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News Release

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WILSON ELEMENTARY WINS BARONA EDUCATION GRANT

The Barona Band of Mission Indians awarded a \$5,000 grant to **Wilson Elementary School** to purchase new library books, thanks to support from State Senator Bob Dutton.

The public is invited to the official grant presentation Tuesday, September 25 at 10 a.m. at Wilson Elementary.

The Barona Band of Mission Indians awards the Barona Education Grant every year to help build strong educational opportunities for children across California. The tribe, located in San Diego County, awards the annual \$5,000 grant to one school in each of California's legislative districts, with the legislator's endorsement.

According to his endorsement letter, Senator Dutton supported Wilson's grant application because of the school's commitment to improving test scores and its support of its diverse student body.

Wilson Elementary educates kindergarten through fifth grade students. More than 90 percent of Wilson students qualify for free or reduced-price meals. The school's API (Academic Performance Index) score has increased from 685 in 2008–2009 to 753 in 2010–2011.

Heidi Vazquez, Wilson's principal, is grateful to both Senator Dutton and the Barona Band of Mission Indians for supporting the school. Vazquez will use the grant to purchase new books for the school's library. Every week students are invited to the school library to check out a book. Parents are also encouraged to borrow books to read to or with their children.

"I can't thank the Barona tribe enough. They didn't have to do this, but they did," Vazquez said. "And, because of them and Senator Dutton's support, our students and their parents will have access to new library books."

Wilson Elementary School is located at 2894 Belle Street in San Bernardino. For the safety of students, all school visitors must check in with the school office when they arrive on campus.

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