

Sycamore Valley Elementary SHARK BITES



Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal January 19, 2023

Dear Sycamore Families:

Happy Lunar New Year to all of our Sycamore Sharks who are celebrating!!

I hope everyone enjoyed the long weekend in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Over the past few weeks, the students have been working on lessons deepening their understanding of Dr. King and his message. In Mrs. Vasconi's class, for example, students selected a quote and explained what it means to them. Reading the work was a highlight of my week.

The sun has finally made a much anticipated return and we are all thrilled!! It is wonderful to be back outside enjoying the fresh air.

We are looking forward to the start of a four week stretch of five day weeks starting Monday. This is an opportunity to settle into routines. In order to support the efficacy of routines we ask that students attend school every day if they are not sick. Extra vacation days can undermine a student's progress and disrupt their connectedness to the class community. Plus, we love our Sharks and look forward to seeing them each day!

Following are some dates to remember, information about absences, how to handle students needing temporary support due to medical issues, Principal for the day, and reminders for volunteers/chaperones. Also included is information from our District Office regarding C.O.P.E. seminars and Inclusive Schools Week.

Dates to Remember:

01/20/23 - Report Cards will be sent home with Students

Spirit Day Friday - wear Shark Wear of Sycamore Blue to show your school

spirit!

01/25/23 - Crazy Hair Day Spirit Day

02/20/23 - No School - Presidents Day

02/21/23 - No School - Staff Development Day

Absences:

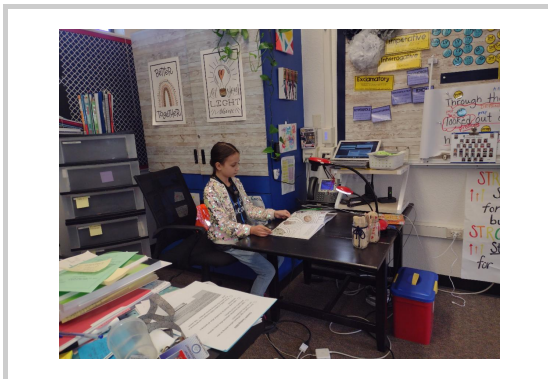
If your child is out sick for multiple days, it is important that you call each day your child is out to clear the absence. This is really helpful in ensuring that we are documenting absences correctly.

Medical Issues:

If your child has a medical issue that will require some accommodations please be sure to communicate with the office. Examples of this include having to use crutches, a medical boot or a cast. In these instances, it is important that we communicate so we are clear on P.E. and recess considerations as well as classroom support that may be needed. A doctor's note is very helpful in informing this conversation.

Principal for the Day:

Addison C, third grade, had the distinguished honor of Principal for the Day. Addison read stories in multiple classrooms, including a fifth grade class where she used the doc cam like a pro, supervised recess, dismissed kiddos from lunch, checked in on the fourth grade and the TK kiddos, made the morning announcement, welcomed students at arrival and sent them on their way at the end of the day, and used the mega-phone to dismiss students back to class following the fire drill. It was a busy day! Students across the school enjoyed having a fellow student in charge. They were respectful and cheered Principal C on in her role. The day was another example of what a kind and respectful community we have at Sycamore Valley.



Volunteering / Chaperoning:

Parents/Caregivers who are volunteering at school or chaperoning field trips are also bounded by FERPA, as well as the SRVUSD

VOLUNTEER/DRIVER/CHAPERONE Protocols and Procedures, which states, "Confidentiality of information obtained through your volunteer efforts must remain confidential." When parents sign up through the Be A Mentor program, they must watch a [video](#) regarding "School Volunteers and FERPA" and certify they have watched it and understand their responsibilities. Please be sure to review this confidentiality agreement with your adult chaperones before the trip.

Here is a [PRESENTATION](#) you can use when meeting with your parent/caregiver community, to review protocols and procedures related to volunteering and confidentiality.

C.O.P.E. Parent/Caregiver Seminar Series:

Through our new partnership, the **C.O.P.E. Family Support Center** is providing a series of five virtual seminars exclusively for SRVUSD parents and caregivers! The first seminar, *Sleep Patterns with Teens*, will be on Wednesday, January 25th - [learn more and register today](#)

Inclusive Schools Week:

SRVUSD will be celebrating **Inclusive Schools Week January 23rd to 27th**. The purpose of Inclusive Schools Week is to celebrate the ways students with disabilities participate in campus life and highlights the inclusive practices happening at our school sites.

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.

