

# Sycamore Valley Elementary **SHARK BITES**



## Message from Sylvie Bullard - Principal August 5, 2021

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Dear Sycamore Community:

And just like that, we are back! I hope you all had an amazing summer filled with relaxation and special adventures. I am so excited to welcome ALL of our Sycamore families back for the 2021-22 school year. We have been back on campus these past few weeks, eagerly and excitedly getting ready. Here are a few things you need to know as we kick off this year:

### **Shark Bites**

Shark Bites will now be coming to you on THURSDAY instead of WEDNESDAY. Please be on the lookout for our informative newsletter every Thursday afternoon. This is where you will find information from me (your principal) and our parent organizations, PTA and Shark Fund.

### **Sycamore Registration for 21-22**

Hopefully, you have all received the information for Sycamore's registration. The funds raised during registration are crucial to Sycamore's programs. Your Shark Fund, PTA, and Class Fund contributions directly impact programs like our para educators, library support, technology for students, teacher supplies, our new music program, art docent, and much more. Thank you for all you do to support our Sharks in having the best experience possible here at Sycamore!

If you missed it, here is the link for registration information:

[Registration Packet](#)

Here is the link to the actual registration site: [Registration Site](#)

### **Reopening Guide UPDATE**

For those of you who were with us for the 20-21 school year, you may remember our trusty Reopening Guide. We have been working to update it with all the latest guidelines from our state, county and district. It is full of helpful information. Please take a few minutes to look through it to familiarize yourself with our procedures for this year.

Here is the link to our Reopening Guide: [Sycamore Reopening Guide 21-22](#)

Here is a link to Contra Costa Health Services re: FAQs for Schools:  
[CCHS FAQ for Schools](#)

### **Who is My Teacher?**

Just a quick reminder that you will be able to see your child's teacher at noon on Monday, August 9th. Please go to the parent portal to access this information. Here is the link to the Parent Portal: [Parent Portal](#)

### **First Day Drop Off and Pick-Up Information**

Please make sure you read the welcome packet or the Reopening Guide for detailed information about pick up and drop off. For our 1st-5th grade families, our playground will be open at 7:45 am. You are welcome to come to our playground before school (at 7:45) and wait with your child until your child's teacher comes to pick them up at 8:00. This will give you a chance to give a quick wave to your child's teacher that morning before you get to see them again in person the following night for Back to School Night.

Kindergarten families should have received information about drop off and pick up for their special shortened day visit on the first day of school.

### **Back to School Night**

We are looking forward to seeing you at our Back to School Night on Wednesday, August 11th. This year we are having all families come on ONE EVENING. In the past we welcomed some grade levels on one night and other grade levels on a different night. All grades will be coming on August 11th (the second day of school). Here are the times:

**TK-2nd Presentations in the Classroom 5:00-6:00pm**

**Principal's Message in the classroom 6:00-6:20pm**

**3rd-5th Presentations in the Classroom 6:20-7:20pm**

Please note that in lieu of all families gathering in the MPR, my message to the community will be recorded and shown IN CLASSROOMS. This means that for TK-2, you will stay put in your classroom from 6:00-6:20 to hear the message. For 3-5 families, you will need to arrive before 6:00 and be in your child's classroom by 6:00 to watch the presentation. If you miss it, I will be sharing the video out in Shark Bites that week!

### **Bell Schedule**

For those of you who need it, here is a link to Sycamore's Bell Schedule for this school year: [Sycamore Bell Schedule](#).

### **Lunch Provided This Year!**

We are excited to announce this school year, SRVUSD will be transitioning from a school meal program based on family income to a program which allows any student wanting a meal to have one provided to them at no cost. For more information, please click here: [School Lunch Program Information](#).

### **Mask Wearing**

One of the questions we have been getting a lot is about the expectations around mask wearing. For more information about distancing or mask wearing, please refer to our newly updated Reopening Guide.

