

Sycamore Valley Elementary **SHARK BITES**



Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal October 20, 2022

Dear Sycamore Families:

I hope all is well with you and your family. It has been another great week here at Sycamore Valley! Next week we will be thinking about being healthy during Red Ribbon Week. More information about Red Ribbon Week will be coming out tomorrow.

Following are some reminders, information about the "One Chip Challenge", CogAT retakes, Lost and Found (which is starting to overflow!), protocols for medication on campus, goings on around campus and Halloween. Keep reading!

REMINDERS:

Halloween Parade: Monday, October 31st

No School on Tuesday, November 1st

Daylight Savings Time - Roll back, Sunday, November 6th

One Chip Challenge:

We want to warn everyone of a dangerous social media trend called the "One Chip Challenge," where students eat an extremely spicy chip sold by the chip brand, Paqui. Students can fall ill and have severe symptoms such as vomiting, stomachache, mouth burning and more. Some students in other districts have needed to go to the emergency room to receive care. Please talk with your student about the risks of engaging in this challenge.

Assigned Parking Spot:

In our main parking lot, we have 2 spots that have been purchased at our school auction by 2 families. Please refrain from parking in these assigned spot at any time.

CogAT:

An optional CogAT exam will be offered on Saturday, January 28, 2023. Registration opens on **Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 8:00am and will close on Nov. 20 at Midnight**. An email to all 3-7 grade families is being sent by the District. **This is the Link to register ~ Registration opens on October 18th at 8am**
https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0024-0021-8e2bdea358ee49bfbb5319fc05c02c47

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 18 at 8am to November 20 at Midnight** on the [Gate Testing page](#) of the district website. *Late registrations will not be accepted.*

NOTE: All 2nd grade families will receive information about their CogAT testing opportunity in the Spring of 2023.

Lost & Found:

It is that time of year where our lost and found grows quickly. Please remember to write your child's last name on their garments. If you are missing any items, remind your child to check the Lost and Found. The Lost and Found rack is located in front of our MPR. Unclaimed garments are donated to a local charity twice a year.

Medication on Campus:

Students are not allowed to carry medication in their backpack or in their pockets. This week we found a Claritin tablet near one of our classrooms. If this had gotten into the wrong hands, it could have been a serious situation. Therefore, please do not send ANY medication to school, with your child. All medication must be locked in our school office.

Goings On Around Campus:

Cain's Arcade:

On October 11th the 5th grade students participated in the ultimate STEM Challenge. The students created arcade games at school using only cardboard, tape, paper and string. It seems our 5th graders are getting more creative each year. They learned a lot and had fun too!



Science:

3rd grade scientists are learning about force in science. In this lesson we placed a special focus on the force of gravity. These pictures show 3rd grade

scientists had fun challenging themselves to find the center of gravity as they work to balance their gravity frogs.



Recess w. Danville PD:

Danville Police Department stopped by during lunch time on Monday to hang out with our students on the playground. Everyone had a great time. Several students played Red Light/Green Light with the officers. Most of the students were given a sticker that looks like a police badge. And one of the officers enjoyed swinging with the students.



Halloween:

Halloween is fast approaching and there are a few things to note:

Halloween is a Monday, October 31st and it is a full day of school.

Halloween parade - Grades TK-5th will participate in the Halloween parade. The parade will begin at 9:30 on the turf field on the other side of the parking lot. Following the parade, students will return to campus to resume the usual schedule. Campus is not open to parents during the school day unless you have signed up to volunteer for a specific assignment.

Costumes - Students need to be able to put on and take off their costume independently. Students may wear a mask during the parade but need to be able to see clearly when walking. We do ask that parents refrain from wearing a mask and that all costumes are respectful of various cultures. Wearing a traditional costume from a culture other than your own and/or wearing face make-up to appear as a person from an ethnicity other than your own is not respectful and can undermine the inclusive community we are building here at Sycamore Valley.

Class Parties - Individual classes will share the details for their Halloween parties including requests for any needed volunteers. The parties are for

the children only. Volunteers for the parties will need to be cleared ahead of time through Be A Mentor and signed in at the office.

Thank you for the gift of your child,
Patricia Kawahara

GO SHARKS!

