

Sycamore Valley Elementary SHARK BITES



Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal August 31, 2023

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you and your family are doing well and are looking forward to the three day weekend! It is hard to believe that September and fall are just around the corner. We are in full swing and digging into rich content.

Keep reading for some dates to remember, information about Sycamore Valley's and SRVUSD's focus areas, an introduction to new staff members, reminders about registration, attendance protocols and drop off / pick up expectations and information from SRVUSD.

Dates to Remember:

09/04 - Labor Day - No School

09/06 - PTA Meeting

09/21 - Festival Around the World

09/25 - No School

09/26 - No School

New staff:

We are delighted to have some additional new staff members join our team. Please join me in welcoming the following the following team members:

Instrumental Music: I am thrilled to introduce Jason Jennings as our new Instrumental Music Specialist. Mr. Jennings has a decade of experience as a classroom music teacher. He is splitting his time between us and Los Cerros. The Instrumental Music Program is open to 4th and 5th graders.

Para Educator: Liz Sorley is joining us as a Para-Educator. Mrs. Sorley is a community member, with three children currently attending Sycamore Valley. Mrs. Sorley also happens to be a former Sycamore Valley teacher

- having taught here early in her career. We are excited to have her back on the Sycamore staff.

Instructional Assistant: Amna Khalid has joined our team as the Reading Intervention Para-Educator. Mrs. Khalid is a SRVUSD parent and has multiple years of experience as a reading intervention para in Antioch. We are sure we will benefit from her expertise.

Registration for Sycamore Valley Elementary closes September 1st at 11:30pm:

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

Registration is different from enrollment. While your student is already enrolled at Sycamore, Online Registration must be completed each August. **Currently only 80% of Sycamore students have completed registration and we need your help to ensure we get 100% of our Sycamore families registered by September 1st.** Not sure if you finished registration - if you don't see "Registration Receipt" at the top of

<https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/registration> now is the time to finish!

Attendance Reminder:

- If your child is not feeling well and 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 may 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.

Drop-Off/Pick-Up Expectations:

Drop-Off is going much smoother than in years past and we greatly appreciate everyone's cooperation with the new procedures. Following are a few friendly reminders to help keep the line moving smoothly and ensure everyone's safety.

1. Please wait in the drop-off/pick-up line. Trying to merge into the drop-off line at the curb creates a backup, may cause an accident and is irritating to the drivers in the line.
2. Please be sure to cross at the crosswalk only. Crossing from the parking lot to the sidewalk at the top of the lane is dangerous.

SRVUSD Information:

Town Hall Meeting:

SRVUSD is in the process of some Long-Range Facilities Visioning and community input is an important component. There are two opportunities for input - the Long Range Facilities Visioning Survey (see flyer below) and the Town Hall on September 14, 2023 at Monte Vista High School from 5:30pm - 7:30pm (more information below). Your voice matters!

SRVUSD Monthly Resolutions:

National Literacy Month

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of September as National Literacy Month. The schools of SRVUSD stand firmly committed to

promoting reading as the catalyst for our students' future academic, professional, and personal success. We are committed to providing the highest quality evidence-based instructional materials, screening and diagnostic tools, interventions, and supports so that every student becomes a proficient and engaged reader, writer, speaker, and listener. SRVUSD encourages engagement with parents and caregivers so they can support literacy at home and enhance opportunities for exploration, fun, and in support of academic achievement.

Citizenship Awareness Month

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of September as Citizenship Awareness Month. It is important that our students understand the basic principles of democracy and what it means to be an American citizen. Young people can play a critical role in our democracy by helping to choose the people who will lead us and by voicing their opinions on the issues that are important to them.

Students are encouraged to participate in the democratic process through voter education programs and involvement in civic engagement activities. District schools are encouraged to celebrate Constitution Day on September 17 and participate in California High School Voter Education Weeks during the last two weeks of September.

National Hispanic Heritage Month

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes September 15 - October 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month. Hispanic and Latino Americans have made so many social, artistic, linguistic, and intellectual contributions to our society, the State of California, and our community. The California State Board of Education recognizes in its Multicultural Education Policy that each student needs an opportunity to understand the common humanity underlying all people.

