

Sycamore Valley Elementary **SHARK BITES**



Message from Sylvie Bullard - Principal November 04, 2021

Dear Sycamore Community,

REMINDERS

No School on the following Dates:

Thursday, Nov. 11th - Veterans Day Holiday

Friday, Nov. 12th - Teacher Work Day

Professional Development Day on November 2nd

This past Tuesday our teachers were hard at work here at school! We were so lucky to have Kara Teach, the inclusion specialist for SRVUSD, talk to our staff about the social-emotional/behavioral needs of our students and share strategies on how to best support all of our students. We also spent time working in our Professional Learning Community groups and getting more training in implementing Schoology.

SEL at Sycamore

This year, more than ever, we are focusing on the social emotional learning and wellbeing of our students. As a school, we continue to focus on our monthly Character Traits through shared read aloud books that all students in grades TK-5 get to hear. This year, we have added certificates honoring the positive behavior of our students. Additionally, our teachers are supporting our students in various ways, from Mrs. Crosthwait's "Cup of Conversation" to Mrs. Vasconi's deep dive into Social Thinking. Each of our teachers are finding their own way to ensure our students have a safe space to talk and learn.

This week, Mrs. O'Malley's second graders got to create a "recipe for success" at recess. This week the students brainstormed various character traits needed to be a good friend out at recess (empathy, kindness, patience, etc.). Today, students were able to dress as chefs and combine real food ingredients that symbolized the various character traits. Students in her class will continue to

discuss how to have a “recipe for success” in various areas of school (classroom, library, hallway). Here are some cute photos from today’s lesson:



CogAT for Grades 3-7 - Reminder

SRVUSD will be offering the CogAT exam for all students new to the district who have never taken it and for 3rd and 4th grade students who have taken it once previously and would like another try. The CogAT exam is used for Gate identification and ATP eligibility. Register from **October 19 to November 12** on the [Gate Testing page](#) of the district website. *Late registrations will not be accepted.* All families in grades 3-7 should have also received [this email](#) from the District with additional information. This optional CogAT exam will be offered on Saturday, January 29, 2022.

Site Council

Please welcome Brittney Page to our School Site Council! Brittney is one of our Alternate Parent Members. She will attend meetings and step in to vote if one of our parent members is absent from a meeting. We are still looking for one more Alternate Parent Member for the Site Council. If you are interested, please send a short Bio to Barbara at BJones1@srvusd.net

Halloween Parade and Parties

Our Halloween parade and parties were a great success. Thank you to our parent volunteers for all they did to make sure our Halloween was so much fun for all of our students.

A Parent’s Guide to 1:1 Devices and Schoology

If you are interested in knowing more about the implementation of 1:1 devices and Schoology, please check out this November webinar with resources- [LINK HERE](#)

Warmly,

Sylvie Bullard

Go Sharks!

Daylight Savings Ends

Reminder - Turn back your clocks 1 hour before you go to bed Saturday night. Daylight Savings Time ends this weekend.



IMPORTANT DATES



11/01 - 11/17 - Sees Candy Fundraiser
11/03 - 11/05 - Halloween Candy Collection

11/05 - Family Game Night - MPR / Blacktop -SOLD OUT
11/07 - Daylight Savings Time Ends - Fall Back 1 hour
11/08 - 11/14 - Giveback Dine and Donate at Pizza Guys
11/11 - NO SCHOOL - Veteran's Day Holiday
11/12 - NO SCHOOL - Staff Development
11/12 - Deadline to register for CogAT for new students grades 3-7
11/15 - 11/19 – Sister School Book Drive
11/15 - 12/17 - TK/K Enrollment for 2022 School Year !
11/17 - Dippin' Dot Sales 11:30 Kinder Playground & 12:50pm Blacktop
11/17 - Virtual Shark Fund Meeting - 6:30
11/18 - Virtual Site Council Meeting - 3:00
11/22 - 11/26 - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
11/26 - 12/05 - Sloat Garden Center Giveback
12/01 - Sharky Cinema -1:00-3:00 – [Buy Tickets Now](#)
12/06 -12/10 - Grades 1-3 Assessment Day Schedule
12/08 - Dippin' Dot Sales 11:30 Kinder Playground & 12:50pm Blacktop

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



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**

FAMILY GAME NIGHT **SOLD OUT**

Thank you to all who bought tickets to family game night!

Due to attendance size limits, we are **SOLD OUT**.

**WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SELL ANY TICKETS
AT THE DOOR.**

For those that bought tickets, please remember that masks will be required while playing BINGO inside. See you Friday!



Sycamore Valley PTA

proudly presents

Emoji Family Game Night



Emoji Mania Family Game Night

Friday, November 5th

- 6:00 PM check-in & dinner
- 6:30 PM games begin
- **Cost is \$9 per person** (includes pizza, caesar salad, water & cookie)



This is NOT a drop-off event. Children MUST be accompanied by an adult.

REGISTER TODAY!

