

Sycamore Valley Elementary **SHARK BITES**



Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal January 11, 2024

Dear Sycamore Valley Families,

Welcome back - I hope you enjoyed the winter break and stayed healthy. We are easing back into the swing of things as we navigate the showery weather. As always, a big thank you to our rainy-day volunteers this week. They had to be extra patient as we closely followed the weather hoping for breaks in the rain so kiddos could go outside. Keep reading for some dates to remember and information on the February Read-Alouds and the upcoming Astronomy Night.

Reminder - This coming Monday, January 15, 2024, there is No School in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.

Please note some important dates -

Dates to Remember:

- 01/15 - No School - M.L. King Jr. Day**
- 01/16 - Astronomy Night**
- 01/17 - Spirit Day - Theme: Backward Day**
- 01/17 - PTA Meeting 8:05 - MPR**
- 01/17 - Shark Fund Meeting - Virtual**
- 01/31 - Free Book Swap - After School**

February Read Alouds-

[February Read Aloud 23/24 FINAL:](#)

The February character trait of the month is Courageous.

The Read-Alouds for the month are The Wolf, the Duck and the Mouse by Mac Barnett, Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall, Mel Fell by Corey R. Tabor, Sheila Rae the Brave by Kevin Jenkes, and Little Tree by Loren Long. Each

story considers ways to overcome fears and be brave - whether it is conquering nerves when doing something new or being brave and persevering.

Astronomy Night-

Mrs. Yee has coordinated with the PTA to host an astronomy night, next Tuesday from 6:00pm to 8:00pm on the Sycamore Valley blacktop. Please see the flyer below for more information. We hope to see you there!

Events Calendar, Shark Fund and PTA information below - keep scrolling!!

Thank you,
Patricia Kawahara

IMPORTANT DATES



Incoming TK & K Enrollment - Now Open

- 12/21-01/08 - No School = Winter Vacation**
- 01/09 - School Resumes**
- 01/12 - Yearbook 5th Grade Baby Photo Deadline**
- 01/12 - Yearbook Cover Art Contest Deadline**
- 01/15 - No School - ML King Jr. Day**
- 01/16 - Astronomy Night - 6:00 - 8:00pm - Blacktop**
- 01/17 - Spirit Day - Theme: Backward Day**
- 01/17 - PTA Meeting**
- 01/17 - Dippin' Dot Sales**
- 01/17 - Shark Fund Meeting**
- 01/25 - School Site Council Meeting**
- 01/26 - Book Mark Entries Due**
- 01/31 - Dippin' Dot Sales**
- 01/31 - Book Swap - After School**
- 02/09 - Family Game Night - MPR**
- 02/14 - Dippin' Dot Sales**
- 02/28 - Dippin' Dot Sales**

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.
- 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**



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

With the change of weather our lost and found is growing!!!

**Take a look at the rack and in the yellow bin.
You may be surprised and find a sweatshirt / jacket / or sweater that you
did not know was left behind.**

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.



Sign Up genius links:

General Lunch Recess Helpers, General Morning
Recess Helpers.

Lunch Recess General Volunteers:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DAFA72DAAFAC25-44467019-lunch>

Sycamore General Recess Volunteers:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DAFA72DAAFAC25-44466238-sycamore>

**Astronomy Night - January 16, 2024
6:00pm - 8:00pm
On the Blacktop**

ASTRONOMY NIGHT **2024**

Great fun for families and enthusiastic
astronomers alike!

Activity Program :

- Telescope Displays
- Talk with astronomers
about the night sky
- Enjoy hot cocoa



JANUARY 16
6-8PM

Sycamore Valley
Elementary
Blacktop

Click here for the [Shark Spirit Shop](#)

Free Shipping \$75+



Bookmark Contest Entries

“A Good Book ... (FILL IN THE BLANK)” Bookmark Contest Entries Are available in the Office or attached link below.

Bookmark Contest entries are **due FRIDAY, January 26th**. Completed entries

should be returned to the office. ONE (1) entry per student. Entries will be judged upon spelling and creativity. Artwork should be done by hand and by the child whose name is on the form (Exception: young children may receive help in writing letters and numbers). Questions? Contact Christy Lucia at ctr2108@gmail.com.

[Bookmark Contest Entries](#)

FREE Book Swap Wednesday, January 31st

TK & Kindergarten: 11:50-12:50p.m. Kindergarten Playground

All Grades: 1:00-2:00pm MPR

*The Book Swap is a FREE community event sponsored by the Sycamore Valley PTA.

