

# Sycamore Valley Elementary **SHARK BITES**



## Message from Sylvie Bullard - Principal February 10, 2022

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Dear Sycamore Community,

### REMINDERS

**Spirit Day - Theme: Favorite Sport Team - Wednesday, February 16th**

**No School = Monday, February 21st - Presidents' Day**

**No School = Tuesday, February 22nd - Professional Development Day**

### Pick Up Reminder

Thank you to everyone who is continuing to follow our procedures for a safe and efficient pick up. It is so helpful to have parents who want to pick up in person, to pick their child up from the playground. In doing so, it allows the front of our school to be clear for students to find their cars easily so that everyone can get home quickly.

### Sunrise Over Sycamore

About a week ago, Mr. Hewett, our new fourth grade teacher this year, sent me this gorgeous photo of our school as he arrived in the early morning. What a beautiful reminder that we are so lucky to live in such an amazing place!



### **Springtime Weather Means Outdoor Learning!**

Many of our teachers have been taking advantage of the beautiful weather and holding class outdoors. Here Mrs. Crosthwait's class is enjoying a read aloud while relaxing in beach chairs in the shade outside their classroom.



### **African American History Museum**

At the end of this month our school will be hosting an African American History Museum in our MPR. Our event this year will focus on African American artists contributions to the visual arts. Each grade level has a different artist that they are focusing on this month. Here are the artists by grade level:

TK/K: Romare Bearden  
First: Clementine Hunter  
Second: Benny Andrews  
Third: Henry Ossawa Tanner  
Fourth: James VanDerZee  
Fifth: Gordon Parks

PTA generously purchased a copy of a read aloud book for each teacher. These read aloud books focus on each grade level's artist. Mrs. Silvestri, our art docent teacher, created art lessons inspired by the African American artist assigned to each grade level. This month, students in all grade levels will work to create their art.

We will be showcasing the student's artwork and highlighting the contributions of these artists on Friday, February 25th from 2:30-4:00 pm on our MPR. All are welcome to attend!

### **Valentine's Day**

Next Monday many of our classes will be celebrating Valentine's Day. Please be sure to pay attention to what your child's class is doing for the special day. I will be sure to share some photos of the fun next week.

### **Week of the School Counselor**

February 7th-11th is Week of the School Counselor. Here at Sycamore, we have several people who work to support our students' social emotional well-being. We have our school psychologist, Kelly Delgado, our Rainbow Program paraeducator, Stacy Hughes, our SCIP (School Counseling and Intervention Program) counselor, Jessica Lim, and, new to us this year is our school counselor, Sarah Reardon.

This amazing team supports our students in a variety of ways. They work with our students in small groups, targeting social skills. They work with students 1:1 to help them talk through their concerns. They push in and do whole class lessons to address the social emotional needs of a whole class or grade level. They analyze data from our wellness surveys and help determine who may need additional support. We are so lucky to have this team here to help make sure our students are able to thrive!

Warmly,  
Sylvie Bullard

Go Sharks!

## **IMPORTANT DATES**



- 
- 02/11 - Spirit day - Wear your shark ware or Blue clothing**
  - 02/16 - Spirit Day - Theme: Favorite Sport Team**
  - 02/16 - Shark Fund Meeting 6:30 pm -virtual**
  - 02/18 - Spirit day - Wear your shark ware or Blue clothing**
  - 02/18 - 5th Grade Group Photos @ 11:00am**
  - 02/21 - No School - President's Day**
  - 02/22 - No School - Staff Development Day**
  - 02/23 - Dippin Dot Sales**
  - 02/25 - Spirit day - Wear your shark ware or Blue clothing**
  - 02/25 - African American History Museum**
  - 03/02 - PTA/Shark Fund/Site Council Job Fair**
  - 02/04 - Spirit day - Wear your shark ware or Blue clothing**
  - 03/09 - Dippin Dot Sales**
  - 03/23 - Dippin Dot Sales**
  - 03/25 - Live Auction [buy tickets](#)**



## Sycamore Auction 2022

### Tickets On Sale Now

**Live Auction Tickets On Sale Now:** Our Sycamore Valley Live Auction only comes around every other year and you won't want to miss it! This year's "Yacht Party" will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup> at Crow Canyon Country Club. Please view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional information. Tickets can be purchased by visiting our auction website: <https://charityauction.bid/SycamoreValley2022>. We can't wait to welcome you aboard!

