

Sycamore Valley Elementary SHARK BITES



Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal August 17, 2023

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

We are off to a great start! The focus at the start of the year is on setting children up for success by sharing our expectations and routines. Teachers can be seen leading classes around campus to explain how we move in each setting (library expectations look different than playground expectations, etc.). Over the past week I have led grade level assemblies for students in grades 1st through 5th to review expectations in common spaces (playground, MPR, etc.). We will revisit these expectations throughout the school year, so we are all operating with a common understanding and students are successful no matter where they are on campus. As a community we are also building our connections as we strive to provide safe spaces where all students are welcome. Teachers are leading students in community circles and other community building activities. We know that the time we put into this work now and throughout the year minimizes the amount of time we spend managing conflicts and correcting behaviors. All of which means that we are better able to foster academic growth.

Keep reading for some dates to remember, schedule information (as the schedule shifts a lot in August!), the link to the Site Council ballot, the upcoming Social Emotional Well Being survey and an introduction to new members of the Sycamore Valley Elementary team.

Dates to Remember:

08/11 - 08/18 = Assessment Day Schedule view August Schedule for times: [August Schedule](#)

08/21 - Regular Bell Schedule begins [August Schedule](#)

08/30 - School Photos

August Schedule Reminder:

August is a busy month with a variety of bell schedules. To help keep your family on track, here is a document with all of the August times.

[August Bell Schedule](#)

Bell Schedule:

For those of you who need it, here is a link to Sycamore's Bell Schedule for this school year:

[Bell Schedule: TK - 5th Daily Bell Schedule](#)

Site Council Ballot:

You should have received the link for the Site Council ballot but just in case, you can't here is the link to the Ballot for the open Site Council positions.

Voting closes Monday. [Site Council Voting Form](#)

Please vote for up to four (4) candidates only. Ballot is open through Monday, August 21, 2023 @ 3:00pm.

Here is the link to read the bios before you cast your vote.

[Bios for our candidates](#)

Social Emotional Well Being Survey:

Please open this link for information about the Social Emotional Well Being (SEWB) survey that we administer twice a year.

[SY23-24 ELEMENTARY: letter to community](#)

It is my pleasure to introduce the newest members of our team!

As is often the case, there have been some shifts in staffing over the summer. Madyson Benz, one of our fabulous first grade teachers, has left us to start her administrative career with Mount Diablo Unified. Kerry Kunde (Reading Intervention Para) and Marie Hernbroth (Resource Para) have both left to enjoy retirement. Jonathan Johnson is now the lead custodian at Bollinger Canyon Elementary. We miss all of them terribly and we wish them well in their new adventures.

Following are new staff members. Please join me in welcoming them to our community:

Classroom Paras: Nancy Franklin, Elza Abraham and Elizabeth Sorley are all long-time community members and Sycamore volunteers who are officially joining our team.

Lead Custodian: Ricardo Alvarez-Alcala has come to us from Bollinger Canyon. Mr. Alvarez-Alcala has 13 years of experience and is using that expertise to partner with Marva Lockwood (our night custodian) to help Sycamore shine!

Resource Para: Wendy Kettenstock comes to us with years of experience in the district. She worked at both Monte Vista and San Ramon Valley High respectively where she served as the Resource Para. She is greatly enjoying the switch from working with high schoolers on chemistry classwork to supporting our littles with foundational academic skills.

Liaison: Katie Inkabi comes into this position with a strong equity and instructional background, having served as an Equity Liaison last year at Alamo and Rancho Romero and teaching for 13 years, five of which were also at Alamo.

Teacher on Special Assignment, Admin (TSA): Tiffany Goh has served as the MTSS Liaison at both Tassajara Hills and Creekside for the past 2 years and taught for 10 years. Mrs. Goh brings a strong systems and instructional

perspective to her work.

Occupational Therapist: Vanessa Chan is new to the district and excited to be part of the Sycamore community!

We are delighted to have so many dedicated professionals join our team. We are still working on filling a few more positions. We will keep you updated as we make progress.

Have a wonderful week!!

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

08/01 - 09/01 = Online Registration for all new and returning families attending Sycamore: <https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/registration>

08/11 - 08/18 = Assessment Day Schedule view August Schedule for times:
[August Schedule](#)

08/21 - Regular Bell Schedule begins [August Schedule](#)

08/21 - K and 1st Grade - Early Shark / Late Shark Schedule begins

08/23 Dippin Dots (weather permitting)

08/30 - School Photos

09/06 PTA meeting

09/20 - Shark Fund Meeting - Virtual - 6:30pm

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**

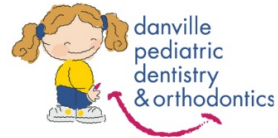


<https://www.ciphotoca.com/sycamorevalley>

School photos will be taken on Wednesday, August 30th during school hours. This photo will appear in our yearbook. You are welcome to order school photos. Here is the link. You will need to know your child's student number. This can be found in your parent portal.

