

Sycamore Valley Elementary SHARK BITES



Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal January 12, 2023

Dear Sycamore Families:

Welcome back! I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing and joyful break. 2023 is certainly starting off with a bang with all of this wet weather! As always we want to thank the parent community for your support with rainy day lunches and patience as you manage the car lines on rainy days. As much as I enjoyed the break, I have been delighted to see all of my Sycamore Valley friends again! Following are dates to remember, some very exciting news, information about the Character Trait of the month and important reminders about absences and drop off procedures.

Dates to Remember:

No School: Monday, January 16, 2023 - Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Book Swap: February 1, 2023 (see more info below)

Exciting News:

I am thrilled to announce that Sycamore Valley Elementary School has been selected as a California Distinguished School. This is a well deserved honor that reflects the commitment and hard work of our staff and community. More information about the Distinguished School program is available at: <https://linktr.ee/srvusd>.

Absences:

It is imperative that you phone our attendance line (925) 855-2800 to report your child's absences each they will be absent. This is a 24 hour hotline. If your child will miss more than one day in a row, you can report the block of dates they will miss.

Please state the child's name, grade/teacher and the reason for their absence,

as well as your name and relationship to the child.

Character Trait:

The January Character Trait is Cooperative. Some fun titles that explore this topic are *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole* by Mac Barnett, the classic *Swimmy* by Leo Lionni, *A Chair for My Mother* by Vera B. Williams and *The Wolf, The Duck and The Mouse* by Mac Barnett. I will be reading one of these books to classes this month.

Drop Off:

A friendly reminder, please do not drop off students in the parking lot if you are arriving after 8:00 a.m. When students walk from the parking lot and cross at the crosswalk, this practice holds up the line dropping off at the curb and can even impact traffic all the way down the hill. Additionally, it is not safe for students to cross as we are not always able to provide supervision after 8:00a.m. Please have students exit the car at the curb in front of the school.

Thank you for your help in keeping our community safe.

Thank you for the gift of your child,
Patricia Kawahara

GO SHARKS !

IMPORTANT DATES



01/14 - Enrollment for NEW 1st - 5th graders Opens - TK/K enrollment continues.

01/16 - No School - Martin Luther King Holiday

01/16-01/29 - Sale - Sharkwear - See Flyer below

01/17-01/20 - Bookmark Contest

01/18 - Dippin Dots - After School (Weather Permitting)

01/30-01/31 - Book Swap Donations - See Flyer Below

02/01 – Book Swap - MPR

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**



Lunch Time Volunteer Helpers:

We have updated the sign up genius for lunchtime helpers (not the rainy day one, just general for people who would like to come up and help out on the blacktop.

lunch volunteers sign up genius:

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

Elite Corporate Sponsors

Thank you to Sycamore's 22-23
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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!



NEW Sycamore Valley Spirit Wear Online Shop!

Spirit Wear Store with new designs that ship directly to your house! The new

Shark Shop is now open year-round.

SALE: Save 25% on all spirit wear Jan 16th - 29th!

Stay warm with Sycamore Valley Elementary School hoodies, jackets tees and hats!

Shop Here: <https://1stplace.sale/13542>.

**SYCAMORE VALLEY
SPIRIT WEAR SHOP**

**25% OFF
SITEWIDE**
FREE SHIPPING \$75+
USE CODE:
SPIRIT129

**Grand
Opening
Sale**



**FAST
DELIVERY**

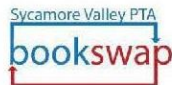
**ORDER AT
1STPLACE.SALE/13542
SALE RUNS JAN 16TH - 29TH**



SCAN TO ORDER

1ST PLACE
Sportswear

Sycamore Valley PTA
bookswap



Does your child have a stack of paperback books sitting around the house they've already read? Do you wish you had the opportunity to exchange them for new stories and reading adventures? Then the Sycamore Valley PTA Book Swap is for you!

HOW IT WORKS

January 30 and January 31 students may bring and donate "gently used" paperback books. Donations will be made in front of the MPR before school (7:45–8:00 & 8:45-9:00 a.m.). 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.

On Wednesday February 1, students may come to the MPR after school, 12:50-2 p.m (TK and Kindergartners in the TK/Kindergarten Playground at 11:30 a.m.) and select a "new to them" book of their choice based upon the number of books they donated up to five (5). Students will trade one (1) ticket for one (1) book. Students will also receive a free bookmark designed by the Bookmark Contest Winner for their grade level.

BOOK CRITERIA

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! Books will only be accepted under the following guidelines:

Books must be appropriate for grades TK-5

Books must be gently used condition: cover on, no rips, no tears, no coloring or writing in them
NO preschool books, magazines, sticker books, coloring books, activity books, Young Adult or grown-up books

NO free books such as kids meals (McDonalds, Chick-fil-a) will be accepted

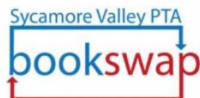
BOOKMARK CONTEST

We invite all of our talented Sycamore artists to participate in this year's "If you don't like to read, then you haven't found the right book" Bookmark

Contest. The winner from each grade level (TK thru 5) will receive a copy of their laminated bookmark as well as bragging rights as "official" bookmark winner at this year's Book Swap.