IMPORTANT DATES



-
- 10/25 - In-Person Discovery Counseling Workshop (see flyer below)**
 - 10/25 - TK Information Night 5:30-6:30 (see flyer below)**
 - 10/26 - Morning Mile - 7:30am - Turf Field**
 - 10/24-10/28 - Red Ribbon Week**
 - 10/27 - Basketball Afterschool Enrichment starts (see flyer below)**
 - 10/28 - Monster Mash - MPR 6:00pm - 7:00pm - (see flyer below)**
 - 10/31 - Halloween Parade - 9:30am - Turf Field**
 - 11/01 - No School**
 - 11/01 - Virtual Discovery Counseling Center Workshop (see flyer below)**
 - 11/02 - Dippin Dots - After school**
 - 11/02 - Pickleball Afterschool Enrichment starts (see flyer below)**
 - 11/04 - Reflections - Submissions due today (Revised Date)**
 - 11/04 - Family Game Night - MPR - (SOLD OUT)**
 - 11/09 - Kinder Information Night 5:30-6:30 (see flyer below)**
 - 11/10 - Fun Run - Turf Field**
 - 11/14-12/16 - TK/K Enrollment Open**
 - 11/16 - Dippin Dots - After school**
 - 11/17 - Site Council Meeting 4:00pm - Virtual**
 - 11/30 - Dippin Dots - After school**

Attendance Line



**Please call the attendance line
to report an absence:**

925-855-2898

AR 5113 States that all absences which are not cleared within two days after a student's return to school shall be recorded as unexcused (CUT).

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 your child has COVID-19, please notify the school office. It is recommended that your child stay home for 5 days.

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**

Lunch Time Volunteers - Signups

Interested in volunteering more on campus?

Want to spend your lunch hour with us?

Sign up to help at lunch recess (either 1st-3rd grade time or 4th-5th grade time).

Volunteers are needed on the blacktop and inside the MPR. Sign up for as many days as you'd like!

Please check in at the office every time you come. Note: in order to volunteer, please make sure you have completed the "Be a Mentor" registration with the district.

Sign up here to Volunteer for Lunch Time Helpers:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C44ABAB2AABFA7-sycamore1>



Reflections

"Show Your Voice"

Submission date has changed
to November 4th.

REFLECTIONS ART PROGRAM

All students are invited to participate and submit original artwork in one of six areas aligned with the theme "Show Your Voice":

- Dance Choreography
- Literature
- Photography
- Film Production
- Music Composition
- Visual Arts

SUBMISSION LINK: <https://forms.gle/tPQY5TCyDgTDcdXk7>

Submission deadline November 4th, 2022. Selected artworks will be judged by Sycamore PTSA, and are then sent on to councils and then districts for consideration. The final artworks submitted to California State PTA by districts are then considered for Outstanding Interpretation, Awards of Excellence or Awards of Merit.

Frequently Asked Questions

[Official Entry Form and Rules](#)

Contact Kristina Buskirk for more information.

kristinabus Kirk@gmail.com

TK & Kindergarten Enrollment

We look forward to enrolling your child in our Transitional Kindergarten or Kindergarten program for the 2023-24 school year.

= Registration Dates =

Enrollment Window Opens
Mon., November 14, 2022

Enrollment Window Closes*
Fri., December 16, 2022

* Completed online enrollment applications must be submitted by December 16 to be included in the first round of confirmation of space at the resident school site. Online enrollment applications submitted after December 16 are received on a first come-first served basis for space.

= Age Guidelines =

To be eligible for TK for 2023-24
Your child must turn 5 years of age
on or between
September 2, 2023 to April 2, 2024

To be eligible for KINDERGARTEN for 2023-24
Your child must turn 5 years of age
on or before
September 1, 2023

First day of instruction: August 10, 2023

2023-24 information

Please join us for a Parent Information Night

(Hosted via Zoom)

Zoom access links can be found
on our TK/Kinder webpage.

TK Information Night
Tues., October 25, 2022
5:30 - 6:30 pm

Kinder Information Night
Wed., November 9, 2022
5:30 - 6:30 pm

Visit our TK/Kindergarten
webpage to access Zoom links to
parent information meetings
and other TK/Kinder resources:

- TK FAQ
- Kindergarten Readiness
- TK/Kinder Enrollment Quick Reference



TK/Kinder Webpage

699 OLD ORCHARD DR, DANVILLE
WWW.SRVUSD.NET | CALL 925 552 5500

Elite Corporate Sponsors

Thank you to Sycamore's 22-23
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Reconnecting With Our Kids:

A learning workshop for parents and caregivers on strategies and positive communication methods from the Discovery Counseling Center



Tuesday, October 25, 2022: In-Person

Tuesday, November 1, 2022: Zoom

7-8:30PM, RSVP required:

www.srvcouncilpta.org



Attend EITHER Session

Join us for an evening where you'll learn:

1. What counseling services are offered to students as well as parents
2. Tips on identifying if your child is distressed
3. The right time and way to intervene and reach for help



Several colorful candies in orange and green are scattered around the top text. Some are round with twisted ends, while others are rectangular.

