

# Sycamore Valley Elementary **SHARK BITES**



## Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal March 09, 2023

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Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you and your family are well.

This time of year, we are digging deep into curriculum and enjoying being together in these fairly normal days before the mad rush of Spring Break and testing usher in the end of the school year.

This Saturday, April 11th, we turn the clocks forward for Daylight Savings time. Please work with your kiddos to continue with the normal daily routine. Bedtimes can often get pushed back as the clocks say it is 8:00 but our internal clock says it is 7:00. Trying to keep to the usual routine will help children adjust to the new time.

Following are some dates to remember, driving reminders, information about the Character Trait of the Month, and information about Shark Fund Auction and Carnival.

### **Dates to Remember:**

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

**03/17/23 - No School - Teacher Work Day**

**03/20-03/26** - Online Auction

**03/22-03/24** - Parent/Teacher Conferences

### **Driving Reminders:**

Please do not turn into Meadowbrook neighborhood, across from Holbrook, to avoid the line of cars on Camino Tassajara. We need to respect the families that live in this neighborhood.

Remember to be courteous of the drivers in line to drop off their children. Please be patient and stay in line. Do not drive to the front of the line and cut off cars. This is both disrespectful as well as not safe.

### **Character Trait of the Month:**

This month's trait is Creativity. I have shared with the students that I tend to think of creativity in terms of the arts but in reading stories with them I am expanding my understanding to include creative thinking, imagination, and problem solving. Some fun titles that we are looking at are *The Big Orange Splot* by Daniel Manus Pinkwater, *Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis, *Drawn Together* by Minh Le, and *What to do with an Idea* by Kobi Yamada. *The Big Orange Splot* is a silly story about a man who is very creative in painting his house - over and over again. *Not a Box* is a fun story about a rabbit that thinks outside the box about a box. *Drawn Together* is a heartwarming story about a boy and his grandfather who struggle to communicate due to a language barrier and discover that they are able to communicate and connect through collaborative drawings. *What to do with an Idea* is a beautiful story about the impact an idea can have on the world. You might ask your child about the story their class read.

### **Shark Fund News:**

There are 2 big Shark Fund sponsored events coming up this month. The first is our online auction March 20-26. More details are mentioned in the newsletter below. The second event is our family Carnival on March 24th on our blacktop. This is a fun community event.

Both of these events raise much needed funds to support resources for our Sharks?

Thank you for the gift of your child,  
Patricia Kawahara

**GO SHARKS!**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**



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

**03/06-03/10 - High Tech Burrito Giveback Event**  
**03/06-03/10 - Words Matter Week**

**03/09-03/29 - Food Drive for Sister School**

03/10 - Family Game Night - SOLD OUT  
03/11 - Daylights Saving - Spring Forward  
03/15 - Dippin' Dots - After School

03/20-03/26 - Online Auction

03/24 - Carnival - Blacktop - 3:00-5:30pm  
03/29 - Dippin' Dots - After School

04/03-04/07 - Spring Break - No School

04/12 - Math Placement Exam -for 5th graders that are entering Middle School  
04/29 - Truck Time - San Ramon - 9:00 - 1:00 - See flyer

## 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



**REMEMBER:**

Set your clocks ahead 1 hour before you go to bed on  
Saturday night, March 11th, 2023.

## Sycamore Carnival

We have so many fun spring events coming up!  
The Sycamore Carnival is first up, on March 24th. Grab your [tickets](#)  
before sales close and help support our school.  
The money from these carnival tickets directly support your students'  
classroom paras, as one example.  
If you have the ability to volunteer, that signup can be found [here](#).

### Carnival Volunteer Opportunities!

Our Sycamore Valley school carnival is quickly approaching on March 24th and I bet you are wondering  
how can I get involved? Here are 4 easy ways!

1. Follow this link to the Sign Up Genius to help with planning and day of events!  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4da9aa28abf85-shark#/>
2. Sponsor a booth! It's as easy as visiting our Future Fund Site and making a donation! We will even  
hang your name on our booth as a sponsor!
3. Help your 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grader host a booth! A letter will be sent home next week!
4. Buy your Carnival and dinner tickets starting March 1st on Future Fund and support this wonderful  
event!

Every penny goes back to our awesome school and its amazing programs!

Email Meghan Gates at:  
[meghanmollygates@gmail.com](mailto:meghanmollygates@gmail.com) with any questions

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SHARK FUND PRESENTS

★ THE SYCAMORE ★

24  
MAR

3-5  
PM



★ FAMILY | MARCH 24 | SYCAMORE ★  
★ EVENT | 3:00-5:00 PM | BLACKTOP ★

COME ONE, COME ALL!

