

Sycamore Valley Elementary SHARK BITES



Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal February 01, 2024

Dear Sycamore Valley Families,

I hope you and your family are well.

One of the components of Deep Learning (a SRVUSD strategic direction) is increasing opportunities for student ownership of their work. This can look different in various academic areas and across the grade levels. In 5th grade science this week, for example, it involved students collaborating on the development of a rubric for their Animals in the Ecosystems research project - a project that embeds choice as students decide in what manner they will share their information. Each table group developed the criteria for scores in different areas of the rubric in alignment with the applicable California State Standards. The rubric created was rigorous and included all aspects of the project. I can't wait to see the finished products! (See pictures below) Keep reading for some dates to remember, information about an upcoming assembly, and the March Character Trait of the Month and accompanying Read-Alouds and a friendly reminder about our drop off procedure.

Dates to Remember:

- 02/01 - School Site Council Meeting - Virtual
- 02/07 - Spirit Day - Theme: Sports
- 02/09 - Family Game Night - MPR
- 02/13 - Astronomy Night 6-8pm - Blacktop
- 02/19 - No School - Presidents Day
- 02-20 - No School - Staff Development Day
- 02/23 - African American Museum
- 03/04 - Words Matter Assembly (Teen Esteem)
 - Grades 4/5 @ 8:00 - 8:45
 - Grades 2/3 @ 9:00 - 9:30
 - Grades TK/1 @ 9:45 - 10:15

03/15 - No School - Teacher Work Day
03/20-03/22 - Conference Days - Minimum Day Schedule
03/22 - School Live Auction
03/29 - No School - Spring Break Starts
04/01-04/05 - No School Spring Break

Words Matter Assemblies:

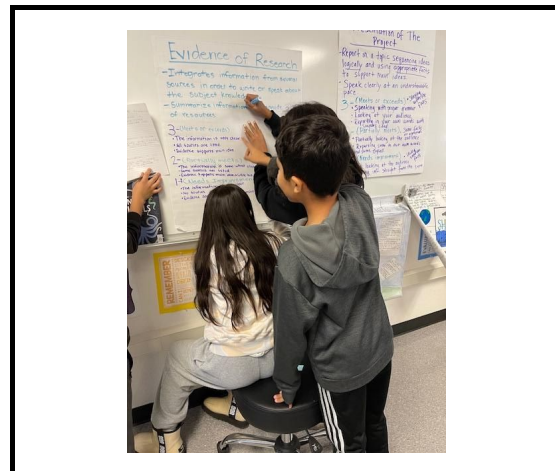
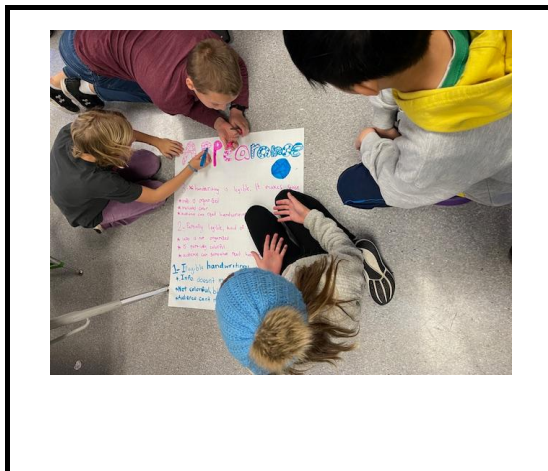
We are delighted to partner with Teen Esteem in offering the following assemblies as the kickoff event for Words Matter Week - "Be the One" (TK-2nd) "Choices of an Everyday Hero" (3-5). The assemblies will be held on Monday, March 4th. Please see the schedule listed above. This is the 2nd year that Sycamore Valley Elementary has received a sponsorship for the assembly and we are very grateful for this opportunity! The assemblies center on bullying and are an engaging look at how to be kind and build each other up. With the older students, we also consider how to be an upstander rather than a bystander when we see kids being bullied.

