

Sycamore Valley Elementary SHARK BITES



Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal February 16, 2023

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you and your family are well.

This week we have enjoyed Valentine's Day, Teen Esteem Assemblies and some fairly broad swings in the weather! Everyone enjoyed a bit of fun sharing kindness with one another on Tuesday. I did a read aloud in Mrs. Schembri's kindergarten class and it was adorable to see the kinder kiddos decked out in Valentine wear - they were literally wearing their hearts on their sleeves!

Please keep reading for some dates to remember, reminders about the drop off procedures, the Character Trait of the Month, the upcoming Social Emotional Well Being Survey, and a parent engagement opportunity with the NAACP.

Dates to Remember:

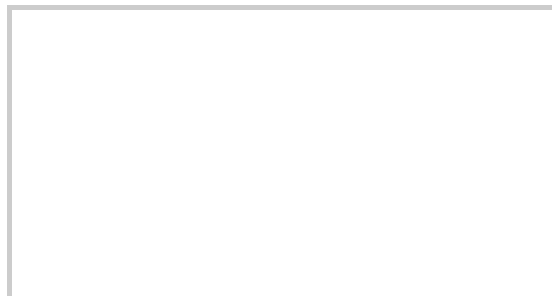
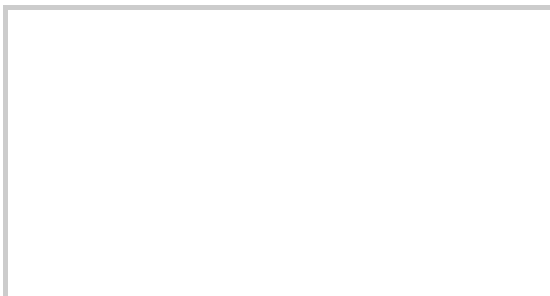
Spirit Day Friday - wear Shark Wear of Sycamore Blue to show your school spirit!

02/20/23 - No School - Presidents Day

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

02/24/23 - African American History Museum

Teen Esteem Assembly:





Drop Off Procedures:

Please remember the following protocols when dropping off your child in the morning. First, if you are late, please do not drop your child off in the parking lot. It is very dangerous to cross at the crosswalk and we are not always able to provide coverage after 8:00a.m. Second, please wait in line to drop your child off. It is unsafe to pull ahead of cars waiting in the line as cars are beginning to pull out or pull up. I am very concerned that we may have an accident one morning. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our students and families safe.

Character Trait of the Month:

I can't believe that we are halfway through the month and I haven't yet shared the character trait of the month. It is courageous. We have enjoyed two lovely stories that exemplify courage in action. The first is called *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall. This is a story about a little boy who summoned the courage to jump off the high dive at the local pool. The second story is called *Mel Fell* by Corey R. Tabor. This is an adorable story about a little bird who summons the courage to fly for the first time. Both stories have been hits with the children and I have enjoyed sharing them with the students.

Social Emotional Well Being Survey:

At the end of the month we will be administering the 2nd and final Social Emotional Well Being Survey for the school year. Please see the following link for more details and the opt out procedure.

[**Social Emotional Well Being Parent Letter**](#)

Parent Engagement with the NAACP:

We are continuing to expand opportunities for all parents and caregivers to engage in topics of interest that connect to our Strategic Directions. Parents/caregivers are invited to join either in-person or virtually to learn more about the following:

- 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

Please see this [**flyer**](#) for more information.

Thank you for the gift of your child,
Patricia Kawahara

GO SHARKS!

IMPORTANT DATES



Enrollment for NEW 1st - 5th graders Opens - 23/24 School Year
Enrollment for NEW TK/K continues -23/24 School Year

02/17 - Spirt Day - Wear Sharkwear or Blue attire
02/20 - No School - Presidents Day
02/21 - No School - Staff Development Day
02/22 - 5th Grade Group Panorama & "23" photo taken before lunch
02/24 - Spirt Day - Wear Sharkwear or Blue attire
02/24 - African American History Museum - MPR 2:30-4:30pm
03/01 - Job Fair - MPR - 8:00am
03/01 - Dippin' Dots - After School
03/10 - Family Game Night
03/15 - Dippin' Dots - After School

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**

Sycamore Shade Solutions Committee

Are you interested in being part of the solution for shade on our blacktop? Please fill out the following form with contact information if you are interested in being on a committee with a few Sycamore teachers to discuss and map out shade solutions for our blacktop. Please note: there may be some meetings after school, please plan to be flexible in the teachers' schedules.

Shade Screen Committee Form: [Shade Screen Committee Form](#)



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 



Sycamore PTA, Shark Fund and Site Council needs your help next school year. If positions are not filled for crucial roles the programs could dissolve which would be devastating to our Sycamore Community. It doesn't take a lot to make a huge impact in your child's school!