**New for 2022 - Sharky Surprise:** we are looking for our Sycamore community to fund a [SURPRISE lot](#) to be featured at the Live Auction on March 25<sup>th</sup>. For \$30 you'll be donating to create a highly desirable, parent-funded, family-friendly auction package which will be a surprise until the night of the Live event and auctioned off to the highest bidder. For each \$30 donated, you will receive (1) ticket to our [raffle](#) and have your name displayed during our Live Auction thanking you for helping to create an exciting auction lot to benefit our school. The fundraising target for this is \$5,000.



**2022 AUCTION  
YACHT PARTY**

**WE NEED ALL  
HANDS ON DECK!**

**AUCTION TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**



**YACHT PARTY  
MARCH 25, 2022  
CROW CANYON COUNTRY CLUB  
6:00-10:00 PM**



<https://tinyurl.com/yckny3xj>

## Attendance Line

**925-855-2898**



**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.

## Platinum Sponsors

Thank you to Sycamore's 21-22 Platinum Corporate Sponsors 



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**armanino** 

DESILVA  GATES  
CONSTRUCTION

**CARDMY★YARD**  
SKIP THE CARD, STAKE THE YARD

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

Please write your Child's Name and Grade/Teacher  
on the item that your are dropping off.



## Our PTA Needs Your Help!!

### Our PTA Needs Your Help!!

*Insert Sharky Logo here*

Sycamore Valley PTA is looking for volunteers for the following roles.

**African American History Museum Coordinator and Committee (Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>)**

**Corporate Sponsorship Committee**

**Live Auction Event committee (Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>)**

**Auction Sycamore Socials Coordinator**

**Spirit Week Committee (Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>)**

Getting involved with our PTA is a great way to help our  
school and students and meet new friends!

Let's KEEP SYCAMORE GREAT!

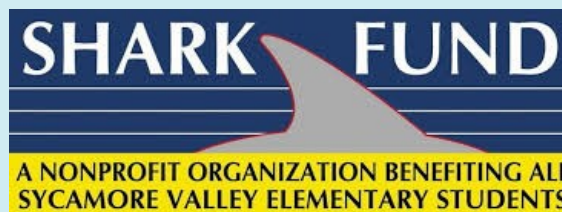
To discuss these opportunities, please contact  
Joëlle Baldwin (310) 562-2281, [joelle.baldwin@gmail.com](mailto:joelle.baldwin@gmail.com)

Also,

**Save the Date:**

**Wednesday, March 2, 2022**

**PTA, Shark Fund and Site Council Job Fair  
for the 2022-2023 School Year**



**Shark Fund / PTA Google Calendar**

**[Calendar](#)**

**Shark Fund Meeting Wednesday, Feb 16 @ 6:30 pm**

Make a difference in the Sycamore community by getting involved! Please join our next virtual Shark Fund meeting on February 16th. Log-in details can be

found below. Our agenda will include an update on all things auction as well as the 2022-2023 school year funding commitment letter. All are invited to attend! To learn more, please contact Shark Fund President Alison Stracke at [sycamorevalley.edfund@srvef.org](mailto:sycamorevalley.edfund@srvef.org) or visit [www.sycamoreelementary.org/sharkfund](http://www.sycamoreelementary.org/sharkfund).

Wed Feb 16, 2022 6:30pm – 7:30pm  
Join with Google Meet: [meet.google.com/dda-vpjs-iyt](https://meet.google.com/dda-vpjs-iyt)  
Join by phone: (US) +1 904-900-0757 (PIN: 635657378)



**Shark Fund** would like to say **THANK YOU** for your support with the Dippin Dot Wednesday Fundraisers!!!! In 2021, Dippin Dots generated over **\$13,500** in sales!!!!