01/16-01/30 - Sale - Sharkwear - See Flyer below

01/17-01/20 - Bookmark Contest

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

01/25 - Spirit Day - Crazy Hair Day

01/26 - Sharky Cinema Ticket go on sale @ 7:00pm

01/26 - Cyber Safety Seminar - See Flyer Below

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

02/01 - Dippin Dots (weather permitting)

02/01 - Book Swap - MPR

02/08 - Spirit Day - Sports Day

02/08 - Sharky Cinema

02/15 - Dippin Dots (weather permitting)

02/20 - No School - Presidents Day

02/21 - No School - Staff Development Day

02/24 - African American History Museum

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
Platinum Corporate Sponsors**



JENNIFER LARSON

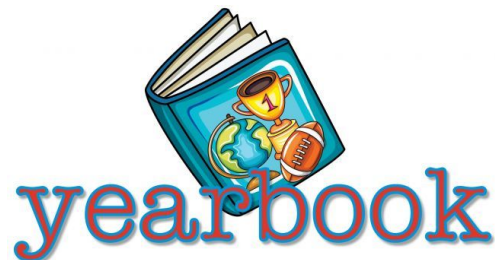
arriveREgroup.com
DRE #01897334



JEN O'GRADY
REAL ESTATE

925.389.2380

Golden Gate | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



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 - 30th! (date extended)
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**



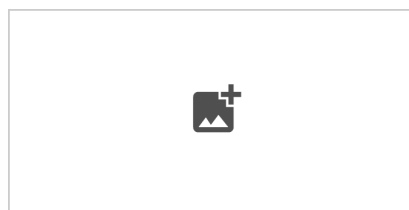
**FAST
DELIVERY**

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




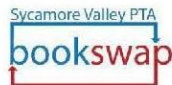
SCAN TO ORDER

1ST PLACE
Spiritwear



Sycamore Valley PTA





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

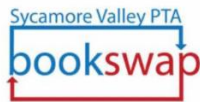
BOOKMARK CONTEST

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.

Shark Cinema:

Join us for the next Sharky Cinema after school on Wednesday, February 8th, from 1-3pm to watch the movie, Lightyear, with theater snacks in the MPR!

Tickets will be available on the Future Fund Store beginning 1/26 at 7pm.

Tickets sellout quickly. <https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/store>

These types of events are only possible with parent volunteers, so if you

have the ability, we'd love your help! Check out the Sharky Cinema volunteer sign-up [here](#). Your student(s) can attend free if you volunteer to help during this event.



PARENTS - ENJOY AN EXTRA TWO HOURS ON WACKY WEDNESDAY

TICKETS GO ON SALE 1/26 AT 7:00PM

SHARK FUND PRESENTS

SHARKY CINEMA

Disney · PIXAR
LIGHTYEAR

2/8 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 THE LIGHTYEAR.
DROP-OFF EVENT WITH PARENT VOLUNTEERS SUPERVISING.

SIGN-UP: [HTTPS://SYCAMOREVALLEY.FUTUREFUND.COM/STORE](https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/store)
TICKETS GO ON SALE 1/26 AT 7:00PM

The poster features a QR code in the top left, a character from the movie Lightyear (a man in a green and white suit holding a small orange cat) on the left, and a blue cartoon shark wearing a yellow 'S' on its chest on the right. The background is dark purple with a yellow border of white dots.

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!

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

Support Shark Fund
WHEN YOU SHOP ON AMAZON

amazonsmile
You shop, Amazon gives

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**

Now available on the smartphone app.

\$5 each

cotton candy
YoDots
cotton candy
cotton candy

rainbow
YoDots
rainbow
30

cookies 'n cream
YoDots
cookies 'n cream
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

• 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:
2/01, 2/15
*****weather permitting*****

Shark Fund would like to Thank You for your support with our

Dippin' Dot Wednesday Fundraiser.

“Dippin Dots has raised over **\$5,200** 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



CYBER SAFETY Keeping Our Children Safe



A PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Thursday, January 26, 2023, 7-8pm
SRVUSD, 699 Old Orchard Dr. Danville

Our featured speaker is Darryl Holcombe, Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office, with an introduction from SRVUSD Director of Technology, Kelly Hilton



Attend in person or watch Live on YouTube @srtcpta

Topics of this presentation will include:

- Bullying and Cyber-bullying
- Sexual Harassment/Sexting/Sextortion
- Protecting Your Identity
- Online Reputation and Your Digital Footprint

Register to attend in person:



Sponsored by the San Ramon Valley Unified School District and San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs in coordination with the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office & The Silicon Valley Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER FOR THIS FREE
EVENT WWW.SRVCOUNCILPTA.ORG

www.srvcouncilpta.org
[@srtcpta](https://twitter.com/srtcpta)



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 the amazing teachers, staff, and volunteers that has earned Sycamore the recognition as a California Distinguished School!



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

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](#)

=====

Soccer - Winter 2023

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

[Soccer Enrichment Class](#)

=====

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

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

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



The advertisement is framed by a blue border containing various corporate logos such as Franklin Templeton, Apple, Cisco, Wells Fargo, Google, LinkedIn, Verizon, Bank of America, Novartis, Chevron, Visa, Eli Lilly, Merck, Gartner, Genentech, eBay, Pepsico, AT&T, Adobe, Bristo-Myers Squibb, Kaiser, Clorox, eBay, AT&T, Merril Lynch, Automatic Data Processing Inc., Roche Molecular, Bank of the West, Chubb, Workday, Dodge & Cox, eBay, Constellation, Oracle, and PG&E.

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

[Unsubscribe bjones1@srvusd.net](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent bybjones1@srvusd.netpowered by



Try email marketing for free today!