PTA, SHARK FUND & SITE COUNCIL

Sycamore

Volunteer Job Fair

- ◆ Wednesday, March 1
8AM in the MPR

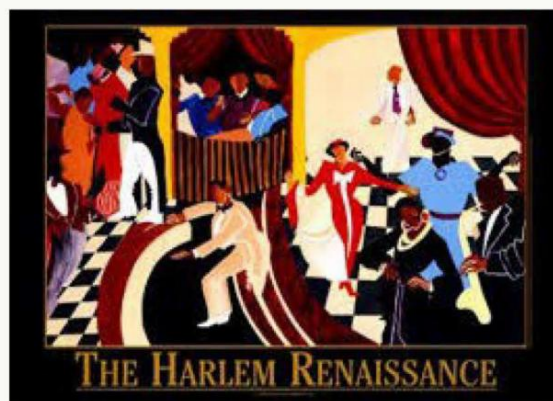


Questions? Jen Cook jniferk@yahoo.com (925) 817-0141



COME JOIN US AT
THE
**AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISTORY MUSEUM**

Friday, February 24, 2:30PM-4:30PM
Sycamore Valley Elementary MPR



All are welcome to attend and participate. Please visit the Sign Up Genius now to see how you can get involved with this amazing school wide event-

The students will interact with exhibits that feature the contributions of African Americans from the Harlem Renaissance. The museum will showcase-

- Sycamore Valley students dressed up as live statues of African American Harlem Renaissance Musicians, Artists, and Writers
- Live music from the San Ramon Valley High School's Jazz Ensemble
- Book Corner with Angela Dalton, Author of To Boldly Go. Preorder here-
<https://www.harpercollins.com/products/to-boldly-go-how-nichelle-nichols-and-star-trek-helped-advance-civil-rights-angela-dalton?variant=40371661439010>
- Harlem Renaissance themed Dress up/Picture Taking Station
- Interactive Scavenger Hunt

African American History Museum -

Student Live Statues Volunteer Sign Up for Feb 24 & Parent Volunteers to Supervise and Take Down Museum on Feb 27:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4faca82ba7fb6-black1#/
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4faca82ba7fb6-black1#/)

African American History Museum -

Setup Morning of Volunteer Sign Up on Feb 24:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4faca82ba7fb6-black#/
/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4faca82ba7fb6-black#/)

Here is the link to preorder Angela Dalton's book

-<https://www.harpercollins.com/products/to-boldly-go-how-nichelle-nichols-and-star-trek-helped-advance-civil-rights-angela-dalton?variant=40371661439010>

Spring Family Game Night is back!!!

Tickets on Sale 2/13 at 7:00pm. Capacity Limited to 150 attendees.
****Please note: maximum of TWO adult chaperones per family.****



GAMES FUN PRIZES

FAMILY | **MAR 10** | **SYCAMORE**
EVENT | **6-8 PM** | **MPR**



TICKETS GO ON SALE 2/13 AT 7:00PM

SIGN-UP: SYCAMOREVALLEY.FUTUREFUND.COM/STORE



Attention parents!

Help us raise \$30K during our Shark Fund Online Auction!

We're planning for our biggest fundraiser of the year - the Shark Fund Online Auction, March 20-26. Each year the auction helps us fund part of our \$250K budget for para salaries and critical school programs, and **we need YOUR help.**

- Do you own a small business that can donate items or a gift certificate?

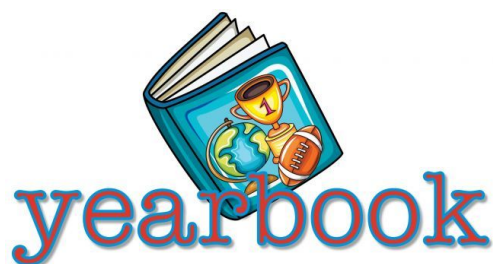
- Do you have a rental property that a lucky family can bid to stay at during a weekend?
- Do you have season tickets for a sports team or theater where you can donate tickets for one game or performance?
- Do you have a connection to secure merchandise or other great items?
- Do you have unused gift cards to donate?

Physical items including gift cards can be dropped off at the Sycamore parking lot on the turf field side on February 6, 8 and 10 between 7:45-8:05 am. Look for the auction signs!!! If you plan to donate an item and need a record of donation, please fill out the [Auction Donation Google Form](#).

If you have property, season tickets or other connections to share, please fill out the [Auction Donation Google Form](#) or email sycamorevalley.edfund@srvef.org so that we can feature them in the online auction.

