

# Sycamore Valley Elementary SHARK BITES



## Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal January 26, 2023

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Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you are enjoying this lovely spring-like weather. Being outside in the afternoon without a jacket is such a treat!

We are continuing to push students to think deeply and look for opportunities for students to take ownership of their learning. Last week, fifth graders in Mrs. Crosthwait's class blew my mind with their creativity as they shared important facts about informational research they had done. The variety of ways they showed their learning was truly impressive - from posters and slideshows to puppet shows and videos. The excitement and pride in their work was inspiring. That classroom visit was a true highlight of my week.

As we settle back into our regular routine, we are revisiting behavioral expectations with students. This helps to set everyone up for success for the final five months of school.

Keep reading for important information about dates to remember, Teen Esteem parent workshop and assembly, Lunar New Year celebrations, tardy procedures, child nutrition visit, crazy hair day, resources from the Contra Costa Health Services, and missing the end of the school year and/or the beginning of school year.

### **Dates to Remember:**

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

02/08/23 - Teen Esteem Parent Education Meeting 6:00pm - MPR

02/20/23 - No School - Presidents Day

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

### **Teen Esteem Parent Workshop and Assembly:**

Mark your calendars, Sycamore Valley Elementary is the beneficiary of a generous donation of a Teen Esteem Assembly for all students and a parent workshop. **The parent workshop is scheduled for 02/08 at 6:00pm in the MPR.** The focus of the workshop will be Parenting in the *Social Media Age without Losing Your Mind*. The assembly topics will also be previewed.

[See Attached Flyer](#)

**The assemblies will take place on February 15th** Grades TK-3rd will explore *Changing the World One Heart at a Time* and Grades 4th and 5th will explore *Choices of an Everyday Hero*. For more information about the assemblies or to explore other Teen Esteem parent resources, check out their website <https://www.teenesteem.org/> and click on Classroom Presentations. Please note, the 4th and 5th grade assembly description states "If the school wishes, we can also cover choices they may be facing in the coming years like drugs, alcohol and vaping." **We have not opted** to include this information in our assembly.

### **Lunar New Year:**

We have been enjoying Lunar New Year celebrations and learning about the holiday in the classrooms and in the staff room. Our talented Office Assistant, Karen Ta carved this beautiful melon and created a beautiful display.



**Tardy:** If your child is late to school they will sign in at the school office. Please be patient as our staff greets late arrivals at the front gate. Our District Office sends out an automated phone call to parents when students are marked absent. Our office will clear the absence for students that arrive late. The automated phone call may be received before we have a chance to clear the absence.

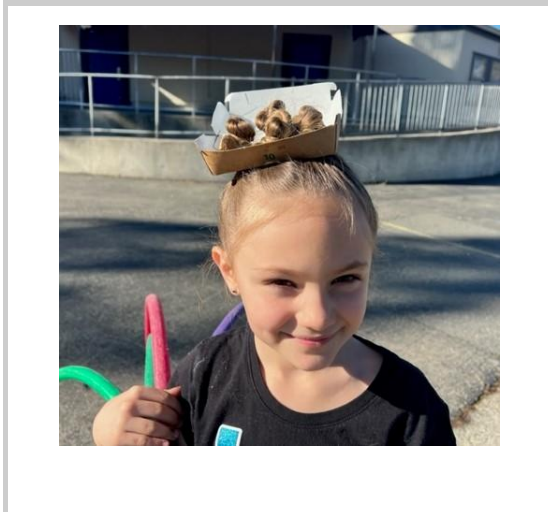
### **Child Nutrition Update:**

Janell Jayes is a supervisor for our district child nutrition department. Jayes presented information at our last PTA membership meeting. Here are a few things she shared.