<https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/store>

Please note: this is a limited 100 person capacity event -
Please limit your party to immediate household
members only. NO tickets will be sold at the door

Register on future fund and sign PTA waiver
before Thursday November 4th.



WONDERING WHAT TO DO
• WITH ALL THAT LEFT OVER
HALLOWEEN CANDY?

HALLOWEEN CANDY DRIVE

November 3, 4, and 5
before, during, and after school

We will be collecting candy in large bins outside the front gate. This drive is hosted by 5th graders who will take the candy to local dental offices to earn \$1 per pound of candy.

Proceeds go toward the 5th grade
end of year celebration.

FYI - The dental offices mail the candy to overseas troops
or donate it to local food banks.

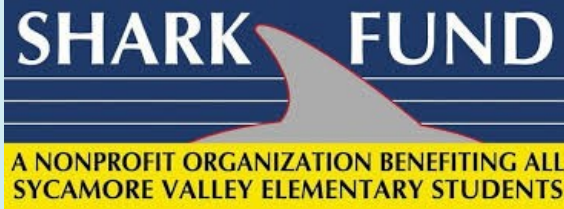
Questions?: Contact Anna at annameecham@gmail.com



Thank you to all who donated to our FUN RUN this year!

Thanks to your generous donations, we have raised \$55,000 so far!

The top 20 fundraising students and top class will be notified tomorrow,
Friday 11/5 and the ice cream social for these students will be Wednesday
11/10 after school at Sycamore Valley Park.



Shark Fund Meeting - Virtual

Wednesday November 17th at 6:30pm

Meeting ID: meet.google.com/ose-daju-wmm
Phone Numbers
(US) +1 617-675-4444
PIN: 991 750 657 4271#



We're Fundraising with
See's Candies!
Help us earn money for our school
and make the holidays even sweeter.

See's
CANDIES.

See's Candies Fundraiser: November 1-17

Help earn money for our school and make the holidays even sweeter! Beginning November 1, students are encouraged to sell See's Candies to friends, family, and neighbors. 100% of proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward Shark Fund spend areas like paraeducators, library visits, reading intervention, TK/K PE, and office administrative support. Order forms and collection envelopes will be distributed by teachers. All orders and checks are due in the office by November 17 and candy will be available for pick up on campus on December 1. Please visit [School Loop](#) for additional information.

Dine and Donate at Pizza Guys: November 8-14

Dine at [Pizza Guys](#) November 8-14 and 30% of your order will support Shark Fund educational programs at Sycamore!
This is our highest giveback percentage ever - please help us maximize the dollars coming back to our school!

For online orders, use code: SYCAMORE, for phone or walk-in orders, please mention SYCAMORE VALLEY. [Attach flyer](#)



Sharky Cinema – December 1st – [Buy Tickets Now](#)

Join us in the MPR for a kid-friendly movie from 1:00pm-3:00pm,

just after Wacky Wednesday dismissal.

Masks are required.

December's movie is **Dr. Seuss' The Grinch**. The last two sessions have sold out; get your student's ticket before it's too late:

<https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/store>.

All students must have signed waivers and PG permission slips to attend (details on Future Fund). Please sign-up [here](#) if you are able to help supervise. Volunteers' kid(s) attend for no charge.

Please contact Meghan Gates at meghanmollygates@gmail.com if you are able to help out.

Sycamore Auction 2022: Parent Donations Needed

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.



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

Mill Valley Kentfield Novato San Francisco
Concord Martinez Pleasant Hill Danville–Camino Ramon Danville–Diablo Road



Dippin' Dot Sales

Get Free Dippin' Dots with Prepaid Dippin' Dot Punch Card!

Punch cards can be purchased at all Dippin' Dot Wednesday events or from Dana Claffey with cash or checks made payable to "Sycamore Shark Fund."

- buy 5, get 1 free
- Save time in line with fast and easy purchase— no need to bring money to school
- Each punch card is \$25 (families can share one card)
- All proceeds benefit Sycamore Shark Fund

Dippin' Dot Calendar: 11/17, 12/08

*****weather permitting*****

Kindergarten Sales @ 11:30 am near the Kinder playground
1st-5th Grade Sales @ 12:50 on the 1st - 5th grade playground

**Shark Fund would like to say Thank You for all your support with the Dippin
Dot Wednesday Fundraisers!!!!**

Since August, Dippin Dots has generated over \$6,500 in sales!

100% of Dippin Dot proceeds benefit Shark Fund

which help fund the following programs:

- Rainbow Room to provide social development support for TK-3
- Reading Intervention
- Trained Paraeducators in every classroom
- Librarian's salary
- Supplemental Office Hours

Please have your student write their name on their punch card. If your student has lost their Dippin Dot punch card, please feel free to reach out to Dippin Dot

Dana: dana.claffey@gmail.com or 925-407-7178.

Want your **PHOTOS** in the **YEARBOOK?**



So do we! Students, parents and teachers can all contribute content to the yearbook staff by uploading photos directly to our website for potential use in the book.

Please start sharing your photos! Send in those **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL** and **FESTIVAL AROUND THE WORLD** photos! Provide as much detail as possible (including teacher and grades of students pictured)

The more you share the better our yearbook can be!