During this month, all schools are directed to engage in activities to commemorate National Hispanic Heritage Month.

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>

09/04 - Labor Day - No School

09/06 - PTA General School Meeting - 8:10 MPR (updates from PTA, Principal, and teacher reps)

09/06 - Dippin Dots

09/13 - Sharky Cinema - MPR - 12:50pm

09/14 - Site Council Meeting - 4:00pm - Virtual

09/14 - Town Hall Meeting - Location: Monte Vista HS - 5:30-7:30pm

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

09/20 - Dippin Dots

09/21 - Festival Around the World 5:00pm - 7:00pm - Blacktop

09/25 - No School

09/26 - No 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

**SRVUSD IS VISIONING
FOR THE FUTURE!**

**Take the Long Range
Facilities Planning
survey today!**



bit.ly/VisioningSRVUSD

Survey Deadline: September 15th

We need insight from our community about what is most crucial in supporting educational program needs, district goals and student achievement.

Contact communications@srvusd.net with any questions



YOUR PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED!

The integrated design firm LPA Design Studios have partnered with San Ramon Valley USD (SRVUSD) to create a roadmap for the next 15 years and beyond through a Districtwide Long-Range Facilities Development Planning process. The design team has begun working on conceptual design through collaboration with SRVUSD's educators and campus site admin. SRVUSD is asking for the highest levels of community engagement to ensure all voices are heard.

Have questions? Contact Renee Kanalakis at rkalana@srvusd.net

Town Hall #3 Location

The Commons at Monte Vista High School
3131 Stone Valley Rd, Danville, Ca 94526

September 14, 2023

5:30 - 7:30 PM

No RSVP Necessary!

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors

Meet Your Team!

LPA Education Facility Planners

Refreshments

Light snacks and refreshments will be provided



Town Hall #3 Schools: 9 Campuses



Creekside Elementary



Golden View Elementary



Green Valley Elementary



Sycamore Valley Elementary



Tassajara Hills Elementary



Vista Grande Elementary



Diablo Vista Middle



Los Cerritos Middle



Monte Vista High

Don't See Your School?

See Other Town Hall Sessions Below:

Town Hall #1 | September 7, 2023

Bollinger Canyon ES	Walt Disney ES
Country Club ES	Iron Horse MS
Montevideo ES	Pine Valley MS
Neil Armstrong ES	California HS
Twin Creeks ES	

Town Hall #2 | September 13, 2023

Bella Vista ES	Gale Ranch MS
Coyote Creek ES	Windemere Ranch MS
Hidden Hills ES	Dougherty Valley HS
Live Oak ES	Del Amigo Continuation HS
Quail Run ES	Venture Independent Study

Town Hall #4 | September 20, 2023

Alamo ES	Charlotte Wood MS
Greenbrook ES	Stone Valley MS
Montair ES	San Ramon Valley HS
John Baldwin ES	Adult Transition and REACH Programs (Del Campus)
Rancho Romero ES	



Increase sales, support your community, and get a tax deduction! It's the easiest advertising decision you'll make all year.

Become a Sycamore Corporate Sponsor 2023-2024!

Would you like to get your business noticed at school events, bring sycamore supporters into your business, get a write-off, and get us to our fundraising goal? Become a corporate sponsor today!

See the **attached flyer** for all the details.

Contact Katerina McCormack katerinitsa@aol.com
and Christine Hoffman mrschristinehoff@gmail.com



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



**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

Festival Around the World

(Thursday Sept 21st 5-7 pm)

The Black Top at Sycamore Valley Elementary



Come join us in celebrating the traditions, food, and fun of the many countries and culture that make up the Sycamore community.