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

HALLOWEEN CANDY DRIVE

November 2, 3, and 4
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 anna.meecham@gmail.com



**Sycamore Valley Elementary - 19th Annual
Fun Run is coming!**

The Sycamore Valley Fun Run is an annual event to raise money exclusively for Sycamore and its programs. It will take place on the Turf Field, Thursday **November 10th** at 9:00 am. In 2021, we raised over \$64K helping fund essential programs such as the Art Program, Teacher Mini Grants, Variety Show, Yearbook, Family Game Nights, Yard Duty, and more. We are excited to get out on the turf and have a fun run this year!

TK: Orange
K : Purple
1: Yellow
2: Red

3: Green
4: Dark Blue
5: Rainbow

Questions: Christy Lucia - ctr2108@gmail.com
Mark your calendars for the Fun Run on the Turf Field on November 10, 2022!



Extracurricular Extension Programs for Grades 3 - 5 in the subjects of Science, Language, Arts, Math and Research!

[Sign Ups are OPEN for select programs!](#)

Please fill out the [Google Form](#) (one per student) and parent leads will reach out to you.

Check out our new [SLAM website](#) to read about the projects, learn how to volunteer, and check out pictures from last year's SLAM program!

Want a summary of all the programs? Check out our [SLAM flyer!](#)

RESEARCH

Our next research project is College and Career Aspirations due Fri, Nov 4th.

Please view the [Research](#) tab for more details.

Any questions about SLAM?

Please email : goscymoreslam@gmail.com

Way to go, Sycamore SLAM!

For complete Sycamore SLAM program updates,
please refer to the [SLAM website](#)



Get Involved with Shark Fund -

Continued parent support is crucial to sustain the valuable programs that make Sycamore an exceptional learning community!

We hope you will consider donating money, time, and/or talents to Shark Fund. Please visit the [Shark Fund page](#) for future meeting dates, events and volunteer opportunities.

If you have any questions or would like to get more involved, contact Shark Fund President Alison Stracke at sycamorevalley.edfund@srvef.org.

PARENTS - ENJOY AN EXTRA TWO HOURS ON WACKY WEDNESDAY



SHARK FUND PRESENTS

SHARKY CINEMA



DC LEAGUE OF
SUPER-PETS



11/2

1:00-3:00PM

MPR

JOIN US AFTER SCHOOL ON A WACKY WEDNESDAY TO WATCH A
KID-FRIENDLY MOVIE WITH THEATER SNACKS IN THE MPR!

THIS MONTH'S MOVIE IS DC LEAGUE OF SUPER-PETS
DROP-OFF EVENT WITH PARENT VOLUNTEERS SUPERVISING.

SIGN-UP NOW: [HTTPS://SYCAMOREVALLEY.FUTUREFUND.COM/STORE](https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/store)

100% OF EVENT PROCEEDS BENEFIT SHARK FUND PROGRAMS

SHARK FUND
PRESENTS



MONSTER MASH!

**FAMILY
EVENT** | **OCT 28
5-7 PM** | **SYCAMORE
BLACKTOP**

Join your friends for Halloween-themed games, pizza and other refreshments, pumpkin decorating and carving, prize drawings, cake walk, glow-stick dance party and more! **Bring your own pumpkin and Shark Fund will provide the supplies.**

<https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/store>
\$15 per person; children must be accompanied by an adult and each member of the family is required to purchase a ticket



Family Game Night
SOLD OUT !



SYCAMORE PTA PRESENTS

FAMILY GAME NIGHT



GAMES FUN PRIZES

**FAMILY
EVENT**

**NOV 4
6-8 PM**

**SYCAMORE
MPR**

6:00 PM CHECK-IN & DINNER

6:30 PM GAMES BEGIN

COST IS \$12 PER PERSON (INCLUDES
PIZZA, CAESAR SALAD, WATER & COOKIE)



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

\$12 per person. 130 person capacity event. NO tickets will be sold at the door
Register on future fund and sign PTA waiver before Thursday November 3rd.



dippin' dots \$5 each

cotton candy
YoDots
cotton candy flavored frozen yogurt
cotton candy pieces

rainbow
YoDots
rainbow frozen yogurt
rainbow cookie pieces

cookies 'n cream
YoDots
cookies 'n cream frozen yogurt
cookies 'n cream pieces

cookie dough
YoDots
cookie dough frozen yogurt
cookie dough pieces

Shark Fund is proud to offer Dippin' Dots

FREE DIPPIN' DOTS!

