



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 11, 2018

Malibu Schools Update, Surveys and Resources

Dear Malibu parents and staff,

The pictures emerging from this ongoing, tragic situation in our community are heart breaking. As the crisis unfolds, we know that many of our students, families, and staff have been impacted. We are aware that many have lost their homes and many do not know the current status of their homes, as evacuation orders are still in effect.

We have decided to keep our Malibu schools closed this week, through Friday, November 16th.

In an effort to better understand the current needs and to provide support, we have created a brief survey. Please see the links below. One is for families and one is for staff. If your home has sustained damage, if you have lost your home, have sustained injury, or there is any other situation that you think is helpful for us to be aware of, please complete the appropriate survey if you are able/willing to do so. In place of the survey, you may also contact your principal or submit an email through Let's Talk: www.smmusd.org.

[Family Survey](#)

[Staff Survey](#)

We have compiled some immediate resources covering shelter, mental health services and donations. There are also links to several articles on how to talk to young people about wild fires. [Resources](#). We will be updating the resources on school websites as new resources emerge that have been vetted by the district as legitimate and reliable.

We are thankful for the Boys & Girls Club of Malibu for their care, concern and immediate action to financially support our families as well as support equestrian needs. You may visit the [BGC website](#) for additional information.

We are grateful to the City of Malibu and local first responders and law enforcement all coming to the aid of Malibu families and residents, even while some have lost their own homes.

The City of Malibu is planning a town hall for residents on Tuesday, November 13th. Location, time and information forthcoming. For the latest updates, please visit: <http://www.malibucity.org/woolsey>

We recognize the tight-knit community that Malibu is, and we, along with our Board of Education, district leadership and staff, are here and ready to help and support community efforts to rebuild this very special city so that it thrives once again.



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With evacuation orders still in place, we have been unable to visually inspect our schools directly yet. We have seen photos and videos and reports that all four of our schools appear to be in good condition. We will have inspections and cleaning to do before we resume as the safety of our students and staff is paramount to us. For that reason, **we have decided to close Malibu schools all week, through Friday, November 16, 2018.** We want to ensure that air quality inside and out provides a healthy environment for all. All Malibu school-related activities are also cancelled this week, along with the SMMUSD sustainability plan meeting scheduled for Wednesday evening. We will stay in touch with updates.

Red flag warnings are in effect through Tuesday so the situation is still uncertain. If you have any concerns or needs, please reach out to your school principal. We are ready to help our families through this difficult time. We are looking forward to resuming school as soon as safely possible, to provide students and staff with comfort and as much normalcy as possible.

Please share this information with parents who may not have email access at this time.

Thank you and please stay safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent
Mr. Isaac Burgess, Director, Malibu Pathway
Dr. Cheli Nye, Principal, Malibu High School
Dr. Pam Herkner, Principal, Juan Cabrillo Elementary School
Mr. Patrick Miller, Principal, Webster Elementary School
Mr. Phil Cott, Acting Principal, Point Dume Marine Science School
Mr. Al Friedenber, Acting Principal, Juan Cabrillo Elementary School
Mr. Dave Jackson, Acting Principal, Juan Cabrillo and Point Dume
Dr. Hillary Weisman, Assistant Principal, Malibu High School
Ms. Melisa Andino, Assistant Principal, Malibu (Middle) High School
Ms. Julie Siegel, Assistant Principal, Juan Cabrillo