

Latino/Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15- October 15

FACTS

- Spanish is the common language in much of Latin America due to colonization by Spain
- Over 2000 indigenous languages existed prior to colonization in contrast to over 400 languages spoken in Latin America today
- The US has the second largest population of Spanish speakers (after Mexico); 13% of the US population speaks Spanish at home
- Disputes over language in the US go as far back as the 1750s. The English-only movement contributes to the discrimination of non-English speakers and contributes to language loss due to fear and a devaluing of other languages (despite the benefits of bilingualism).



LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [Decreases in Spanish fluency across generations](#)
- [How is language related to our identities?](#)
- [The impact of discrimination on language loss](#)
- [Benefits of bilingual education](#)



[Support Puerto Rico's recovery from Hurricane Fiona](#)



Try this recipe!

BREAKING BREAD, BUILDING COMMUNITY

Janelle Torres is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and works as a therapist. She and her husband met salsa dancing. They have lived in Albany about seven years and have two children: a baby and a child in AUSD. Janelle shared a recipe that represents her Puerto Rican heritage: pastelón - "the ultimate marriage of sweet and savory."



COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT: PUERTO RICO

- A US territory acquired in 1898 (Spanish-American War) after being colonized by Spain in 1493
- 3.2 million inhabitants in PR (2016) & over 5 million Puerto Ricans in the US (2019)
- Puerto Ricans were granted citizenship in 1917, but cannot vote for president.
- Puerto Rico has a representative in Congress that has a voice, but no vote.
- El Yunque is the only tropical forest under US National Forest System & a sacred place in Puerto Rican culture. Many believe the name comes from the Taino word Yuke or "white earth" for the clouds that gather around its peak or Yucahu the Taino deity of fertility.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

This Saturday, 10/1:

[Family Dance Lesson with Cunamacue:](#)

[Afro-Peruvian music @ Rockridge Library](#)

[Lowriders at the Library:](#) Music, crafts, and a performance by Ballet Folklorico Reflejos del Sol @ Berkeley Central Library

Join Our District Event

AUSD's Celebracion Latina
Saturday, October 15th @ AMS | 12pm-4pm