Creativity:

The character trait for March is creativity. The read-alouds for March will be *The Book of Mistakes* by Corinna Luyken, *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds and *What do you do with an Idea?* By Kobi Yamada. The class read-aloud schedule is here:

March Read Aloud: [March Read Aloud 23/24](#)

Science Class:



Drop Off Procedures:

A friendly reminder, when dropping your child off, please have your child exit the car as soon as you come to a stop after passing the kindergarten crosswalk. When you wait until your car reaches the top of the line for your children to exit the car, it impacts the traffic on Camino Tassajara. As a reminder from last week, please do not drop your child(ren) off in the parking lot. It is a very busy lot, and a child can easily be struck by a car when walking without an adult. Please stay in the drop off lane and drop your child off at the curb. If you would like to walk your child to the black top, please park in the lot and cross at the crosswalk. We appreciate your cooperation in keeping everyone safe.

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

Thank you,
Patricia Kawahara

IMPORTANT DATES



Incoming New TK & K Enrollment - Now Open

Incoming New 1st - 5th Grade Students Enrollment - Now Open

02/01 - Enrollment for New Students Grades 1st - 5th Opens

02/01 - School Site Council Meeting 4:00pm - Virtual

02/02 - Spirit Day - Wear Sharkwear or blue clothing

02/07 - Spirit Day - Theme: Sports

02/09 - Spirit Day - Wear Sharkwear or blue clothing

02/09 - Family Game Night - MPR

02/13 - Astronomy Night - 6:00-8:00pm - Blacktop

02/14 - Dippin' Dot Sales

02/15 - Cyber Safety Class - 6:0pm-7:00pm - District Office

02/16 - Spirit Day - Wear Sharkwear or blue clothing

02/19 - No School - Presidents Day

02-20 - No School - Staff Development Day

02/23 - Spirit Day - Wear Sharkwear or blue clothing

02/23 - African American Museum

02/28 - Dippin' Dot Sales

03/01 - Spirit Day - Wear Sharkwear or blue clothing

03/04 - Words Matter Assembly - Grades TK - 5th

03/08 - Spirit Day - Wear Sharkwear or blue clothing

03/15 - No School - Teacher Work Day

03/20-03/22 - Conference Days - Minimum Day Schedule

03/22 - Spirit Day - Wear Sharkwear or blue clothing

03/22 - School Auction - Save the Date!

03/29 - No School - Spring Break Starts

04/01-04/05 - No School Spring Break

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**



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>

PTA Bylaws:

PTA updates bylaws every 3 years. The attached bylaws will be discussed and raised for approval at the March 7th, 2024 PTA Association meeting. All PTA members are welcome to attend and vote.

If you have any questions, please reach out to: Alison Stracke BruinAL925@gmail.com or Dana Claffey Dana.Claffey@gmail.com

[BYLAWS](#)

Family Game Night:

Sharky invites your family to Sycamore for an evening of bingo, trivia, prizes, dinner and a ton of fun on **Friday, February 9th!** Dinner will be served at 6:00pm and games will begin at 6:30pm.

This is not a drop-off event. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets will go on sale 1/25 at 7 PM (they sell out quickly):

<https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/store>

We kindly request that your group is limited to children with a maximum of two adult guardians - this is a popular event and our space is limited to 150 participants. This is not a drop off event, and no tickets will be sold at the door.



GAMES FUN PRIZES

FAMILY EVENT | **FEB 9 6-8 PM** | **SYCAMORE MPR**

6:00 PM CHECK-IN & DINNER, 6:30 PM GAMES BEGIN
COST IS \$15 PER PERSON (INCLUDES PIZZA, CAESAR SALAD, WATER & COOKIE)



TICKETS GO ON SALE 1/25 AT 7:00PM
SYCAMOREVALLEY.FUTUREFUND.COM/STORE

*\$15 per person. 150 person capacity event. NO tickets will be sold at the door
Register on future fund and sign PTA waiver before Thursday February 8th.*



Astronomy Night:

Tuesday, February 13th, 2024

6:00 - 8:00pm on our school 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



FEBRUARY

13TH

6-8PM

Sycamore Valley
Elementary
Blacktop

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

This week only, save 25% on all Sycamore Valley 1/4 zips!

