

# Sycamore Valley Elementary **SHARK BITES**



## Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal December 01, 2022

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Dear Sycamore Families:

Welcome back! We have had a lovely week settling into the routine of being at school. Today we navigated a rainy day from start to finish. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped out with lunch recess!

Keep reading for some dates to remember and information about the Book Fair (under the library portion of the PTA section), the Character Trait of the month, and some job openings.

### **Reminders:**

**Friday, December 2, 2022 = Spirit Day, show your Sycamore spirit with Sharkwear or Sycamore Blue!**

**Dec. 06, 2022 - Dec. 09, 2022 = Book Fair**

**Dec. 23, 2022 - Jan 09, 2023 = No School - Winter Break**

**December's Character Trait** is Trustworthiness. Two books that are fun explorations of Trustworthiness are *I Want My Hat Back* by Jon Klassen and *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka. I am looking forward to sharing these titles with the students over the next few weeks.

### **Job Openings:**

We still have a number of job openings here at Sycamore Valley. We are looking for an instrumental music teacher, a vocal music teacher for TK-2nd, some additional Noon Supervisors and some additional Para-Professionals. If you are interested in joining the Sycamore Valley team, please look for these postings on EdJoin.

Thank you for the gift of your child,  
Patricia Kawahara

## **IMPORTANT DATES**



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

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

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

**12/02 - Spirit Day - Wear Sharkwear or Blue Clothing**

**12/02 - See's Candy Pick Up Your Order 1:45pm - 2:45pm - MPR**

**12/06-12/09 - Winter Book Fair**

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

**12/09 - Spirit Day - Wear Sharkwear or Blue Clothing**

**12/14 - Wrap Event for Sister School Collection**

**12/16 - Spirit Day - Wear Sharkwear or Blue Clothing**

**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**



**We're Fundraising with  
See's Candies!**

Help us earn money for our school  
and make the holidays even sweeter.

**See's  
CANDIES.**

The See's Candies orders are in and will be available for pick up this Friday, December 2nd. in the MPR 1:45pm - 2:45pm.

## **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**

**Elite Corporate Sponsors**



## Thank you to Sycamore's 22-23 Platinum Corporate Sponsors



## 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!**



## Library Corner

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### Exciting news from the library!

Our Winter book fair is coming to the library next week, just in time for holiday shopping!

#### **Book fair dates & times open to all:**

Tuesday 12/6 - 2:30-4:30

Thursday 12/8 - 2:30-4:30

Friday 12/9 - 2:30-4:30

The fair will also be open during our regular class visits for teachers and kids to browse, make wish lists and shop on their own with cash, or \*if they have a gift card already purchased\*. (Please note - students need to be responsible for their own money, teachers will not be overseeing this.)

**\*Gift cards enable kids to shop independently within their budget. This is also a great idea to share with family for gifting! Please have your student bring a printout of their card/QR code! (\*This is the Literati version of an e-wallet.)**

<https://efairs.literati.com/product-category/gift-cards/>

**\*Online shopping also counts towards the fair total!**

Shop here: <https://efairs.literati.com/books/?school=sycamore-valley-elementary-school-danville-ca>

The book fair is the library's biggest fundraiser, so your support is appreciated!

Thank you for your support of our library!

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



## REFLECTIONS:

### **Reflections:**

We had a lot of amazing and creative submissions into the Sycamore Reflections Art program this year. This year's theme was "Show Your Voice." Sycamore students received awards in two categories: Music Composition and Visual Arts.

Congrats to the following students:

### **Music Composition Award of Excellence**

Lucas Mesic (3rd)- Intermediate

[Listen to Lucas's composition here.](#)

### **Visual Arts Award of Excellence**

Vihaan Srivastava (2nd)- Primary

Zoya Kashif (3rd)- Intermediate

### **Award of Merit**

Zain Kashif (K)- Primary

Renee Kim (5th)- Intermediate

### **Honorable Mention**

Daniel Kim (2nd)- Primary

Rohan Dasgupta (3rd)- Intermediate

Thanks again to all artists that participated this year! All Artwork submissions will be featured on the [Sycamore SLAM website](#) this month.



## Congrats to our 2022 Sycamore Reflections Program Artists

### *Award of Excellence*



Vihaan Srivastava



Zoya Kashif

### *Award of Merit*



Zain Kashif



Renee Kim

### *Honorable Mention*



Daniel Kim



Rohan Dasgupta



## NEW Sycamore Valley Spirit Wear Online Shop!

Introducing a NEW Spirit Wear Store with new designs that ship directly to your house! The new Shark Shop is now open year-round. New designs are up on the website including the Sharky Sunrise shirt from the beginning of the year!

Shop here: [1stplace.sale/13542](https://1stplace.sale/13542)

**MAKE EVERYDAY SPIRIT DAY!**

## **SYCAMORE VALLEY SPIRIT WEAR SALE**



- ✓ **TEES, HOODIES & MORE**
- ✓ **FAST HOME DELIVERY**
- ✓ **FREE SHIPPING OVER \$100**
- ✓ **CHOOSE FROM 150+ DESIGNS**



SCAN TO ORDER

**ORDER AT 1STPLACE.SALE/13542**

**1ST PLACE**   
*Spiritwear*

## **Staff Luncheon:**

The PTA will be hosting a staff luncheon in December. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up to donate something. Some of the items have suggested links.

Please drop off items to the office by Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4EA9AD28A7FB6-staff2>





## 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!

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

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

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### WORDMASTERS

Good luck to our WordMasters students!

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### DYNAMATH

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### SUPERSCIENCE

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

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### RESEARCH

Our next research project is African American History Month due **Fri, Feb 24th.**

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

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Any questions about SLAM?

Please email : [gosycamoreslam@gmail.com](mailto:gosycamoreslam@gmail.com)

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### *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](mailto:sycamorevalley.edfund@srvef.org).

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### **Sharky Cinema:**

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>



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**Buy your gifts and holiday essentials at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).**

**You shop. Amazon gives.**

Shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://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**

*Support Shark Fund*  
WHEN YOU SHOP ON AMAZON

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cookies 'n cream

**cookie dough**  
**YoDots**  
cookie dough  
cookie dough

**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](mailto: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: 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 **\$4,200** 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](mailto:Dana.claffey@gmail.com)

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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.

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.



### **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!

### **Sharky Shout Out:**

Thank you Kristina Buskirk for spearheading the  
Sycamore Reflections Art Program for Sycamore.



The next Site Council meeting will be held on Thursday,  
January 19, 2023 @ 4:00pm

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If you are interested in becoming part of our Site Council,  
**We need two parents for the current school year  
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](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 at <https://syes.srvusd.net/Families/Site-Council/Site-Council/index.html>



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#### **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 - Winter 22/23**

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

Feb. 01 - 5/03, 2023

No Class; 3/22, 4/05

See attached flyer for sign up.

### **Pickleball Enrichment Class**



## **Child Nutrition**

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### **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>**

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## **Shark Fund - Corporate Match**

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[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

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Donations are 100% tax-deductible. 501c3 Tax ID #94-3390401

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