

Sycamore Valley Elementary **SHARK BITES**



Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal November 17, 2022

Dear Sycamore Families:

November is Native American Heritage Month.

I hope you and your family are well. It has been a lovely, typical five day week with just a sprinkle of "special" as we get ready to head off to Thanksgiving Break. Kindergarten kiddos enjoyed a feast, friends across the grade levels have engaged in various turkey art projects, and our fifth graders have been busy designing floats for a digital parade.

On a more somber note, I would like to remind everyone of the car line protocols. Please remember to wait in the car line, even if you are running late. Cutting to the front of the line is dangerous as people at the curb are pulling out. Additionally, children must be dropped off at the right curb only. It is extremely dangerous for students to exit at the left curb and attempt to cross the road. Finally, please be patient and take your time. There is no need to rush, even if you are late. We will welcome your child to school when they arrive and ensure they are supervised and safe until you pick them up. The few moments difference between driving calmly or speeding up the hill do not make a difference. We appreciate your cooperation in helping to keep all of our students safe.

Keep reading for some dates to note, information from the school nurse, and Covid test kit distribution.

Reminders:

November 18 - Thanksgiving Luncheon for Students

November 21-25 - Thanksgiving Break - No School

Message from the School Nurse:

We are in the midst of the cold and flu season so a few reminders for students and staff. Please remind your student(s) to cough into their elbows and throw their tissues into the trash can. Immediately after blowing their nose, they should wash their hands or use sanitizer to disinfect their hands so they

are not touching common areas with their hands.

We strongly recommend testing your child for Covid should they exhibit any Covid (flu-like) symptoms AND before their return to school after the Thanksgiving break.

Please see the attached chart to determine if you should keep your child at home or send them to school. [Guidelines](#)

Thank you so much. All your efforts are appreciated to keep our children healthy and safe at school.

COVID Test Kit Distribution:

The CDPH is continuing efforts to keep schools safe and successful by providing over-the-counter (OTC)/at-home COVID-19 rapid antigen tests for students and staff to use when returning from Thanksgiving Break. We are encouraging all students and staff to test for COVID-19 before they return to school following Thanksgiving Break, as testing remains a critical safety measure to reduce the possibility of an early 2023 surge. The kits will be sent home this week with all students and staff.

Danville P.D. Recess Visit:

Danville Police Officers visited with our students during lunch recess. They brought one of the police motorcycles for the students to see.



I hope you all have a restful week and a joyful Thanksgiving!

Thank you for the gift of your child,
Patricia Kawahara

GO SHARKS !

IMPORTANT DATES



11/14-12/16 - TK/K Enrollment Open

11/17 - Site Council Meeting 4:00pm - Virtual

11/17 - Tickets go on sale for December Sharky Cinema, 7:00pm on Future Fund <https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/store>

11/18 - Spirit Day - Wear Shark Wear or Blue Clothing

11/18 - Special Thanksgiving Meal served at Lunch - MPR

11/21-11/25 - No School - Thanksgiving Break

11/28-12/16 - Sister School Holiday Collection (see flyer below)

11/29 - Lost and Found will be DONATED today

11/30 - Dippin Dots - After School (Weather Permitting)

12/01 - Giveback - Mendocino Farms - (see flyer below)

12/05-12/09 - Winter Book Fair

12/07 - Sharky Cinema, 1:00pm - MPR

12/14 - Wrap Event for Sister School Collection

12/16 - Dippin Dots - After School (Weather Permitting)

12/22 - Spirit Day - Pajama Day

12/23-01/09 - No School - Winter Break

01/10 - School Resumes

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>

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

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Sister School
Program

San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs

King Elementary Sister School Coat and Shoe Drive



This year, our Sister School, King Elementary in Richmond has asked our community for help in getting coats and shoes for some of their students in

greatest need. Let's help keep them warm this winter! Please select a student to shop for and click on the button to sign up. Black Friday sales will be a great time to get a deal on shoes or coats. Check out Kohl's, Macy's, JC Penney, Old Navy, or even Costco for good bargains. (Costco has some children's coats for around \$20.) If you do not have time to shop for shoes or coats, please consider making a donation (any amount helps) on [Future Fund](#) and we will shop for you. Donation link:

<https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/store/campaigns/29095-sister-school-donation>

Please look for donation bins in front of the school or in the office to drop off the items you purchase. **ALL shoes and coats MUST BE LABELED with KING STUDENT NAME and GRADE when dropping them off at the school.**

We will be collecting new coats and shoes now through Monday, Dec. 12th. Gifts will be wrapped after school on Dec. 14th -- parents and students are welcome to help. Bring scissors and tape.

Additionally, we will be collecting coats and shoes in "LIKE-NEW" condition as there are many students at King in need and this list does not cover them all. Please look for donation bins in front of the school and for Girl Scouts helping collect the gently-used coats and shoes. Please do NOT put your new items with the donated items.

Students will also be making Holiday bookmarks in their classes. All the students at King Elementary will receive a candy cane and bookmark from their Sister School friends at Sycamore.

Thanks again for your support and generosity to help students in need. It is MUCH appreciated!

Happy Holidays!



Fun Run: UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who donated time, money, or both to the 19TH Annual Sycamore Valley Fun Run!

It was a huge success! Money is still coming in so next week we hope to be able to give the dollar amount raised.

Special thanks to the classroom coordinators who helped organize our students in spirit wear and all the volunteers who came out to set up, encourage runners, and clean up!

If paying by check, please make sure to turn in your checks to the office by Friday November 18th.

Information to come soon for the students and class who raised the most pledge dollars!