- Pre Covid - child nutrition offered a mixture of heat and serve and semi scratch food that was cooked at the school for lunch time.
- During Covid this was changed to curbside pre-made lunches.
- Now, child nutrition wants to get away from pre-made food and do more scratch and semi scratch food. Meaning that the food would be partly or fully prepared on site; however, we are short staffed.
- The district has grants and has purchased new equipment and is investing in training but they need more people to work at the schools. The district has even hired a district chef.
- Sycamore has an opening for a child nutrition lunch staff member that will help with preparing food.

### **Crazy Hair Day Yesterday:**

Students and Staff had fun with the Shark Spirit Crazy Hair. Here are a few photos.



### **Information from CCHS:**

Contra Costa Health Services created this resource for the community:

**Getting Better When You're Sick.** You can also learn more at [bit.ly/3vZfdqw](https://bit.ly/3vZfdqw)

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### **Information Regarding Last 10 days of School 22/23 and First 3 days of School 23/24:**

### **Missing the Last Ten School Days for 2022-23 and Independent Study Contracts at the End of the School Year**

Independent study contracts will not be issued the last 10 days of school. All independent study contract work must be finished and submitted by May 17, 2023 in order for work to be graded and attendance to be recorded.

### **Missing the First Three Days of School 2023-24**

As you plan your summer vacation, be aware that school begins on Thursday, August 10, 2023. Some of our schools are very full and may have wait lists.

- If your child does not attend the first three days of school, your student may lose their space at your resident school site and be diverted to

another school.

- If there is not space at your resident school when you return, your child will be placed at the closest school based on space availability.
- If you know your student will be missing the first three days, or more, of school please send an email to the principal and office manager/attendance staff at your student's school site.

Thank you for your help in keeping our community safe.

Thank you for the gift of your child,  
Patricia Kawahara

**GO SHARKS !**

## IMPORTANT DATES



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

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

**01/26 - Cyber Safety Seminar - See Flyer Below**

**01/30-01/31 - Book Swap Drop off Donations - See Flyer Below**

**02/01 - Enrollment for NEW 1st - 5th graders Opens - TK/K enrollment continues**

**02/01 - Dippin Dots (weather permitting)**

**02/01 - Book Swap - MPR - After School**

**02/06-02/12 - Dos Coyotes giveback - See Flyer Below**

**02/08 - Spirit Day - Sports Day**

**02/08 - Sharky Cinema**

**02/08 - Teen Esteem Parent Education Meeting - Time TBD**

**02/09 - Site Council Meeting - Virtual 4:00 - See Flyer for Google Meet**

**02/13 - Family Game Night Tickets go on sale @ 7:00pm**

**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**

**03/10 - Family Game Night**

**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

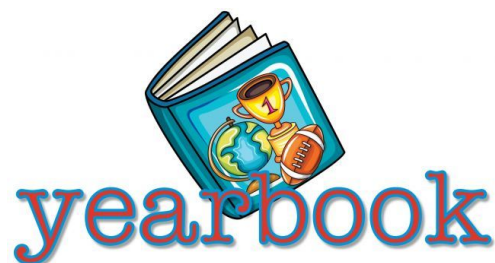
arriveREgroup.com  
DRE #01897334



JEN O'GRADY  
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925.389.2380

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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!

This is the last week to take advantage of the Sycamore Valley grand opening sale. Act fast because the sales ends on January 30th. Save 25% sitewide with code: **SPIRIT129!** There is also **free shipping** on all orders over \$75!

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

**SYCAMORE VALLEY  
SPIRIT WEAR SHOP**

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

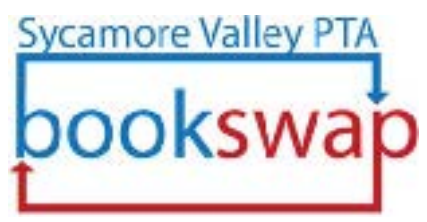
**Grand  
Opening  
Sale**



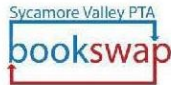
**ORDER AT**  
**1STPLACESALE/13542**  
**SALE RUNS JAN 16TH - 29TH**



**1ST PLACE**   
*Spiritwear*







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 20<sup>th</sup>. ONE (1) entry per student. Artwork should be done by hand and by the child whose name is on the form.



