



Nov. 8. 2023

Superintendent's Message to the Malibu Community: Remembering the Woolsey Fire and Reflecting on this Week

Dear Malibu Parents, Guardians, Staff, Students and Community Members,

We are thinking of our families, staff and friends in Malibu, as this week marks six years since the Woolsey fire that forever changed the lives of all who live and work in the beautiful and thriving coastal community of Malibu.

With a heavy heart, we recall the concern and fright felt by all in the community and all of us who care deeply about our families, staff and community members who were impacted.

With the strong winds, fires, road closures and power outages this week, we understand the fear being felt by all of you. Many of our staff have been very concerned about the extreme fire danger this week. Our teams worked days and nights this week reviewing conditions, consulting with the City, Boys & Girls Club Malibu and other agencies, listening to and hearing parents and staff, and making decisions to keep school open or closed, very carefully. Many factors must be weighed in making this difficult decision. Our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has been activated since Tuesday. We understand that Wednesday was challenging at Malibu Middle and High Schools with communications limited. We continue to improve our back up systems at all schools, and we are committed to making further improvements.

A beautiful thing about Malibu is that in times of emergencies, everyone comes together to support and care for each other. Our teachers, staff, Council of PTAs, teacher and classified unions, district leadership and the school board, turn their focus and attention to the issue at hand and partner with the community to offer support. The health and safety of our students and staff are our top priorities and decisions that are made are always with that in mind.

We understand that some families and staff are still in the process of rebuilding their homes and had to start over fresh. We know some of our families left the area and restarted their lives elsewhere. We understand the trauma is deep, and this life-changing experience will always be on the minds of those who endured this horrible act of nature.

We see the once-scarred beautiful hillsides green and alive again, and we see our students thriving in school. Malibu continues to be a vibrant town in which to live, work and play, and we keep you in our thoughts and prayers as your special community remembers this event at the six-year mark.

We are here for our families and staff. Please continue to take care of yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,

Dr. Antonio Shelton, Superintendent