Entry forms are available in the office and online through Shark Bites. Completed Entries are due to the **Office** by January 20th. ONE (1) entry per student. Artwork should be done by hand and by the child whose name is on the form.

Book Swap - Bookmark Contest:



Bookmark Contest Rules:

This year's theme is "If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book."

What's your favorite book? Use your imagination and creativity to design a bookmark that best represents that book. **Make sure to write/include the book title on your entry!** Open to all Sycamore Valley Elementary Students Grades TK - 5.

- Bookmarks must be created using this template (on the left) with crayons, colored pencils, pens or markers. (Remember, winning bookmarks must be reproducible.)
- Original entries only. No tracing or copyrighted images like cartoons. No computer generated images.
- Only one (1) entry per student. 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).

Turn in your bookmark design entry to the OFFICE by January 20, 2023.

- Winners will be chosen from each grade level (TK, K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th).
- Winners will be judged on creativity, spelling and neatness, theme, and printability.
- Winners will be announced January 25th and will receive their bookmark back laminated as well as have their bookmark printed and given out at the fair.

Name _____

Grade _____ Age _____ Teacher _____

Parent/Guardian, please sign:

Sycamore Valley Elementary PTA has my permission to reproduce, exhibit, and distribute my child's bookmark and to list his or her first name, last initial, and school name on the bookmark.

Signature of parent or guardian _____ Date _____



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

Congratulations to 5th grade **Lucas Acon** for earning a perfect score of 20 at the first meet of the WordMasters Challenge - a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 125,000 students annually! Nationally, only 55 fifth grade students achieved this result.

3rd grade student **Karthik Jayaraman** also achieved outstanding results while competing at the 5th grade level.

Thanks to all the students who gave their best efforts at the first meet!

DYNAMATH

Dec/Jan Issue Due **Jan 17th, 2023**

SUPERSCIENCE

Dec/Jan issue Due **Feb 3, 2023**

RESEARCH

Our next research project is African American History Month

Due **Fri, Feb 24th, 2023.**

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.

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 Fund** as your

Here comes AMAZON,
Here comes AMAZON,
Right down my driveway

Support Shark Fund
WHEN YOU SHOP ON AMAZON

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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!

Visit smile.amazon.com and choose SRVEF- Sycamore Valley Elementary School Shark Fund

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YoDots
cotton candy
cotton candy flavored freeze yogurt

rainbow
YoDots
rainbow
freeze yogurt

cookies 'n cream
YoDots
cookies 'n cream
vanilla freeze yogurt, cookie pieces, cookie pieces in cream

cookie dough
YoDots
cookie dough
chocolate brownie, cookie pieces, cookie pieces in cream

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 825-407-7178

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:
01/18

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

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

“Dippin Dots has raised over **\$4,500** 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



Library Corner

Please keep reading over the break, and happy holidays!

Thank you for your support of our library!

Take Care,

Jen Prindiville / Library Media Coordinator

<https://syc-srvusd-ca.schoolloop.com/sylibrary>



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.

Sharky Shout Out:

Thank you to all the volunteers from the Sycamore Community for helping our teachers and staff with rainy day and lunch recess this week.



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

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 - Winter 2023

Chess classes will be offered Thursday afternoons 2:35pm - 3:35pm.
Jan. 19 - Mar. 16, 2023
See attached flyer to sign up.

[Chess Enrichment Class](#)

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Soccer - Winter 2023

Soccer is offered Monday afternoons 2:35pm - 3:35pm
See attached flyer for sign up

[Soccer Enrichment Class](#)

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Basketball - Winter 2023

Basketball will be offered on Thursdays 2:35pm - 3:35pm
More details coming soon
See attached flyer for sign up

[Basketball Enrichment Class](#)

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Volleyball - Winter 2023

Basketball will be offered on Thursdays 6:15pm - 8:15pm
January 12 - March 16, 2023
See attached flyer for sign up

[Volleyball Enrichment Class](#)

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Pickleball - Winter 22/23

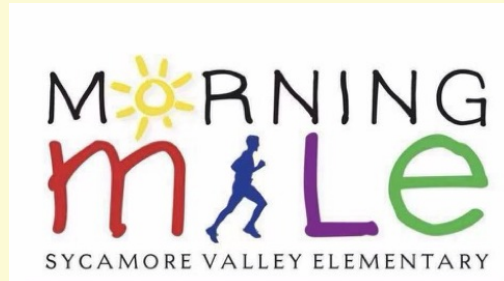
Pickleball Wednesday afternoons 12:55pm - 1:55pm.

Feb. 01 - 5/03, 2023

No Class; 3/22, 4/05

See attached flyer for sign up.

[Pickleball Enrichment Class](#)



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!



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>

**Job Openings with Child Nutrition
Join the School Meals Team**

Shark Fund - Corporate Match

SHARK FUND
A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION BENEFITING ALL SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

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Investing in a World Class Educational Experience

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OVER \$25,000
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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

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

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