Sycamore is excited to be hosting our annual Festival Around the World on September 21st on the black top. We are looking for families to host booths which would require a poster board with information about the country or culture and a few items for the students to see (e.g. art, clothing, tools, flags, etc.), and a hands on activity (eg. Small art project, game, toy to try). We will be hosting a recorded zoom information session 8/31 at 6:00pm which will be announced on constant contact. We will also be needing volunteers on Sept. 21st to assist with set up, take down, and raffle prizes. Please sign up under sign up genius or email sukhdeepsull@gmail.com.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DAFA72DAAFAC25-festival>

Calling All 5th Grade Artists! Directory Cover Art Contest

Attention all 5th Grade Students! Your drawing could be on the cover of Sycamore's School Directory! It's time for the Annual Sycamore Directory Cover Drawing Contest exclusively for 5th graders. Entry forms will be sent home from your teacher, or can be downloaded from Shark Bites. They can be returned to the office by Wednesday, September 13th (or scanned and emailed to christy1a@aol.com).

Contact Christine Hoffman at christy1a@aol.com with any questions. Good luck!!

CALLING ALL 5TH GRADERS!
GET YOUR DRAWING ON THE COVER OF THIS YEAR'S
SYCAMORE VALLEY DIRECTORY



Cover Suggestions

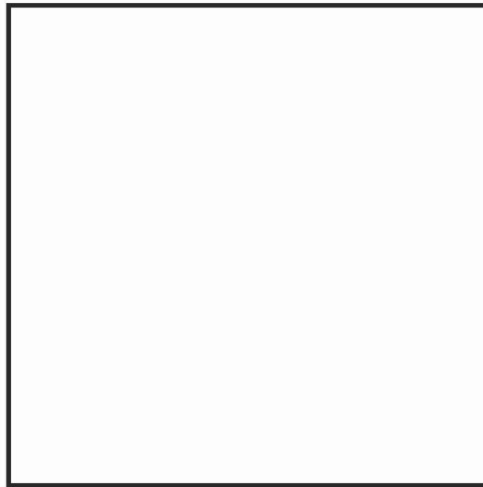
- Dark Ink and Black & White drawings with clean lines show up best.
- Dimensions: 4 ½ in x 4 ½ in
- Show how we "Stay Connected" at Sycamore!

Student Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

RETURN ENTRIES TO THE OFFICE BY: **WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13TH**

Questions? Call Christine Hoffman at (925) 575-7076 or email: christy1a@aol.com



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

We are still looking for parent volunteers to help lead the following programs: Odyssey of the Mind, Research, Science Builder's Challenge, and Science Olympiad. All SLAM volunteers are required to have level 1 clearance through the district (level 3 may be required in certain circumstances). Please see the district's [volunteer requirements](#) (note there are new requirements for this year). Learn more about the open roles and sign up to volunteer [here](#).

[Sycamore Valley Slam - Volunteer](#)

VOLUNTEER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES We need your help!!
The SLAM program is run entirely by parent volunteers.

Stay tuned for details on our SLAM Info Night
coming up in September!

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



Online Registration for Sycamore Valley Elementary

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

**Sycamore Valley Elementary Registration Deadline:
September 1st at 11:30pm**

Reminder: Annual registration is mandatory for all families and differs
from enrollment.

Complete online registration by September 1st at:
<https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/registration>

Currently, only 80% of students have registered. Help us reach 100%
participation before this Friday, September 1st.

Registration includes event waivers, volunteer sign-ups, contact updates,
yearbook orders, and vital support for classrooms, PTA, Shark Fund, art, and
more. SHARK FUND contributions enhance classrooms with para-educators,
reading intervention, library access, social support, PE, and administrative
support.

**Donate to both SHARK FUND and PTA during registration to receive a fun
car magnet as a token of appreciation!**

Act now: <https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/registration>

Questions? Contact: Rebecca at rebecca.betzina@gmail.com

Registration includes: important student event waivers, parent volunteer
opportunities, Directory contact information updates/preferences/orders,
Yearbook orders, spirit wear, etc. As well as providing support for your
students' classroom (materials and technology), PTA membership, our
wonderful art program, and Shark Fund contributions to our award-winning

programs for your students.