100% of Dippin Dot proceeds benefit Shark Fund which helps your children and Sycamore through following programs:

- **Rainbow Room** - provides social development support for students TK-3rd grade
- **Reading Intervention**
- **Paraeducators** in every classroom
- **Librarian's** salary
- **Physical Education** for TK & Kindergarten students
- **Supplemental office hours** to support the Sycamore Community

### January - March 2022 Dippin Dot Calendar

(weather permitting)

**2/23, 3/9, 3/23**

TK & Kindergarten Sales @ 11:30am near the Kinder Playground Entrance  
1st - 5th Sales @ 12:50pm on the blacktop near the rear entrance of the MPR

**Please Note:** 1/26 Dippin Dot event will be the last day to purchase Dippin Dot Punch Cards.

Lost Dippin Dot cards or any other questions,  
please direct to Dana Claffey  
925-407-7178

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### Sharky Cinema:

Shark Fund will not be hosting Sharky Cinema in February but please stay tuned for information about our upcoming Spring sessions.

## Yearbook NEEDS Your Photos:

Please submit qualified photos for Yearbook!



**DEADLINE is MARCH 1st**

What is a qualified photo?

- 3-5 kids in a photo
- Clear and High Resolution
- Close-up, kids looking at the camera

[www.hjeshare.com](http://www.hjeshare.com)

code: sycamoresharks

**ATTN: 5th Grade Parents!**

**BABY PHOTOS** are due 2/15.

Please email to: [Laura@cadoro.us](mailto:Laura@cadoro.us) and PLEASE make sure to indicate the FULL name of your student in the email.

Want your

**PHOTOS**

in the

**YEARBOOK?**



Upload at [www.hjeshare.com](http://www.hjeshare.com)

School code: **sycamoresharks**



**Kids Are Talking**

If you were an athlete at the Winter Olympics, what event would you compete in?



**Munosu**

I most likely would like to do skiing because it just seems fun. I think it's very dangerous and I think they are thinking about their safety but also they are most likely thinking they want to win.



**Beckett**

BMX I guess, oh the winter one - then skiing because that's what I do mainly.



**Ayva**

I probably do ice skating because that seems like it could be fun. I've done ice skating before and it just always seems something I like doing.



**Trinity**

I would do gymnastics because I do dance right now and I love to do flexible stuff and I really want to be more flexible. (In the winter) maybe ice skating.



**Lyla**

In the winter I would do skiing because it's really fun. The jumps and stuff.



**Eyal**

I'd probably do skiing because I really enjoy the sport and I know how to do it and I used to do it and I won my sister a lot, so I think I will stand a little of a chance. Also, skiing is what we usually do in winter break, my family loves to do it. So I think I might be ok at it.



## SCIENCE LANGUAGE ART MATH

A fun extra curriculum activity lead by expert parent volunteers to promote curiosity and learning.

3rd through 5th grade.

For more info please contact Rita Birk at [sycamoreslam@gmail.com](mailto:sycamoreslam@gmail.com) and see our website at <https://sycamoreslam2122.shutterfly.com/>

## Sign up for Science

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090949a8af22abfe3-slam>

Completed Dec/Jan SuperScience issues, as well as the new Feb issue, will be sent home through your child's classroom this month. Blank SuperScience Skills Sheets and Answer Keys can be downloaded from the SLAM Website: [Shutterfly](https://www.shutterfly.com/). Students will be receiving *1 point per completed issue* for SuperScience (instead of the previous 0.5 points per completed issue) as the skills sheets are quite long and extensive, and we want to reward your

student's hard work!

Completed worksheets must be turned in to the SLAM bin located in the office by the DUE DATE below. Student work will be recorded and then returned the following month.

**DUE DATES:**

Feb Issue: Due Fri, Feb 25

For those students signed up for the spring Science Fair and/or Science Builders' Challenge, look for details regarding these activities to come soon!

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**Sign up for Language (word masters)**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4caea92fa31-word>

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**Sign up for Language (Battle of the Books)**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4caea92fa31-battle>

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**Sign up for DynaMath**

The Dec/Jan has been sent home through your child's classroom. Download Blank Answer Worksheets from the SLAM Website OR complete your answers on blank paper.