- ★ TICKETS WILL BE PRESOLD ON FUTURE FUND FOR \$25.
- ★ DINNER TICKETS SOLD SEPARATELY FOR \$10.  
INCLUDES A SLICE OF PIZZA, CHIPS AND A DRINK.
- ★ NOT A DROP OFF EVENT. PARENTS MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE.



[SYCAMOREVALLEY.FUTUREFUND.COM/STORE](http://SYCAMOREVALLEY.FUTUREFUND.COM/STORE)

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## Elite Corporate Sponsors

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# Thank you to Sycamore's 22-23 Platinum Corporate Sponsors



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DRE #01897334



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925.389.2380

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INTERNATIONAL REALTY



## Supporting the Child You Have: A conversation with author Debbie Reber

Join us virtually in a conversation with Debbie Reber, author of "Differently Wired" and Creator of the "Tilt Parenting Podcast". Please register in advance for this Zoom event which will take place on March 28, 7:00 to 8:00 pm. One out of five kids is "differently wired:" dealing with ADHD, autism, anxiety, dyslexia, giftedness--and sometimes more than one neurodiversity. Debbie speaks to parents/caregivers of these kids as well as to all parents/caregivers and staff in offering practical advice to support kids, manage parenthood and find community.

Register via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvd-yoqjkjHN0HfHadilJyXyJOHe8oxwMf>

Interested in reading the book? Check out your local library or any bookstore!  
In anticipation of this event, Rakestraw Books in Danville has additional copies available for purchase.

Questions? Please contact our SRV Council of PTAs VP for Family Engagement, Krista Glaser at [familyengagement@srvscouncilpta.org](mailto:familyengagement@srvscouncilpta.org)

JOIN US VIRTUALLY IN CONVERSATION WITH

**Debbie Reber**

Author of 'Differently Wired' and Creator of the 'Tilt Parenting' Podcast

This event is sponsored by the the San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs.

Register [www.srvcouncilpta.org](http://www.srvcouncilpta.org)

One out of five kids is "differently wired:" dealing with ADHD, autism, anxiety, dyslexia, giftedness--and sometimes more than one neurodiversity. Debbie speaks to parents and caregivers of these kids as well as to all parents/caregivers and staff in offering practical advice to support kids, manage parenthood and find community.

Extra copies of 'Differently Wired' available now at Rakestraw Books



San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs  
**PTA**  
empowering our future!  
[www.srvcouncilpta.org](http://www.srvcouncilpta.org)



## Sister School Program

San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs

Sign up to donate food items for our Sister School - King Elementary

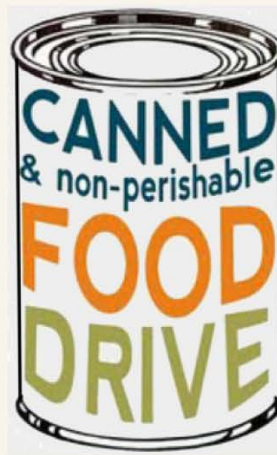
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094ba5af2aabfc1-nonperishable4#/>

**Flyer**

Sycamore Valley Elementary

# We "Can" Do It!

**MARCH 9-29**



Sign Up [HERE](#) to donate food items for our Sister School, King Elementary, in Richmond.



Please put donated items in the bin in front of the school entrance or porch drop at 626 Ambience Way

Items needed:  
Canned soup, beans, meat (tuna or chicken), vegetables, fruit, rice, pasta, cereal, and snacks

For more information, contact [kimberlyeves@yahoo.com](mailto:kimberlyeves@yahoo.com)

SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## ONLINE AUCTION MARCH 20-26, 2023



**SNEAK PEEK**

### GET READY TO BID ON THESE AMAZING ITEMS:

Club access for 4 to see the reigning NFC champion 49ers, with exclusive pre-game field access!



VIP parking spot at school!

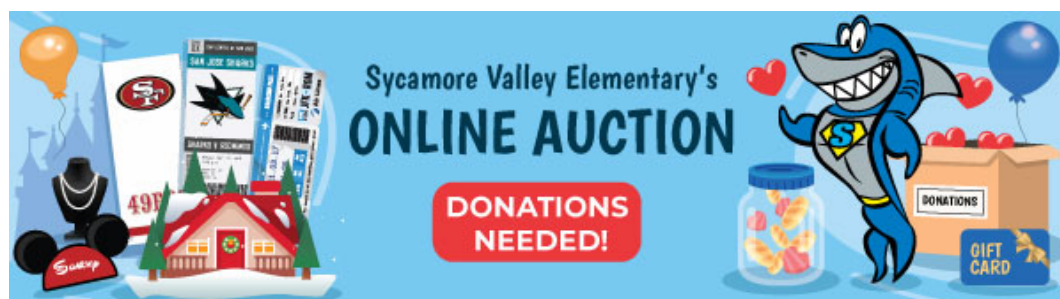


5-Diamond Vidanta Resort week-long splurge at the Grand Luxxe in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico!



