

Connect- ED – Sample of Messages from Week of October 21

Sunday, October 21, 2007

This is Poway Unified School District Deputy Superintendent John Collins calling with an important announcement. Schools will be closed in the Poway Unified School District tomorrow, Monday, October 22 due to unhealthy air quality as a result of the fires fueled by Santa Ana winds. All school related activities are also cancelled. The Poway Unified School District is working continuously with the City of Poway and the Emergency Response Agencies to monitor the fire conditions and we will be providing more information within the next 24 hours. Staff members at schools and in district offices are also requested to remain at home except for members of the EOC and their administrative assistants, site principals, bus drivers, and custodians. We will keep you updated about school on Tuesday, October 23 through Connect-Ed phone messages and through information on our website.

Monday, October 22, 2007

This is Deputy Superintendent John Collins with an update from the Poway Unified School District. Last night all employees and parents were notified that school was cancelled for today and that updates would be provided as soon as possible.

This is to remind you that all Poway schools, including our pre-schools and ESS, as well as all school related activities, have been cancelled for today.

If you are a parent and employee, all transportation department employees, including drivers, mechanics and dispatchers should report to work unless prevented to do so by personal necessity.

For the remainder of this week, we will continue to provide staff and parents with additional updates and timely reminders regarding the status of our schools.

For those wishing to do so, you may access our District website for updates.

Thank you.

Tuesday October 23, 2007

This is a message on Tuesday, October 23, from Poway Unified School District Superintendent Don Phillips with information for parents and students of our schools.

Due to the terrible fires which have swept through our community, all Poway Unified schools and all schools in San Diego County will be closed for student attendance through the entire week.

Also, all school activities, including Extended Student Services, Adult Education and ROP classes, and all CIF sports, practices, competitions, and tournaments have been cancelled through the entire week and week-end.

I know many families of our school community have suffered tragic losses to their homes and personal property and that many have been displaced by the widespread evacuations.

I want to share my deep personal concern and care for our students, parents, employees, and community members affected by this terrible natural disaster.

I've been moved by the spirit of giving and outpouring of support from so many of our families in this time of personal loss and need.

I have confidence that our entire school community will recover quickly. We look forward to opening our schools as soon as possible.

Information regarding student attendance for next week will be communicated to you as soon as it is known.

Thank you.

Friday, October 26, 2007

Good Afternoon.

This is Don Phillips, superintendent of Poway Unified School District, and it is Friday afternoon, October 26.

I hope this message finds you and your family safe. We are deeply saddened to have learned that more than 20 staff members and 340 students have lost their homes during the terrible fires.

After a disaster or a major loss, the best thing for students and the community is to return to normal patterns as soon as possible. Because of this, all of the Poway Unified Schools, including ESS, preschool, and transportation services will re-open on Monday, October 29.

Our maintenance crews began cleaning as soon as fire danger had passed and will continue working over the weekend; other staff returned on Friday.

Next week will be a full week of school for students. Parent conferences and professional development days are canceled. All CIF practices and tournaments are canceled through Monday. Depending on local air quality, these events may resume as early as next Tuesday, October 30.

We look forward to welcoming our students back to school.

We recognize that it will take time for the community to fully recover after these fires. We will have our teachers and support staff in place to support your children and their learning on Monday morning.

Thank you.