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**Extracurricular Extension Programs for Grades 3 - 5 in the subjects of Science, Language, Arts, Math and Research!**

Check out the [SLAM website](#) for the latest updates!

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

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## RESEARCH

Our next research project is African American History Month

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

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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### **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

This is our last chance to support Shark Fund through Amazon Smile - this program is ending on February 20th. For any Amazon purchases now through 2/20/23, please do so through Amazon Smile to earn funding for Sycamore! See the attached graphic for instructions.

# How To Support Shark Fund with

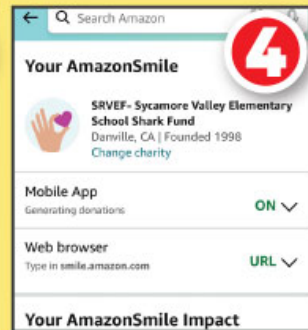
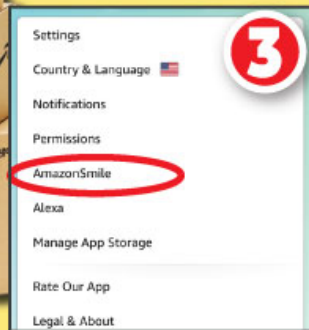
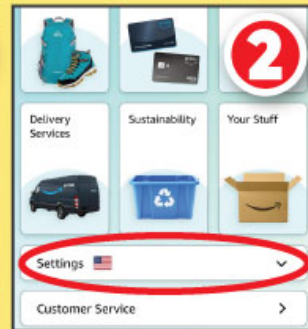
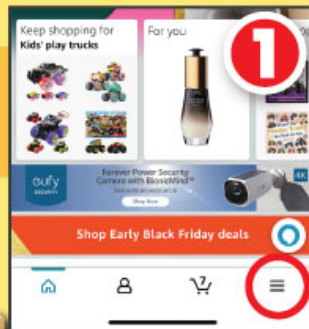
**amazon**smile  
You shop, Amazon gives!



Visit **smile.amazon.com** and select as your charity:  
**SRVEF- Sycamore Valley Elementary School Shark Fund**

Amazon donates 0.5% of each qualified purchase to Shark Fund

**HOW TO TURN ON  
AMAZONSMILE IN  
THE MOBILE APP**



**MAKE EVERY PURCHASE COUNT FOR SYCAMORE**

**Dippin' Dots**  
**\$5 each**

**cotton candy**  
**YoDots**  
cotton candy  
cotton candy

**rainbow**  
**YoDots**  
rainbow  
30

**cookies 'n cream**  
**YoDots**  
Vanilla Swiss yogurt  
cookies 'n cream  
cookies 'n cream

**cookie dough**  
**YoDots**  
chocolate Swiss yogurt  
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](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:**

**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](mailto:Dana.claffey@gmail.com)

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# 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](http://WWW.SRVCOUNCILPTA.ORG)

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



## Library Corner

Thank you for your support of our library!

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



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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.

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## **Sharky Shout Out:**

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Thank you PTA and Shark Fund for the Crumbl Cookies honoring our teachers and staff for all their hard work to earn our Distinguished School Award. "We would Crumbl without you!"

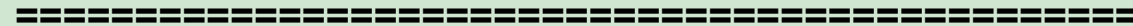


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**The next Site Council meeting will be held on:  
Thursday, February 9, 2023 @ 4:00pm via Google Meet.**

Meeting ID:  
[meet.google.com/vob-grdo-zau](https://meet.google.com/vob-grdo-zau)

Phone Numbers  
(US) +1 402-683-0059  
PIN: 793 127 099#



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 - 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 is offered Tuesday afternoons 2:40pm - 3:40pm

Feb. 07 - March 28, 2023

See attached: One on One Hoops flyer for sign up

[Basketball 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](#)

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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](#)



### **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**

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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](#)

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

**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.srvfef.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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