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For Immediate Release

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Neighbors asked to help protect schools over Thanksgiving recess

Metal thieves, vandals prey on schools during the holidays

November 18, 2011 (Sacramento): The holidays are a busy time of year – especially for vandals, thieves and arsonists looking to take advantage of empty school campuses.

In light of this, SCUSD is asking the community for help in keeping schools safe and secure over the Thanksgiving break (November 21-25).

“Most of our schools are surrounded by homes, and we need those neighbors to join us in protecting these valuable and sometimes vulnerable community centers,” said Sacramento Police Lt. Katherine Lester, who heads SCUSD security services.

Copper theft, in particular, costs California schools hundreds of thousands of dollars every year – money that most districts cannot afford to lose.

Neighbors are asked to be on the lookout for suspicious activity on SCUSD campuses and to report it. “The schools belong to the community,” said Lt. Lester, “and we need the entire community to help us guard them.”

For schools within Sacramento city limits call 264-5471. Residents outside city boundaries should call the county Sheriff’s Department at 874-5115. School security can also be called 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 643-7444.

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