Start sharing today! Go to **www.hjeshare.com** and enter school code **sycamoresharks** to upload.
(Or download the App to your mobile device!)

*While we cannot guarantee that all shared photos will be published,
if you don't share your great pictures can't even be considered!*

Did you take great pictures at the fun run?
Planning on taking pictures at the Halloween Parade and class parties?
We want your pictures! Please submit to the yearbook!



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@ciphotoca.com**



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 and see
our website at sycamoreslam2122@shutterfly.com

For MathMadness contact
Anurag Dodeja at: anurag@dodejas.com

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805044DA8AE22A4F94-sycamore>

Sign up for Science!

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

Registration for 5th grade students is going on NOW for Science Alliance! Please
register if your 5th grader is interested in participating in this program as space is
limited and almost at capacity!

Sign up for Language (word masters)

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

Sign up for Language (Battle of the Books)

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

Sign up for DynaMath and Research

Sign-ups for Dynamath are now closed. The Sept and Oct/Nov issues have
been sent home through your child's classroom. Download Blank Answer
Worksheets from the SLAM Website:

<https://sycamoreslam2122.shutterfly.com/m> 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:

September Issue: Due Fri, Nov 19

Oct/ Nov Issue: Due Fri, Dec 17

RESEARCH

Sign-up for Research Projects

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

Our next Research Project is College and Career Aspirations due Fri, Dec 3rd.

Website: <https://sycamoreslam2122.shutterfly.com/>

GO SLAM



**We need one parent for the 2021-2022
Site Council Committee.**

Positions Open:

Alternate Parent Representative

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

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

Here is the link to the Site Council Ballot:

[Site Council Alternate Ballot](#)

More information about Site Council is available
at <http://www.sycamoreelementary.org/sitecouncil>

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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)



- ☒ 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 or Kristina Buskirk Kristinabus Kirk@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?



Kids Are Talking



Marcus
What can I do?
Can I eat? What games
do you have?



Hailey
I will say how can you
talk if you are a toy?
They will say I will be
friends with you.



Elliana
Hello. Do you have any
Honey?
(I would say) what do
you want to play?



Christopher
I have a bear - we talk.
(They would like to) play
on the playground.



If your stuffed
animals could talk,
what would they
say to you?



Library Corner

Hi Sharks!

Thank you for supporting our Fall online book fair! I have been adding new books to our collection in the last few months, and hope to use Scholastic Dollars from our sale to continue to update and diversify our collection.

I am excited to share that we will be doing a Sycamore shopping event soon with Rakestraw Books to support both our library and a fantastic local business. Get your holiday shopping lists ready and stay tuned for more information soon!

Please remind your student(s) to regularly return their library books each week. Our rate of return has not been what it should, and your student will not be able to take home new books until previous ones have been returned. Thank you for your help!

Happy reading!

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
Thank you for participating, and happy reading!

Sharky Shout Out:

We would like to give a huge Sharky Shout Out to Erin Meyer and her Fun Run team for putting on a record-breaking event! We are so lucky to have Erin Meyer, Evangeline Lau, Jen O'Leary, Jen Cook and Kristina Buskirk as our Sycamore All-Stars!!!



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.



Child Nutrition

Lunch Provided @ Sycamore

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







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.

Elementary School Menus

Meal Application Form: For the benefit of the entire district, please complete the annual Meal Application Form by 10/25/21.

Why is this form needed now that meals are free for all?

More LCFF funds for SRVUSD - for every qualifying family who submits a form - SRVUSD's LCFF is increased. Further, families receive benefits beyond school meals, such as discounts on SAT testing, internet services, & many other benefits.

<i>IT'S MORE THAN JUST FREE MEALS!</i>		
COMPLETE OUR MEAL BENEFIT APPLICATION TO ENSURE CONTINUED FUNDING TO SUPPORT OUR ENTIRE DISTRICT		
 Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) Program	 ATHLETICS	 SCHOOL FUNDING
P-EBT CARD RECEIVE \$ TO PURCHASE FOOD	DISCOUNTED FEES FOR PAY TO PLAY	INCREASED FUNDING TO SUPPORT STUDENTS' ACCESS TO TOP-NOTCH EDUCATION
 COLLEGE APPLICATIONS	 STANDARDIZED TESTS	 NETWORK
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.

Shark Fund - Corporate Match

FRANKLIN TEMPLETON
CHEVRON
CISCO
WELLS FARGO
MCKESSIN FOUNDATION
VISA
LPL FINANCIAL
GOOGLE
ADOBE
LINKEDIN
VEEVA SYSTEMS
BANK OF AMERICA
VERIZON
AIG
NOVARTIS
CHEVRON
VISA
APPLE
ELI LILLY
MERCK
GARTNER
GENENTECH
EBAY
PEPSICO
AT&T
ADOBE
BRISTO-MYERS SQUIBB
WELLS FARGO



**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.srvuf.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

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Jennifer Curry, Agent

925-588-7010
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