Stay cool, save time, and don't miss out on Sharky's favorite frozen treat with your very own Dippin' Dot Prepaid Punch Card!

DIPPIN' DOT PREPAID PUNCH CARD



- Buy 5 get one FREE
- Save time in line with fast & easy purchase
- Each durable punch card \$25

Punchcards can be purchased at all Dippin' Dot events with check made payable to Sycamore Shark Fund or cash.



DIPPIN' DOTS CALENDAR August through October:

9/7, 9/21, 10/5, 10/19

11:30 am Kinder Yard & 12:50 pm Blacktop



Any questions please direct to Dana.claffey@gmail.com or 925-407-7178

Dippin Dot Punch Cards are back!

Punch Cards can be purchased for \$25.00 at all Dippin' Dot Wednesday events or from Dana Claffey with cash or check made payable to "Sycamore Shark Fund."

- Save time in line and get free Dippin Dots
- No need to bring money to school
- Prepay for 5 Dippin Dots get 1 Free
- Each punch card is \$25.00 (families can share one card)
- All proceeds benefit Sycamore Shark Fund
- Punch Cards will be sold at all events until Spring Break

Dippin' Dot Calendar:

11/2, 11/16 and 11/30

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

Shark Fund would like to Thank You for your support with our Dippin' Dot Wednesday Fundraiser.

"Dippin Dots has raised over **\$3,350** since August!!"

100% of Dippin Dot proceeds benefit your students with:

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

Kindergarten Sales @ 11:30 am near the Kinder playground

1st-5th Grade Sales @ 12:50 on the 1st - 5th grade near back MPR/Blacktop entrance

Lost Dippin' Dot Punch Cards or any other Dippin' Dot questions

Dippin' Dot Dana Claffey

925-407-7178

Dana.claffey@gmail.com



Yearbook needs your photos!

We are looking for first day of school, art docent, PE, library, and any other photos you have from around campus!
Ideal photos contain 3-4 students, where we can see their faces and what they are doing. However, we'll accept any photos you have!
You can submit your photos online, or you can download the "HJ eShare" app on iPhone or Android (school code is the same as the website, listed below)

website: <https://www.hjeshare.com/eShare/home>

school code: SycamoreSharks



Morning Mile:

Every Wednesday at 7:30am at the turf field
across the street from the school!

Bring your **WAIVER!**

Come run with your kids or cheer your kids as they run!



Library Corner

Exciting news from the library!

It has been so much fun welcoming classes back to the library this month! Please keep reading at home, and making sure books are returned to the classroom each week!

Take Care,
Jen Prindiville / Library Media Coordinator
<https://syc-srvusd-ca.schoolloop.com/sylibrary>



Black Dragon Chess - Fall 2022

Chess classes will be offered Thursday afternoons 2:35pm - 3:35pm.

Sept. 15th - Dec. 1

No class on Oct. 6th and Nov. 24th.

See attached flyer to sign up.

[Chess Enrichment Class](#)

Basketball - Fall 2022

Basketball Thursday afternoons 2:35pm - 3:35pm.

Oct. 27th - Dec. 8th

No class on Nov. 24th.

See attached flyer for sign up.

[Basketball Enrichment Class](#)

Pickleball - Fall 2022

Pickleball Wednesday afternoons 12:55pm - 1:55pm.

Nov. 2nd - Dec. 14th

No class on Nov. 23rd.

See attached flyer for sign up.

[Basketball Enrichment Class](#)

Sharky Shout Out:

Thank you Kay McCormack (Corporate Sponsorship Lead) for all your efforts in raising thousands for Sycamore's PTA.

She surpassed her goal!

These valuable funds help fund community events to curriculum enhancements for our students.



**The next Site Council meeting will be held on Thursday,
November 17, 2022 @ 4:00pm**

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

Alternate Parent Representative (2)

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.

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

More information about Site Council is available at
<https://syes.srvusd.net/Families/Site-Council/Site-Council/index.html>



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.

In fact, the rack is currently overflowing...

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 front quad near the MPR.



Kids Are Talking

Watch for our next article.



Child Nutrition

Meals Provided @ Sycamore

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

[MENUS](#)

Job Openings with Child Nutrition
Join the School Meals Team

[Flyer](#)

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

<https://www.srvusd.net/Departments/Business-Services/Child-Nutrition/index.html>

Shark Fund - Corporate Match

FRANKLIN TEMPLETON
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GARTNER
GENENTECH
EBAY
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AT&T
ADOB
BRISTO-MYERS SQUIBB
WELLS FARGO

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

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