Here is what you need to know: [Sycamore Reopening Guide 21-22](#)

### **Music, Music, Music!**

We are THRILLED to announce that music is returning to Sycamore for ALL students in grades TK-5th this year. For our TK through 2nd grade students, vocal music will be offered once a week for 30 minutes. This will be provided during the school day. Your classroom donations of \$195 help to cover the cost of this new program! For our 4th and 5th grade students, instrumental music will be offered (mostly) before school from 7:30-8:00 with the

exception of Advanced Band which will be a pull out between 8:10-8:40 on Fridays. We have two new teachers who will be working with students. Ms. Shiva Samimi will be our TK-2 music teacher and Mr. Lotan Yeung will be our 3-5 music teacher. We are all so excited to have this music program in place for our Sharks!

### **School Counselor**

This year we have additional support for the social emotional well-being of our students. We will have a school counselor at our site, two and a half days a week. We are so lucky to have Ms. Sarah Reardon join us on Thursdays and Fridays and every other Wednesday. She will be spending most of her day working directly with students, supporting them 1:1., in small groups and on the playground.

### **Tech Support is Back on Campus**

We are excited to announce that SRVUSD has returned to having tech support available on campus every morning. Celia Hensger is joining our Sycamore team and will be supporting teachers and students as we move to an almost 1:1 model of devices in classrooms.

### **Devices for Students**

Almost all grade levels will start the year with a 1:1 for devices. Grades 2-5 will have Chromebooks and Grades TK-1 will have iPads. Second grade will start the year with one device for every two students, but we are hopeful that gap will close sometime soon and our second graders will also be at 1:1 with Chromebooks.

### **Volunteers Are Back!**

This year we will have volunteer opportunities for families again! Please make sure you have registered through Be A Mentor so that you are all set to volunteer when the opportunity arises! Here is the link to sign up:

[Be A Mentor Link.](#)

Looking forward to seeing all of you and welcoming you back on the first day of school!

Warmly,  
Sylvie Bullard

**GO SHARKS!**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**



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**Annual Update Open - online through your parent portal**

**08/02 - 08/27 - Sycamore Valley Elementary Online Registration**

**08/09 - Teacher assignments posted in Infinite Campus Parent Portal**

**08/09 - TK/Kinder Ice Cream Social**

**08/10 - 1st day of school - Min. Day**

**08/10 - TK/Kinder Parent Coffee (Park Picnic tables across the parking lot from school).**

**08/11 - Wacky Wednesday Bell Schedule**



08/11 - Back To School Night for Parents / Guardians  
5:00 - 6:00 TK - 2nd grades - Meet in your child's classroom  
6:00 - 6:20 All Grades - Meet in you child's classroom for a message from Principal Bullard  
6:30 - 7:20 3rd - 5th grades - Meet in your child's classroom  
08/18 - Shark Fund Meeting - Virtual 6:30 Zoom  
09/01 - Virtual PTA Association Meeting 8:30am - Zoom  
09/01 - Shark Shop Orders Due  
09/06 - No School - Labor Day  
09/10 - School Picture Day  
09/14 - Minimum Day - Staff Development  
09/15 - Shark Fund Meeting - Virtual 6:30 - Zoom  
09/20 - International Culture Week / Festival Around the World

## Attendance Line



**Please call the attendance line  
to report an absence:  
925-855-2898**

Reminder: If your child will be absent from school, please call the attendance line (925) 855-2898. State your name and relationship, your child's name, grade and teacher name along with the reason for absence. If your child is ill, please let us know what symptoms your child is experiencing. If any of the symptoms described are known symptoms of COVID-19, you will receive an email regarding the next steps and information about returning to school.

If you choose not to leave illness details, you will receive a call from the attendance office asking for more information. It is our responsibility to maintain the health and safety of our school community and we ask for your cooperation. Your student's private health information will not be shared beyond administrative or nursing staff.

Note: Even if you have notified your child's teacher,

please call the attendance line to record  
the absence!

Thank you.

**Reminder:**  
**If you need to drop-off items for your  
child or their teacher,  
please call the school office  
when you arrive at the main gate.  
(925) 855-2800**

### **TK/Kinder Ice Cream Social**

All TK and Kinder Students are invited to the Kinder Playground on Monday, August 9th for a meet and greet of new classmates and Dippin' Dots provided to students by PTA. Time determined by class placement (posted to Infinite Campus Parent Portal on August 9th). Check your inbox for more information in the Welcome to Sycamore email.

