \$2,500 for creative, teacher-driven literacy projects. Funds may be used to purchase books, e-books, teaching aids, training programs or other educational materials.

**TIPS, TREATS –**  
Long Beach Police Foundation President Bruce MacRae and Police Chief Robert Luna hand out goodies and reflective trick-or-treat bags to first graders at Muir Academy after a talk about Halloween Safety. View more photos, and find more Halloween safety tips from the police department at [Ibschools.net](http://Ibschools.net).



## • Keller Honored

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 disabilities, low rates of suspensions, high attendance rates and other requirements.  
 The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education in 2015 approved the re-use of the former Keller Elementary School site to offer dual immersion instruction in English and Spanish for grades 6 to 8. The middle grades program moved from nearby Patrick Henry K-8 School, which returned to its original K-5 configuration. The reconfiguration allowed the school district to expand the sought-after dual immersion program in Henry's elementary grades by devoting a separate, entire site to the middle grades immersion program. Dual immersion programs remain in high demand among parents.

NCUST, based at San Diego State University, has recognized several LBUSD schools in the past, including Addams, International (now Oropeza), Signal Hill, Tucker, Edison, King, Riley, Robinson, Lafayette and Roosevelt. The mission of NCUST is to help urban school districts and their partners transform urban schools into places where all students achieve academic proficiency, show a love of learning, and graduate well prepared to succeed in post-secondary education, the workplace and their communities.

## Dates to Remember

### November

|       |  |
|-------|--|
|       | National Native American Heritage Month  |
| 2     | First Quarter Ends   |
| 2     | 10:00, 11:20, 12:00, 12:30 — "America's Veterans," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8                           |
| 4     | Standard Time Day  |
| 5-13  | Elementary Conference Days   |
| 6     | Election Day   |
| 6     | 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Pilgrims At Plymouth," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 7     | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "William Bradford: The First Thanksgiving," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 8     | 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8                      |
| 11    | Veterans Day   |
| 12    | Veterans Day — Holiday Observed  |
| 12    | Elizabeth Cody Stanton's Birthday  |
| 12-16 | American Education Week  |
| 13    | 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "First Thanksgiving," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8   |
| 14    | Education Support Professionals Day  |
| 14    | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Thanksgiving Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8                         |
| 15    | 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Turkeys in the Wild," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8                    |
| 16    | Substitute Educators Day   |
| 16    | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Thanksgiving," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8                                 |
| 19    | Gettysburg Address Anniversary   |
| 19-23 | Thanksgiving Recess  |
| 22    | Thanksgiving Day — Holiday   |
| 23    | Declared Holiday   |
| 27    | 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Respecting Others," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8   |
| 29    | 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Everyday Creativity," Grades 4-12, ed.tv 8                   |
| 30    | Mark Twain's Birthday  |
| 30    | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Food For Fun," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8                                 |

## In Memoriam

**Darla Kraslow**  
 former counselor  
 Oct. 17, 2018

**RESTORED** — Wilson High School celebrated the opening of its refurbished 1929 auditorium this month. Poly High School reopened its 87-year-old auditorium last year. Both buildings gained significant upgrades while retaining historical features such as the Wilson seating shown here.



## • Updated Auditoriums Retain Historic Feel

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 tal concert. Both projects were made possible by school bond funds approved by local voters.

The modernized Wilson auditorium retains its historical character and now features two elevators, refurbished seating, upgraded restrooms, new wall and floor finishes, upgraded plumbing, air conditioning and heating systems, a digital control room and new lighting. Seismic safety upgrades with roof strengthening and fire sprinkler systems also were part of the modernization. Preserved historical aspects include reconditioned historical seating, lobby

restoration and refurbished historical windows. The project cost was \$27 million.

The Poly auditorium renovation also included seismic retrofitting, new elevators, new public restrooms, stage lighting, audio, heating and air conditioning, fire alarms, sprinklers and stadium seating. After the auditorium was damaged in the 1933 Long Beach earthquake, the building was modernized in the WPA Moderne style, incorporating Streamline Moderne and Art Deco elements.

Designers of the refurbished Poly auditorium preserved or replicated many of the historical features, working with Long Beach Heritage. The project cost was \$24 million.

Learn more about school construction and modernization projects at [lbschoolbonds.net](http://lbschoolbonds.net).

## Child Development Centers Enrolling

The Long Beach Unified School District's Child Development Centers are accepting children for free/low-cost and fee-based preschool and school-age programs at a number of sites throughout the district.

Fee-based and subsidized programs are available for both the preschool and school-age programs. Preschool programs offer full and part-day options. School-age programs provide care before and after school, and during holiday breaks.

Teachers are highly qualified and credentialed, and the curriculum is aligned with state standards. Tours of the Child Development Centers are available, and enrollment is offered year-round.

View video by finding this article at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net), and call 429-8636 to learn more.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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## Names in the News

Stevenson Elementary School teacher **Nica Rumion** accepted the Incite/Insight Award at the Long Beach Arts Council's annual State of the Arts event this month at Expo Art Center in Long Beach. Rumion has established an elementary art program at Stevenson. This year she will continue to develop curriculum through grant funds so that other schools with similar demographics can adopt the program. She is also founding director of Alma Latina Long Beach Dance Company.



**Rumion**

Jordan High School student **Alofaifo Faleono** and Lakewood High School students **Fiapito Faiiai** and **Na'otaigali Senlo** will receive Christina Diaz Student Scholar Awards from the National Pacific Islander Education Network during NPIEN's annual education conference this Saturday at Paramount High School in Paramount, Calif. The event is a chance for students, educators and parents to hear from inspiring educators, professionals and leaders in the Pacific Islander community. Named after the late Christina Diaz, a sponsor and supporter of NPIEN, the annual awards go to students who are nominated by their school counselors, teachers or administrators based upon their academic and extracurricular achievements. Learn more at [npien.com](http://npien.com).