DROP OFF gently used books beginning Monday (1/29), Tuesday (1/30) and Wednesday (1/31) at the front of the school and Kindergarten Playground between 7:45-9:00am. Students will receive one (1) ticket per donated book, maximum five (5) tickets per student.

Rules for the Book Swap:

Books to be swapped should be FROM our students, FOR our students. Encourage your child to bring books they've loved that they think their friends might love too! No preschool books, magazines, sticker books, coloring books, activity books, Young Adult or grown-up books.

Students may swap up to five (5) books but are encouraged to bring additional book donations. All remaining books after the swap will be donated to our Sister School, King Elementary.

Students can trade one (1) ticket for one (1) book at the Book Swap.

Bookmark contest winners will be announced Wednesday, January 31st during morning announcements.



Extracurricular Extension Programs for Grades 1 - 5 in the subjects of Science, Language, Arts, Math and Research!

Battle of the Books:

The book list for the 2023/2024 school year is [here](#)! A minimum of 8 books must be read in order to compete in the Spring tournament.

Math Olympiad:

Math Olympiad meetings are Wednesdays before school at 7:15am. Please arrive at the front gate a few minutes early as no one is available to let late students in.

WordMasters:

Our WordMasters 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders completed the first challenge at the end of November. Challenge words set 2 was **distributed on Dec 12** and our students will take **Word List Test 2 between Jan 29 and Feb 16**. Congratulations to 3rd graders Leo Hermon, Daniel Kim, and Griffin Rapp, and 4th/5th Graders Karthik Jayaraman, Zara Hermon, and Lauren Eves for the highest scores on Word List Test 1.
1 down, 2 to go!

STEAM Art & Play: STEAM Art & Play:

The next class is **Tuesday, February 13th**, at 2:30pm in the MPR. Your child(ren) may only attend if they are signed up via the signup genius. Classes are FULL, so if your child(ren) cannot attend, please delete their signup so that their spot may be offered to someone on the waitlist.

SuperSTEM:

Thank you to those students who turned in work for the September and October/November issues. Credit will be given and work returned. Answer keys to these issues may be found [here](#). The December/January issue of SuperSTEM is due **Wednesday, January 31st**. Please [download](#), complete, and hand in the skills worksheets at the front office SLAM bin. Please complete the following 3 sections of the current issue in order to receive full credit: **Math Puzzle: Icy Expressions, Design an Earthquake-Resistant Structure, and Oil Cleanup**.

SLAM Program signups are now open! Please sign up your students [here](#).

Most SLAM programs are best suited for 3rd-5th graders, however, several programs this year are open to students from grades 1-2 also (if there is enough interest and we have enough parent volunteers).

Any questions about SLAM?
Please email : goscymoreslam@gmail.com

Video Recording of Social Media & SEL in Middle School Virtual Event is Available for Viewing

On December 6th, SRVUSD and the San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs co-hosted a virtual parent/caregiver education event, *Social Media & SEL in*

Middle School, featuring Jamie Nunez from Common Sense Media. Jamie delved into the Practical Guide for Families, discussing how it's so important for families to talk about their values related to social media use and sharing ideas on how to establish usage guidelines. If you missed the event, you can [watch the recording](#) on the SRVCPTA YouTube page.

Further, SRVUSD middle school counselors will be launching a series of important lessons in the new year to encourage self-reflection and finding balance in their social media lives. Please be on the lookout for more information to come from your middle school in the new year.

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!*



Join Our Shark Fund Graphics Team and Dive into Creativity!



Join Our Shark Fund Graphics Team and Dive into Creativity!



Attention talented graphic designers!



Are you a wizard with Adobe Illustrator? We're on the lookout for a creative mind to join our dynamic graphics team for Shark Fund. Your skills will play a crucial role in updating and creating eye-catching flyers and social media graphics for our exciting fundraising events, including Sharky Cinema, Dine-To-Donate, and the Live Auction extravaganzas.

To dive into this fantastic opportunity, please reach out to Christine Hoffman at christy1a@aol.com. Your artistic talents will make a difference, and we truly

appreciate your support in shaping the future of our school community!



#SharkFund #GraphicDesignOpportunity #JoinTheTeam



**Dippin' Dot Calendar:
1/17, 1/31, 2/14, 2/28**

Dippin Dot Pre-pay Punch Cards are Back!