### **TK/Kinder/New Family Parent Welcome Coffee**

Join us after drop off on Tuesday, August 10th for a welcome coffee and snacks provided by PTA and Shark Fund. All are welcome to meet some other new parents and have any questions answered by PTA and Shark Fund volunteers. Location: picnic tables across the parking lot from school (near the sports field/snack shack).

### **Sycamore Valley Online Registration is OPEN!**

Please remember to register your student(s) during Sycamore's online registration period. Registration is open from 8/02-8/27. Your support is vital to our school! Go to <https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com> to register and learn more.

## **Enrollment for 2021-2022 School Year**

**2021-22 (next school year) New Student Enrollment:**

**Enrollment for TK - 5th grade is now open.**

**[Enroll Your Child](#)**

- The first day of school for [the 2021-22 school year](#) is August 10, 2021.



**Library Corner**

Hi Sharks!

We are looking forward to opening our school library for students to check out books and do research.

Students will visit the library every other week

Take Care,

Jen Prindiville / Library Media Coordinator

<https://syc-srvusd-ca.schoolloop.com/sylibrary>



## SHARKS READ Read / Exchange / Donate

### Sharks READ book exchange cart!

On supply pick-up days, the **Sharks READ** cart will be in front of the MPR with free books - *from and for* Sycamore students.



Sharks Read, Exchange, And Donate



Please **Take One & Leave One** (if you can):

- Give books. Donate gently used books to share with other Sycamore families.
- Take a book. When you are finished reading it, you may keep it or return it.
- Share and keep the cycle going!

Please be careful and considerate.

- Please wear a mask and maintain social distance at least 6-feet apart while you take turns browsing.
- Please do not leave wet or soiled books.
- Please keep the cart neat for everyone to browse.
- Please take only 1 book at time, or only as many books as you have donated.

Thank you for participating, and happy reading!



Please direct any questions to PTA Library Liaison: [phyllis.acon@gmail.com](mailto:phyllis.acon@gmail.com)

Thank you for participating, and happy reading!





## Extracurricular Extension Programs 3rd - 5th Grade

Stay tuned for details regarding our SLAM program



**Way to go, Sycamore SLAM!**

For complete Sycamore SLAM program updates, please refer to the SLAM page - <https://sycamoreslam.shutterfly.com> / or email [-meg9222@hotmail.com](mailto:-meg9222@hotmail.com)

**GO SLAM**



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If you are interested in becoming part of our Site Council,  
**We need two parents for the upcoming  
Site Council Committee.**

**Positions Open:**  
**Parent Representative (1)**  
**Alternate Parent Representative (1)**

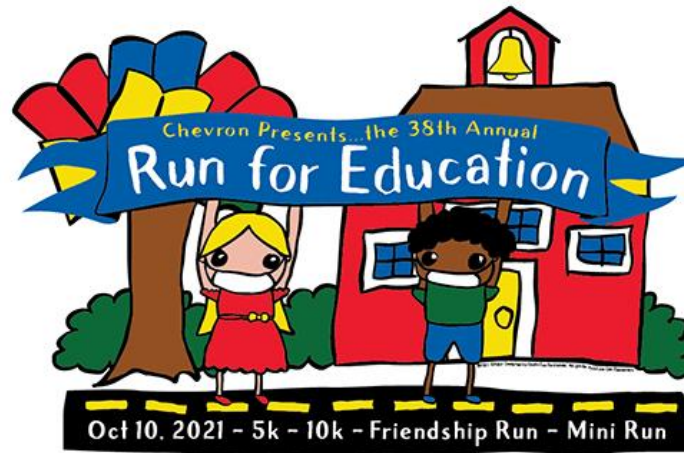
The Sycamore School Site Council (SY SSC) is governed by state guidelines and makes sure the school LCAP goals, School Safety Plan and School Plan for Achievement are completed, reviewed and updated annually.