Reminder to Upload Photos -

Given all of the fun activities lately (past and upcoming), please share your photos for our yearbook committee.

Want your
PHOTOS in the
YEARBOOK?



So do we! All students, parents and teachers can contribute to the yearbook by uploading photos for potential use. You can share photos of classroom activities, school events or shots of your children and their friends (ideal photos include 3-4 students)!

Remember to provide as much detail as possible such as the names and grades of the students pictured, plus, event/activity.

The more you share, the better our yearbook can be!

Start sharing today! 3 ways to upload:

QR Code



Website



Download App



HJ eShare

enter school code **sycamoresharks**

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



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.

WORDMASTERS

The first WordMasters Challenge will be on **Fri, Nov 18th** after school in the library. Good luck to our WordMasters students!

DYNAMATH

Due Date: The Oct/Nov issue is due **Fri, Nov 18th**.

SUPERSCIENCE

Due Dates: The Sept and Oct/Nov issues are due **Thurs, Dec 1st**.

RESEARCH

Our next research project is African American History Month due

Fri, Feb 24th.

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

Any questions about SLAM?

Please email : **gosycamoreslam@gmail.com**

Way to go, Sycamore SLAM!

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



Get Involved with Shark Fund -

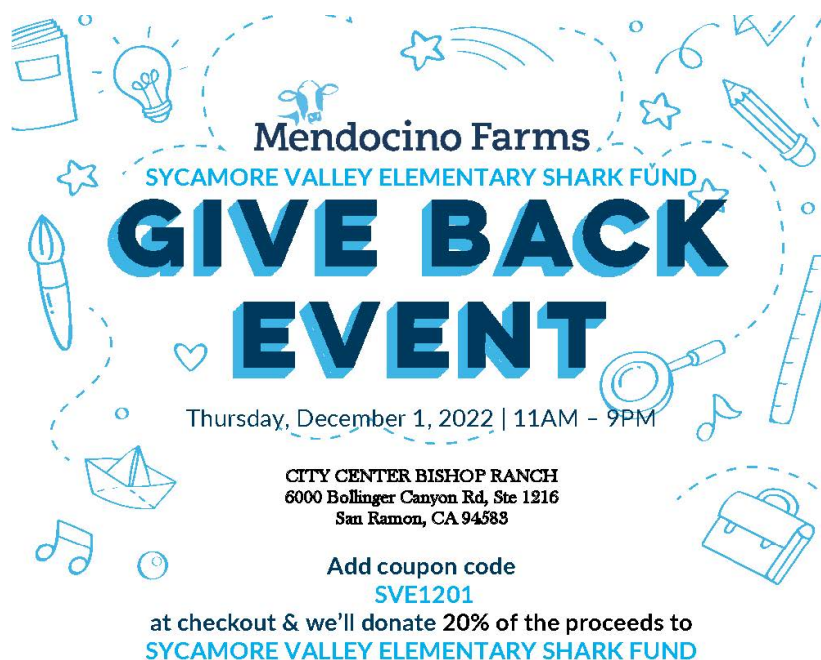
Continued parent support is crucial to sustain the valuable programs that make Sycamore an exceptional learning community!

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.

Give Back – Mendocino Farms Save the date!

On December 1st we'll have a giveback event with Mendocino Farms, 11am-9pm. Online orders only. Please see the attachment for details.



Valid only for online orders at order.MendocinoFarms.com (must enter code SVE1201 at checkout page).
Catering, 3rd party delivery, call-in, and walk-in orders are not eligible. Discounts, coupons, or offers are not valid during the fundraiser night. Tax, tip, and delivery fee will not be included in donation.

Join us after school on Wednesday December 7th from 1-3pm to watch the movie, Dr. Seuss' The Grinch, with theater snacks in the MPR! This is a drop-off event with parent volunteers supervising. Tickets will be available on the Future Fund Store beginning 11/17 at 7pm. Tickets sellout quickly. **If your child(ren) have been lucky enough to attend a previous Sharky Cinema, consider letting others get into this one.** <https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/store>



**Buy your gifts and holiday essentials at smile.amazon.com.
You shop. Amazon gives.**

Shop at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of each qualified purchase to Shark Fund at no cost to you! It's easy, it's free, and it helps our school!

Set **SRVEF- Sycamore Valley Elementary School Shark Fundas** your charity of choice!

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Here comes AMAZON,
Right down my driveway**

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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

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:
11/16, 11/30 and 12/14
*****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



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.

Unclaimed Lost & Found will be donated to a local charity on Tuesday, November 29, 2022

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



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!

Our winter book fair is coming soon! We will be hosting a Literati book fair at the beginning of December (exact times/days TBD), which will offer some different choices and options than our previous Scholastic fair.

This will be an awesome time to get some holiday shopping done while supporting our library!

Our book fairs are the only source of funding for our library so every purchase truly helps to enhance the library collection for our Sharks.

Stay tuned for details soon!

Thank you for your support of our library!

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

Sharky Shout Out:

A huge Sharky thank you to Christy Lucia, the Fun Run Committee, Volunteers, Teachers and Kids for all your help kicking off and executing a successful Fun Run. The Fun Run raised thousands of dollars which support Curriculum Enhancements for our teachers and students as well as Sycamore Community Events.



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

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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:

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>



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](#)

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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](#)

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Soccer - Fall 2022

Soccer is offered Monday afternoons 2:35pm - 3:35pm
Oct. 31st - Dec. 19th
No class on Nov. 21st
See attached flyer for sign up

[Soccer Enrichment Class](#)

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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](#)



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

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

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