Completed worksheets must be turned in to the SLAM bin in the office by the DUE DATE below.

Student work will be recorded and returned.

**DUE DATES:**

Dec/Jan Issue: Due Fri, Jan 21

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**RESEARCH**

Sign-up for Research Projects here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080548ada92ba3f85-slam>

Our next Research Project is Black History Month, due **Friday, Feb 25**.

**GO SLAM**



**Library Corner**

Hi Sharks!

Thank you for your book donations! Please keep them coming!  
(Any extra books will later be donated to our sister school.)

The Battle of the Books for all 3rd-5th graders opting to participate is coming on **April 20th** - still plenty of time to get reading! See above here in Shark Bites for more info.

Stay tuned for some fun library fundraising news soon as well!

Jen Prindiville  
Library Media Coordinator  
Sycamore Valley Elementary  
<https://syc-srvusd-ca.schoolloop.com/sylibrary>

“A book is a friend. You can never have too many.” -Gary Paulsen

Happy reading!

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## SHARKS READ Read / Exchange / Donate

### Sharks READ book exchange cart!

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!

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## Sharky Shout Out:

Thank you to all the students who participated in

**“words matter week” by writing thank you letters  
to members of our community!  
The letters have been sorted and are belong delivered this week!**



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**The Lost & Found rack is located at  
the front of our school near the MPR.**

Please check for your misplaced items - you might even find an item  
that you didn't know was lost!

This time of year, our Lost and Found tends to grow rather quickly.

**Please make sure that your child's name  
is marked in their clothing.**

Smaller Lost & Found items are in the Office.  
Water Bottles and Lunch Boxes are on the shelf in the MPR.



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Morning mile is back! Join us on WEDNESDAY mornings at 7:30am on the turf field directly across from the main entrance to Sycamore Elementary to run, jog, walk or skip your way around the field. All grades are welcome to come run, younger siblings too!

Parents must stay with your child to participate. Please fill out and bring the waiver prior to your first time attending.

**[WAIVER](#)**

We will be done to get to class by 8:00.



You are welcome to order individual photos and the class group photo. Proofs of the student's photo can be viewed:

[Order School Photos](#)

**When placing an order, the code requested is your child's student ID#**

Please contact Creative Imaging with any school picture questions:  
925-485-6025 or [orders@ciphoto.com](mailto:orders@ciphoto.com)



## Child Nutrition

### Lunch Provided @ Sycamore

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

### [Elementary School Menus](#)

***IT'S MORE THAN JUST FREE MEALS!***

COMPLETE OUR MEAL BENEFIT APPLICATION TO ENSURE CONTINUED FUNDING TO SUPPORT OUR ENTIRE DISTRICT

 <b>Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Program</b>	 <b>ATHLETICS</b>	 <b>SCHOOL FUNDING</b>
<b>P-EBT CARD</b> RECEIVE \$ TO PURCHASE FOOD	DISCOUNTED FEES FOR PAY TO PLAY	INCREASED FUNDING TO SUPPORT STUDENTS' ACCESS TO TOP-NOTCH EDUCATION
 <b>COLLEGE APPLICATIONS</b>	 <b>STANDARDIZED TESTS</b>	 <b>NETWORK</b>
DISCOUNTS FOR FEES ASSOCIATED WITH COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS	DISCOUNTED FEES FOR SAT, ACT & AP TESTS	ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR INTERNET ACCESS & WIRELESS SERVICE

The annual form is now available online and in four languages.

- **English Meal (Income) Application**
- **Español Spanish (Income) Application**
- **Chinese Meal (Income) Application**
- **Hindi Meal (Income) Application**

For more information about the meals, please visit the Child Nutrition Website.



## Growing UP Green Weeks 2021-2022

A Fundraiser benefiting your school!