If you are interested in participating, please write a bio that tells a bit about yourself and why you want to be a part of our site council and send the bio to Barbara Jones at [Bjones1@srvusd.net](mailto:Bjones1@srvusd.net)

As a reminder, parent representatives must be elected  
by the parent community.

We will hold a special election this fall once we have received  
the parent bios.

More information about Site Council is available



## Run for Education:

The 2021 Run for Education is NOW OPEN!

The run will be virtual, but stay tuned for in-person activities in the Fall!

We hope you join us for the 38th Annual Run for Education! As a virtual run, you can run, jog, walk or roll for the distance of your choosing. Whether on the road, trail, treadmill or track, you decide when you do it - between September 10 and October 10 - and you pick the finish line! Complete a virtual 1K (Friendship or Mini Run), 5K, 10K, or create one of your own. Should you choose to time yourself, you can upload the results and even print a certificate of completion!

### **Why should I sign up for the Run for Education?**

To earn money for OUR school! This event will be a fundraiser for the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation and OUR school with 30% of registration net proceeds going directly to Sycamore Valley Elementary. Additionally, the Run for Education is setting up pledge pages for every participant that will allow us to raise even more money with 70% of those donations coming directly to us. This will help give our school another revenue stream to supplement our existing efforts.

### **When should I sign up for the Run?**

NOW! Registration is open at [www.srvef.org](http://www.srvef.org). The low registration price of \$25 includes a new mask or cape! You can still order a shirt to keep your collection up to date when you register - orders need to be placed soon to guarantee delivery by September 1st!

We are excited about the possibilities this format offers our school! This is a healthy, fun activity we can all enjoy while raising funds to support our programs and people! Questions? Contact Karen Robman at [karen@srvef.org](mailto:karen@srvef.org).

Add a registration Button: [www.srvef.org](http://www.srvef.org)



# Sharky Shout Out:

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We would like to thank our New Family Welcome Committee:  
Christine Hoffman, Catherine Sjoberg and Lin Swenson for their hard work this summer putting together the TK/Kinder Ice Cream Social and New Family Welcome Packet!



## Kids Are Talking

Stay Tuned for the Next Issue !



## Child Nutrition

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### Meals Provided @ Sycamore

**Lunch will be provided at no cost to all students that request a lunch at school.**

For more information about the meals, please visit the Child Nutrition Website.  
[https://www.srvusd.net/pf4/cms2/view\\_page?  
d=x&group\\_id=1531973258656&vdid=i20b2k99eacx](https://www.srvusd.net/pf4/cms2/view_page?d=x&group_id=1531973258656&vdid=i20b2k99eacx)

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## Shark Fund - Corporate Match

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## SHARK FUND CORPORATE MATCH

### REMINDER!

**It's not too late to submit your corporate match  
from registration or other donations.**

Sycamore Valley Elementary received over \$35,000 from corporate matches this past school year. See if your employer will match your donation!

<https://www.srvef.org/donate/matchinggifts.aspx>



If you need help  
with corporate  
matches, reach out  
to Jeff Aitken at  
[jeff73@gmail.com](mailto:jeff73@gmail.com)



Shark Fund is a 501(c)(3) - Tax ID #94-3390401

## SRVUSD Tech Support

Here are the updated Quick Links for tech support and requesting devices for your child to use during remote learning.

To request a Chromebook for your child:

<https://parentithelp.srvusd.net/support/catalog/items/72>

To request a Replacement or Repair of a Chromebook:

<https://parentithelp.srvusd.net/support/catalog/items/71>

To request a wi-fi "Hot Spot":

<https://parentithelp.srvusd.net/support/catalog/items/73>

To request a Replacement wi-fi "Hot Spot":

<https://parentithelp.srvusd.net/support/catalog/items/77>

To request a Charging Block:

<https://parentithelp.srvusd.net/support/catalog/items/76>

To request a Chromebook Charging Cable USB-C:

<https://parentithelp.srvusd.net/support/catalog/items/74>

Need Tech Support:

Email [Parentithelp@srvusd.net](mailto:Parentithelp@srvusd.net)

or call (925) 824-1840

## Elite Corporate Sponsors

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## **Joe Kehrig**

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