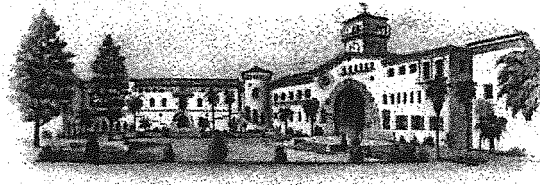


COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Michael F. Brown
County Executive Officer

Michael D. Harris
Emergency Operations Chief



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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

May 21, 2009

Superintendent J. Brian Sarvis
Santa Barbara School Districts
720 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Superintendent Sarvis:

This is to thank the Santa Barbara School Districts for your actions during the recent Jesusita Fire in Santa Barbara County. The Jesusita Fire posed a significant threat to the entire southern Santa Barbara County region. At one point, the fire line stretched almost 6 miles! Thank you for meeting our insistence, you closed schools in or adjacent to mandatory evacuation areas and evacuation warning areas; we realize that this was a significant impact. In addition, thank you for following our direction in closing schools to ensure rapid access for fire and public safety personnel and the safety of those downwind of the fire who were affected with poor air quality. The closures included the following schools and programs as the fire progressed:

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 early dismissal

- Open Alternative School, 2:10 p.m.
- La Colina Junior High School, seventh-period, 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 6 through Friday, May 8, 2009

- Peabody Charter School
- Roosevelt Elementary School
- Franklin Elementary School
- Cesar Chavez Charter School
- Home School Santa Barbara, elementary
- Cleveland Elementary School
- Parma Children's Center
- Early Years Children's Center, on the Santa Barbara High School campus
- Child Development programs at Peabody Charter, Roosevelt, Franklin, Cesar Chavez, and Cleveland elementary schools
- Afterschool Education and Safety (ASES)/A-OK programs at Franklin and Cleveland elementary schools

Thursday, May 7, 2009 early dismissal

- Santa Barbara Community Academy, early dismissal at 10:00 a.m.
- La Cumbre Junior High School, early dismissal at 10:00 a.m.
- Afterschool Education and Safety (ASES) program at La Cumbre Junior High School

Thursday, May 7 through Friday, May 8, 2009. Closure of all of the above schools and programs *plus*:

- Adams Elementary School
- Open Alternative School
- La Colina Junior High School
- Community Day School
- Home School Santa Barbara, secondary
- Santa Barbara Continuation
- Santa Barbara Junior High School
- Santa Barbara High School
- Afterschool Education and Safety (ASES)/A-OK programs at Adams Elementary Schools
- Child Development programs: State Preschool and afterschool programs at Adams Elementary; Santa Barbara High School Children's Center

Friday, May 8, 2009. Closure of all of the above schools and programs *plus*:

- Goleta Valley Junior High
- Santa Barbara Charter School
- San Marcos High School
- Dos Pueblos High School

Friday, May 8, 2009, early dismissal. Closure of all of the above schools and programs *plus*:

- Harding Elementary School, 11:30 a.m.
- McKinley Elementary School, 9:30 a.m.
- Monroe Elementary School, grades K-3 at 11:30 a.m.; grades 4-6 at 11:50
- Washington Elementary School (9:25 early start), grades K-3 at 11:30 a.m.; grades 4-6 at 11:50 a.m.
- La Cuesta Continuation High School, 11:40 a.m. as no lunch was available)
- Child Development afterschool programs at Harding, McKinley, Monroe and Washington elementary schools; Las Flores Child Development Center
- Afterschool Education and Safety (ASES) program at Harding and McKinley elementary schools

Your actions kept more than 16,000 students and their parents from harms way and in addition assisted the efforts of the Emergency Operations Center in battling this dangerous fire.

Finally, we want to thank you and Barbara Keyani for personally staffing the Emergency Operations Center to ensure that collectively, we kept our local families safe.

Sincerely,



Michael Harris
Emergency Operations Chief