EVERY DOLLAR OF PROFIT FUNDS SALARIES FOR CLASSROOM PARAS, LIBRARY, TK/KINDER PE, RAINBOW ROOM, OFFICE SUPPORT, AND READING INTERVENTION





**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?

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](mailto: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!



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**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](mailto:goscymoreslam@gmail.com)

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### RESEARCH

Shout out to **Vanya Dodeja, Zoya Kashif** and **Renee Kim** for completing the Feb project for African American History month! You can view Zoya and Renee's trifolds in the library for the next few weeks.

Our last research project is Women's History due **Fri, March 24th**. Please view the [Research](#) tab for more details.

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**ODYSSEY OF THE MIND**

Sycamore's 3rd/4th grade team placed **FIRST** at their Regional Qualifying Tournament on March 4!!



Congrats to **Karthik Jayaraman, Saanvi Lakhotia, Rohan Dasgupta, Priyansh Kshirsagar, Tvisha Madhav, and Parinaz Mann!!**



**We are so proud that both Sycamore Odyssey teams will advance to the Norcal State Tournament on March 25th!**

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### SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

Sycamore's science experts are preparing for their competition on March 18th. Good luck!

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### 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](#).

### 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).

## 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 **\$7,100** 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)



## Library Corner

Battle of the books is coming May 10th.  
More details to come.

Take Care,  
Jen Prindiville / Library Media Coordinator

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

Turn imagination into real life! Join us for a fun, interactive outdoor family festival that encourages children (and their adults) to explore the trucks and

vehicles they see around them all the time, and maybe some they've never seen before.

**Saturday, April 29, 2023, 9:00 am to 1:00pm**  
**2700 Camino Ramon, San Ramon**

Visit [www.TruckTimeSanRamon.org](http://www.TruckTimeSanRamon.org) for additional details and to pre-purchase tickets. Tickets are \$4.99 per person (age 1 and over) if purchased in advance, or \$7 on the event day.

This event is presented by the Dougherty Valley/San Ramon Rotary Club.

It benefits the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation,  
the San Ramon Historic Foundation,  
the Dougherty Valley/San Ramon Rotary Club and its Foundation.



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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.

## Sharky Shout Out:

Thank you Catherine Sjoberg, Cami Severson, Jen Prindiville,  
Kristina Buskirk, and our participating students for all your hard work in  
Science, Language Arts, Math and Research in our Extracurricular  
Extension SLAM program.



The next Site Council meeting will be held on:  
March 9th @ 4:00pm via Google Meet.

Meeting ID

[meet.google.com/aeh-cnrk-afr](https://meet.google.com/aeh-cnrk-afr)

Phone Numbers

+1 832-821-6669

PIN: 277 056 956#

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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)**

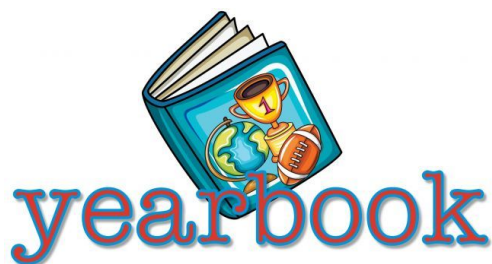
The Sycamore School Site Council (SY SSC) is governed by state guidelines and makes sure the school LCAP goals, School Safety Plan and School Plan for Achievement are completed, reviewed and updated annually.

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](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://sy.es.srvusd.net/Families/Site-Council/Site-Council/index.html>



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## **Reminder to Upload Photos -**

Given all of the fun activities lately (past and upcoming), please share your photos for our yearbook committee.



# Want your **PHOTOS** in the **YEARBOOK?**



**So do we!** All students, parents and teachers can contribute to the yearbook by uploading photos for potential use. You can share photos of classroom activities, school events or shots of your children and their friends (ideal photos include 3-4 students)!

Remember to provide as much detail as possible such as the names and grades of the students pictured, plus, event/activity.

**The more you share, the better our yearbook can be!**

## Start sharing today! 3 ways to upload:

QR Code



Website



Download App



HJ eShare

enter school code **sycamoresharks**

*While we cannot guarantee that all shared photos will be published, if you don't share your great pictures, it can't even be considered!*

AFTER  SCHOOL

# ENRICHMENT



## **Black Dragon Chess - Spring 2023**

Chess classes will be offered **Thursday** afternoons 2:35pm - 3:35pm.

Mar. 30 - May 25, 2023

See attached flyer to sign up. (flyer will be available soon)

**Chess Enrichment Class**



## **Basketball - Winter 2023 - Postponed**

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**

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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.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

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