This includes styles from Nike, Adidas and Badger!

Shop Now: [Shark Spirit Shop](#)

Free Shipping \$75+

SYCAMORE VALLEY

ALL
CREWS
\$10
OFF

1ST PLACE 
Spiritwear



Pricing Valid Through 2/4/24

SHOP AT [1STPLACE.SALE/13542](https://1stplacesale.com/13542)

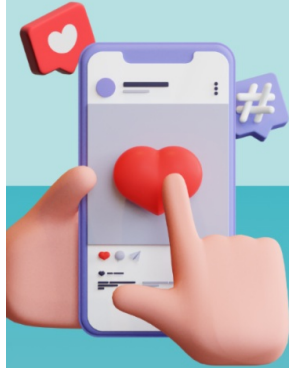


Registration now open! **CYBER SAFETY**

**A PRESENTATION FOR
PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS**

Topics of discussion will include:

- **Protecting Your Identity**
- **Online Reputation & Your Digital Footprint**
- **Cyber-bullying**
- **Sexting and Sextortion**



**Thursday, February 15, 2024
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

SRVUSD Board Rooms
699 Old Orchard Drive, Danville

Register at:
bit.ly/SRVUSDcybersafety

Event will also be live streamed at:
www.youtube.com/@srvcpta

Presented by:
**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SILICON VALLEY INTERNET CRIMES
AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE**

Other Resources:
commonsense.org and netismartz.org



Registration for Workshop:

[Cyber Safety Parent Education Workshop: 2/15/24](https://bit.ly)
bit.ly

Parent Engagement Workshops with the NAACP

SRVUSD Parents/Caregivers are invited and encouraged to attend these Parent Engagement Workshops, presented by the Hayward Chapter of the NAACP over the coming months.



PARENT ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP WITH NAACP



A PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

In Person Workshop Topics*

- Awareness and strategies to creating a safe learning space in the home
- Promoting good citizenship, attendance, and achievement
- Learn more about parental support and school participation
- Understanding CAASPP, CAST, and assessments
- Navigating social media

**Content and topics will be designed for the grade levels being covered in each session*

Presented by:

Hayward Chapter of the NAACP



QUESTIONS? email Dr. Hong Nguyen, Director of Educational Equity, at hnguyen2@srvusd.net.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Session for parents with students in grades TK-5
January 24, 2024
March 7, 2024

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Session for parents with students in grades 6-8
February 13, 2024
May 2, 2024

HIGH SCHOOL

Session for parents with students in grades 9-12
February 27, 2024
May 16, 2024

SRVUSD District Boardrooms

699 Old Orchard Drive, Danville
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



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 **9 books** (not 8 as previously misstated) 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:

Reminder that our WordMasters students will be taking Word List Test 2 **between Jan 29 and Feb 16**. Scores will be announced shortly after. Word List Test 3 (final word list) will be available at the end of February.

Research:

The research topic for January/February is **African Americans in Science**. Presentations can be in a trifold or poster board format. For this research topic, we will not be accepting slideshows (ppt), audio, or video presentations as all research presentations will be displayed in the MPR at this year's African American History Museum (AAHM). Students may work individually or in pairs.

Presentations are due **Friday, February 23rd**. Students should bring their presentations to the MPR for the AAHM taking place after school on 2/23. Please email rajedeol@gmail.com to get SLAM credit.

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



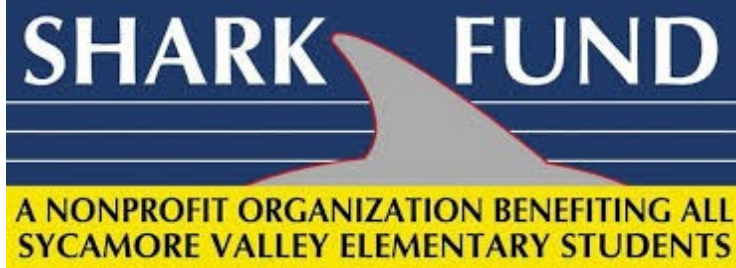
Download App



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!