Elite Corporate Sponsors

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



The Lost & Found rack is located at the front of our school near the MPR.

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.



Positions Open:

Parent Representatives (4) &
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.

As a reminder, parent representatives must be elected by the parent community.

Here is the link to the Ballot for our candidates.
Please vote for up to four (4) candidates only. Ballot is open through Monday, August 21, 2023 @ 3:00pm.

Site Council Voting Form

Here is the link to read the bios before your cast your vote.

Bios for our candidates

**The next Site Council meeting will be held in:
In September
All parents/guardians are welcome!**

More information about Site Council is available at:

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



WHY JOIN?

SYCAMORE PTA NEEDS YOU!



#1 OUR STUDENTS BENEFIT

Help your child perform better academically by being an active participant and role model in the community that helps raise your child!



#2 OUR SCHOOL BENEFITS

Help create a positive, caring, and engaging community by supporting the teachers and administration!



#3 CREATE CONNECTIONS

Develop powerful relationships with teachers and staff while making life-long friends with other parents!



#4 YOU BENEFIT

Volunteering your time, talents, and energy while socializing with other parents is fun, healthy, and rewarding!



READY
TO SIGN UP?

Contact PTA President Dana Claffey at dana.claffey@gmail.com or join us for one of our monthly meetings, held every first Wednesday. Info in Sharkbites

Official Back to School Sale

Save 30% on all Sycamore Valley spirit wear during the Back to School Sale!
Choose from hundreds of designs and garments, all delivered to your home in days.
New spirit items ! Order by Sept 7th.

[Shop Now!](#)

SYCAMORE VALLEY
THE OFFICIAL ONLINE STORE



BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALE

A collection of school spiritwear items: a blue polo shirt with 'SV' logo, a grey t-shirt with a rainbow and 'Sycamore Valley' text, a blue hoodie with 'SHARKS' and 'ELEMENTARY SCHOOL' text, a yellow t-shirt with 'SHARKS' and a shark logo, a black water bottle with a shark logo, and a black baseball cap with 'SHARKS' and '20 24' text.

**30% OFF
SITEWIDE!**

FREE SHIPPING
ORDERS OVER \$75



or SCAN HERE
TO ORDER

1ST PLACE  Spiritwear | **SALE RUNS: AUG 8th - SEP 7th**
ORDER AT: [1STPLACE.SALE/13542](https://1stplace.sale/13542)



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

Any questions about SLAM?
Please email : goscamoslam@gmail.com



Online Registration for Sycamore Valley Elementary

August 1, 9:00am - September 1, 2023, 11:30pm

Registration is school site specific, regarding activities such as volunteer opportunities, support for your students' classroom (materials and technology), Shark Fund contributions to our award winning programs for your student (Para-Educators for your student's class, weekly library visits, reading intervention programs, Kinder & TK PE, office support, and more), PTA membership, our wonderful art program, directory preferences/orders, yearbook orders, spirit wear, etc.

Site specific registration for Sycamore Valley is done on an annual basis online: <https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/registration>

You will need to create a FutureFund account. This site will take you through a series of steps to complete your child(ren)'s registration.

Your support during registration is vital to our school, Shark Fund, and PTA to ensure your Sycamore students have the very best classroom support, materials, and technology equipment. Registration ensures your directory preferences are up-to-date, provides information about volunteer opportunities, and allows you to purchase items such as a yearbook, directory and more.

Registration will take about 15 minutes. Information can be saved in case you cannot complete the entire process at one time, but make sure you press submit before September 1st. Check your receipt to ensure it went through.

Have questions about registration?

Contact: Rebecca Betzina at rebecca.betzina@gmail.com



Dippin' Dot Calendar:

8/23 Dippin Dots (weather permitting)

*****Punch Cards can be used this school year*****

Shark Fund would like to Thank You for your support with our Dippin' Dot Wednesday Fundraiser. Dippin' Dots has raised over \$8,500 during the 22-23 school year. 100% of Dippin' Dot proceeds benefit your students with:

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.

If you have lost your Punch Card or have any questions, please contact -
Dippin' Dot Dana at 925-407-7178 or dana.claffey@gmail.com



Library Corner

Library visits will begin soon!

I am so excited to welcome all of our Sharks to the library this year!

Your Shark Fund donations make it possible for me to have enough time in the week to see each and every class. Thank you for your generosity and support!

If you are interested in being a library volunteer and missed the Back to School sign ups, please reach out to your room parent, and they will forward the information to me.

Take Care,
Jen Prindiville / Library Media Coordinator

Sharky Shout Out:

Thank you Tiffany Shugrue, Cara Gamble and all the parent volunteers who helped kick off the new school year for our new families. They hosted a TK/Kinder Dippin Dot Social, New Family Information Night and a Parent coffee on the first day of school!



Black Dragon Chess - Fall 2023

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

Chess class will be held in our school library.

Aug. 24 - Nov. 02, 2023

See attached flyer to sign up.

[Chess Enrichment Class](#)



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

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

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