Punch cards can be purchased for **\$25.00** at all Dippin Dot Wednesday events with cash or check made payable to "Sycamore Shark Fund"

- Prepay for 5 Dippin' Dots, get one free
- Save time in line
- No need to bring money to school
- Families can share one card
- 100% of proceeds benefit your students at Sycamore

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

Dippin dots has sold **over \$4,500!!!!!!**

Kindergarten Sales @ 11:30 am near the Kinder playground
1st-5th Grade Sales @ 12:50-1:10pm near the back MPR/blacktop entrance

Lost Punch Cards or any other Dippin' Dot questions please contact
Dippin' Dot Dana Claffey
925-407-7178 Dana.claffey@gmail.com



Double the impact of your school donations with Corporate Match!
Follow these simple steps: <https://srvef.org/matching-gifts/>

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




SHARK FUND
 A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION BENEFITTING 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 \$35,000

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

Do you need a way to keep track of all of your students' items at school? Buy personal labels for your kids at campaigns.mabelslabels.com Choose our organization from the list, **Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Fund**, and we'll earn 20% from it!



Keep your things out of the lost and found!

mabel's labels
 FUNDRAISING

Buy personal labels for your kids at
campaigns.mabelslabels.com

Choose our organization from the list
Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Fund
 and we'll earn 20% from it!




THANK YOU TO SYCAMORE'S 23-24
PLATINUM CORPORATE SPONSORS



Library Corner

-
- **Battle of the Books** (3rd - 5th) --> Program Lead: Christiana at [analeung817\(at\)yahoo\(dot\)com](mailto:analeung817(at)yahoo(dot)com)
 - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4CAEA92FA31-battle1#/>

Take Care,
Jen Prindiville
Library Media Coordinator
Sycamore Valley Elementary

Sharky Shout Out:

Thank you to the volunteers that were able to help
with Rainy-Day Recesses this week!

Info from District:

SRVUSD is Seeking Members for New Resource Parent Network

The Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Community Advisory Committee (CAC) in SRVUSD is seeking dedicated special education parents to become part of our Resource Parent Network.

By becoming a Resource Parent you can inspire, uplift, and empower others while fostering a sense of togetherness within our special education community. Your experience and wisdom can make a world of difference to other parents navigating the complex world of special education.

Do you ever wish there was another parent there to guide you when you embarked on your special education journey?

We invite you to become the support you wished for!

If you are interested, we invite you to learn more and please take this short [interest form](#) no later than January 12, 2024.



Mark your calendar:

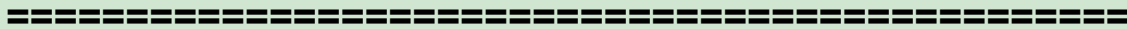
January 25, 2024 @ 4:00pm
The meeting will be virtual.

Join with Google Meet

meet.google.com/zgs-kogv-zbn

Join by phone

(US) +1 929-399-4208 PIN: 560 412 321#



More information about Site Council is available at:

<https://syes.srvusd.net/Families/Site-Council/Site-Council/index.html>



Black Dragon Chess - Winter 2023

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

Chess class will be held in our school library.

Nov. 30th - Feb. 29th

No class during winter break.
See attached flyer to sign up.

[Chess Enrichment Class](#)

Brick Techniques: STEM Basics with Lego - Winter 23/24

Grades K - 2nd

Jan. 29 - Mar. 25, 2024

No class on 2/19/24

2:30pm - 4:00pm School Library

See attached flyer to sign up

[STEM Basics with Lego](#)

Lego Robotics - Winter 23/24

Grades 3rd - 5th

Jan. 29 - Marc. 25

No class on 2/19/24

2:30pm - 4:00pm Science 1/3 classroom

See attached flyer to sign up

[Lego Robotics](#)

Sports Camp - Fall 2023 - Session #3 - Starting soon.

Description: This Multi-Sport program combines all your favorite sports into one action-packed after-school enrichment experience. Each week participants will learn the fundamentals of a new sport through PLAY! Sports include: Baseball, Basketball, Capture the Ball, Dodgeball, Flag Football, Soccer, Volleyball, and Ultimate Disc! Skyhawks Coaches provide a positive environment where young athletes can develop at their own pace with lots of encouragement and a big focus on FUN! Your child will leave with new skills, new friends, and a new love for sports!

[Sports Camp Flyer](#)



Child Nutrition

Meals Provided @ Sycamore

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

[MENUS](#)

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

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

Sycamore Valley Elementary | 2200 Holbrook Road, Danville, CA 94506

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