**Sharky Cinema is back!
Join us on 2/7/24 for
Trolls Band Together in the MPR.**



Auction: Save The Date-

You're Invited to the 2024 Auction, A Night On The Red Carpet

Date: Friday, March 22, 2024

Location: Blackhawk Museum

Mark your calendars and prepare to walk the red carpet for an unforgettable evening that will support education and make you feel like a star. Stay tuned

for more details, including sponsorship opportunities, ticket information, and all the exciting highlights of the event.

We look forward to shining with you on the red carpet!



Sycamore Auction 2024

Sycamore's Auction is back and scheduled for:

Live Auction – Friday, March 22, 2024 at the Blackhawk Museum

Online Auction – Monday, March 18 - Sunday, March 24 2024

Parent Donations Needed:

We want to make it a huge success and are asking our Sycamore Families: what do YOU have to donate? Perhaps you have a getaway experience, sporting event tickets, restaurant gift cards or even a vacation rental home? Some of us have country club contacts for golf or tennis. Wine club members, will your winery donate a tasting, food pairing or bottles? Possibly you own a local company and want to donate your services or showcase your company's name by donating gift cards? Don't forget about asking grandparents or other family members who may want to donate as well! People love a tax-deductible donation & raising money for all of our children. Please view the attached letter for more information. Questions? Contact the Auction Co-Chairs Katerina McCormack and Christine Hoffman, at

sycamorevalleyauction.edfund@srvef.org

Socials - you've heard of the progressive party or boos and booze, which sell out in minutes! Let's get more socials on the calendar for ticket sales during the online auction! Email Adele for information and to get set up!

sycamorevalley.edfund@srvef.org

How to host a social:

Find some couples to help you host

Choose a theme & date

Set your number of tickets to be sold!

100% of ticket sale proceeds go to Shark Fund

Calling All Auction Volunteers!

Are you interested in helping to make our event a huge success, join us Tuesday at 8am in the MPR for an auction job fair.

Meet committee members, ask questions, join the team.

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:

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 CHEVRON APPLE ROBERT HALF AIG BRISTO-MYERS SQUIBB INTEL KAISER CLOROX EBAY

CISCO FARGO FOUNDATION WELLS FARGO MCKESSON FOUNDATION VISA LPL FINANCIAL SERVICES GOOGLE ADOBE LINKEDIN VEEVA SYSTEMS VERIZON BANK OF AMERICA AIG

AT&T YNCH CARRIS AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING INC. ROCHE MOLECULAR BANK OF THE WEST CHUBB WORKDAY DODGE & COX EBAY ORACLE CONSTELLATION PG&E



A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION BENEFITTING ALL SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS



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

NOVARTIS VISA APPLE MERCK GARTNER EBAY PEPSICO BRISTO-MYERS SQUIBB CHEVRON VISA APPLE MERCK GARTNER EBAY AT&T ADOBE WELLS FARGO



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



Library Corner

It's hard to believe that we are already in February!

We unfortunately have a huge number of books missing / not returned already.

Any books checked out in December (and before) will be marked lost until they are returned.

Please help your reader find their missing library books, or replace the book/pay the fine and let me know via email at:

jprindiville@srvusd.net.

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

Take Care,
Jen Prindiville
Library Media Coordinator
Sycamore Valley Elementary

Sharky Shout Out:

Our Book Swap committee has been working hard to make our upcoming book swap a success! Thanks for being out collecting books rain or shine this week!



Mark your calendar:

February 01, 2024 @ 4:00pm
The meeting will be virtual.

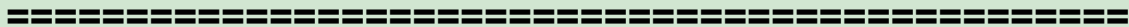
Meeting ID

meet.google.com/cyd-okcu-kni

Phone Numbers (US)

[+1 484-364-5985](tel:+14843645985)

PIN: 396 670 124#



More information about Site Council is available at:

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



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.



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 - Winter 2024 - Session #3 - 1/18-3/14

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

[Unsubscribe bjones1@srvusd.net](mailto:bjones1@srvusd.net)

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