Thank you for supporting our Sharks!

Special thanks to a few of our generous donors from the 2022 auction!
Steele and Guglielmelli families donated 49ers tickets which raised \$2,030!
Gates family donated San Jose Sharks tickets which raised \$1,600!
Fernando family donated a 2-night stay at their Arnold cabin which raised \$1,100!



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!



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

We are looking for **VOLUNTEERS** for the 2023/2024 SLAM Program! No experience necessary!!

The SLAM Program is run entirely by parent volunteers. We have a role for everyone. If you're great with kids or talented in math or science, we have a role for you. If you want to sit behind your computer and send emails, no problem!! We have one time events as well as school year programs.

Please check out the [Volunteer tab](#) on our website for programs that need volunteers next year or email goscymoreslam@gmail.com

RESEARCH

Our next research project is African American History Month

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

Please view the [Research](#) tab for more details.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Good luck to our 5th grade team and 3/4th grade team at the Norcal Qualifying Tournament happening on **Sat, Feb 25th!**

SUPERSCIENCE

Feb issue due **March 6, 2023**

SCIENCE FAIR

Get ready for the 2023 Science Fair which will happen on **Fri, April 14th @ 2:30pm** in the MPR.

Open to all 3rd - 5th graders, students will answer scientific questions using The Scientific Method and present their experiment and findings in a tri-fold poster board presentation.

If you haven't already, you can [sign up for the Science Fair here](#).

Any questions about SLAM?

Please email : goscymoreslam@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.

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

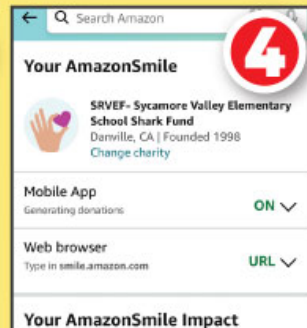
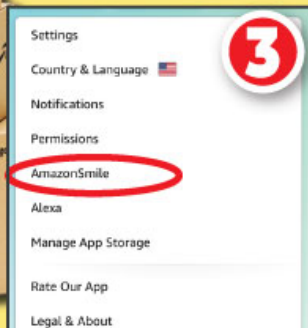
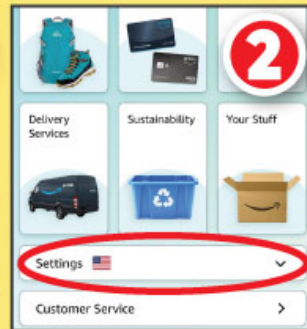
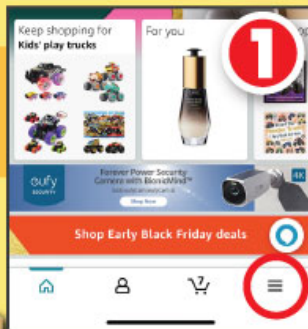
amazonsmile
You shop, Amazon gives!



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

\$5 each

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!

- 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 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:
3/1, 3/15, 3/29 (last day to purchase punch cards)
*****weather permitting*****

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

"Dippin Dots has raised over **\$6,400** 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

It's that time of year where I am processing all lost and missing books from the first half of the school year. Unfortunately, we are still missing hundreds of dollars worth of library materials.

PLEASE help your student return borrowed materials!

In addition - please check your email for lists of materials that are very overdue.

There are fines attached that will need to be paid before the end of the school year, and to allow your student to continue to check out books each week from the library. Unfortunately the library doesn't not have funds to replace these items so once they are gone, they are gone for all. Thank you for your cooperation!



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 Christine Hoffman for all your talents
that touch every part of school!**

**All your creative ideas for our flyers, bold new displays on the
marquis, spirit wear designs, directory...the list goes on and on.
Oh yeah and helping Dippin Dot Dana at every event!**



The next Site Council meeting will be held on:
Date to Be Determined in March
@ 4:00pm via Google Meet.

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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 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 - Cancelled

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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

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

FRANKLIN TEMPLETON
CHEVRON **APPLE** **AIG** **BRISTO-MYERS SQUIBB** **INTEL** **KAISER** **EBAY**
 ROBERT HALF **GENENTECH** **CLOROX**

CISCO
WELLS FARGO **AT&T**
 MCKESSON **LYNCH**
 VISA **MERRILL LYNCH**
 LPL FINANCIAL **ROCHE MOLECULAR** **AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING INC.**
GOOGLE **BANK OF THE WEST**
 ADOBE
LINKEDIN **VEVA SYSTEMS**
VERIZON **WORKDAY** **DODGE & COX**
 BANK OF AMERICA **ORACLE**
AIG **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

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

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

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