### 2021 DATES

Sept. 3 - 12

Oct. 22 - 31

Nov. 26 – Dec. 5

### 2022 DATES

Jan. 7 - 16

Feb. 4 - 13

Mar. 18 - 27

Shop at any Sloat Garden Center location during your school's *Growing up Green* week, mention your school, and your school will receive 10% of purchases back in the form of a Sloat gift card, which can go towards your school's beautification projects, fundraisers or classroom activities. The school with the highest participation will receive 20% of purchasesback. *Please note: Purchase of gift cards do not apply.*

**Just mention your school to the cashier!**

Sloat Garden Center • 13 locations throughout the Bay Area • [www.sloatgardens.com](http://www.sloatgardens.com)  
Mill Valley    Kentfield    Novato    San Francisco  
Concord    Martinez    Pleasant Hill    Danville–Camino Ramon    Danville–Diablo Road

## Shark Fund - Corporate Match

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**SHARK FUND**  
 A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION BENEFITING ALL SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

**SAN RAMON VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**  
 Investing in a World Class Educational Experience

**DOUBLE YOUR SHARK FUND DONATION WITH CORPORATE MATCH**

LAST YEAR SYCAMORE ELEMENTARY RECEIVED OVER  
**OVER \$25,000**  
 FROM CORPORATE MATCHES!





- 1 YOU DONATE
- 2 THEY MATCH IT
- 3 DOUBLE THE IMPACT

**SEE IF YOUR EMPLOYER WILL MATCH YOUR DONATION**  
[HTTPS://WWW.SRVEF.ORG/DONATE/MATCHINGGIFTS.ASPX](https://www.srvef.org/donate/matchinggifts.aspx)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT TODD STRACKE AT  
 TODD.STRACKE@CLOROX.COM OR (510) 219-8589

Sycamore Valley Shark Fund is an affiliate of the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation  
 Donations are 100% tax-deductible. 501c3 Tax ID #94-3390401

**LINKEDIN** **VEVA SYSTEMS** **WORKDAY** **ORACLE**  
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 CHEVRON **WELLS FARGO**  
 VISA **ELI LILLY** **MERCK** **GARTNER** **EBAY** **PEPSICO** **BRISTO-MYERS SQUIBB**

Sycamore Parents:  
 A few minutes of your time can help our school in a BIG way!

This year the Sycamore Corporate Sponsorship team has found new & creative ways to get your business out to our community that will bring you even more visibility!  
 We have added sponsor visibility at more events, in the yearbook, and made our weekly Shark Bites a main attraction.



Want to be a  
Sycamore  
**Sponsor?**



The Sycamore PTA partners with businesses each year to help support under-funded or cancelled state educational programs.

Find new clients while supporting our school! Email Kay McCormack for details ([katerinitsa@aol.com](mailto:katerinitsa@aol.com))

- Support Sycamore
- Increase your sales & visibility
- Get a tax deduction

Sycamore is invested in making this year a successful one for us all, and hope you will come partner with us. Platinum level is \$1,500 and is our highest level of visibility. For more information, please view our [sponsorship details](#) or contact us at Katerina McCormack [katerinitsa@aol.com](mailto:katerinitsa@aol.com) or Kristina Buskirk [Kristinabuskirk@gmail.com](mailto:Kristinabuskirk@gmail.com)

**Sycamore's Auction is back and scheduled for March 2022!**

We want to make it a huge success and are asking our Sycamore families:

**What do YOU have to donate?**

- Perhaps you have a getaway experience, sporting event tickets, restaurant gift cards or even a vacation rental home?
- Some of us have country club contacts for golf or tennis.
- Wine club members, will your winery donate a tasting, food pairing or bottles?
- Possibly you own a local company and want to donate your services or showcase your company's name by donating gift cards?
- Don't forget about asking grandparents or other family members who may want to donate as well!

People love a tax-deductible donation & raising money for all of our children. Please view the [attached letter](#) for more information.

**Questions?**

Contact Online Auction Chair Jenna Mesic at [sycamorevalleyauction.edfund@srvef.org](mailto:sycamorevalleyauction.edfund@srvef.org)

## Platinum Sponsors

**DESILVA GATES**  
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