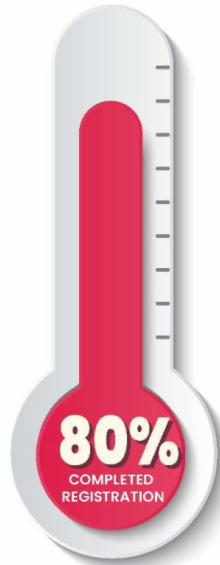
COMPLETE YOUR REGISTRATION TODAY

Currently, only 80% of Sycamore students have registered. **We need your help to achieve 100% registration for all Sycamore families by September 1st.**



EVERY FAMILY MUST COMPLETE REGISTRATION BY SEPT 1ST

Registration is different from enrollment. Your student is already enrolled at Sycamore, but Online Registration needs to be completed every August.



- ✓ Sign Required Waivers
- ✓ School Directory
 - Set Your Preferences
 - Order Your Directory
- ✓ Order Yearbooks
- ✓ Volunteer Opportunities
- ✓ Classroom Supplies
- ✓ Shark Fund Support
- ✓ PTA Membership



DONATE TO BOTH SHARK FUND & PTA DURING REGISTRATION TO RECEIVE THIS FUN CAR MAGNET!

YOUR SHARK FUND DONATION MAKES OUR AWARD WINNING PROGRAMS POSSIBLE:

- **Para-educators** to provide your child with extra support in the classroom.
- **Reading Intervention** for all grades.
- **Weekly library visits** for your child.
- **Rainbow Room** support for the social development of TK-3rd students.
- **P.E. classes** for TK & Kindergartners.
- **Additional office administration hours** to better support Sycamore's community.



sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/registration

Questions? Contact: Rebecca at rebecca.betzina@gmail.com



As we kick off the school year, there will be so many ways to get involved on campus. In addition to supporting Shark Fund through registration, if you are interested in donating some time and seeing what Shark Fund is all about - please reach out to us anytime. We will have so many events throughout the year and there are all different ways to help, even if you only have an hour or two to spare!

Next up is Sharky Cinema on Wednesday, 9/13/23

Join us for the September Sharky Cinema after school on Wednesday, September 13th from 12:50-2:30 pm to watch the movie, The Super Mario Bros. Movie, with theater snacks in the MPR!

Tickets will be available on the Future Fund Store beginning 9/5 at 7pm. **Tickets sellout quickly.** <https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/store>

[Sign up to help with any of our Sharky Cinema events here.](#)

PARENTS - ENJOY SOME EXTRA KID FREE TIME ON WACKY WEDNESDAY



TICKETS GO ON SALE 9/5 AT 7:00PM

SHARK FUND PRESENTS

SHARKY CINEMA



THE SUPER
MARIO
BROS.
MOVIE



9/13

12:50-2:30 PM

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: THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE
DROP-OFF EVENT WITH PARENT VOLUNTEERS SUPERVISING.

SIGN-UP: [HTTPS://SYCAMOREVALLEY.FUTUREFUND.COM/STORE](https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/store)
TICKETS GO ON SALE 9/5 AT 7:00PM

Do you need a way to keep track of all of your students' items at school? Buy personal labels for your kids at campaigns.mabelslabels.com Choose our organization from the list, **Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Fund**, and we'll earn 20% from it!



BACK to SCHOOL You get labels, we raise funds.

mabel's labels
FUNDRAISING

Buy personal labels for your kids at
campaigns.mabelslabels.com

Choose our organization from the list
Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Fund
and we'll earn 20% from it!

Keep your things out of the lost and found!

QR code and cartoon shark mascot.



**Dippin' Dot Calendar:
9/6 & 9/20**

*****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

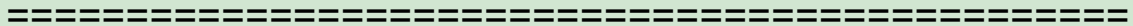
Sharky Shout Out:

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with yesterday's picture day.

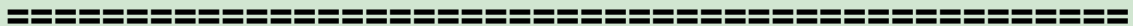


The Sycamore School Site Council (SY SSC) is governed by state guidelines and makes sure the school LCAP goals, School Safety Plan and School Plan for Achievement are completed, reviewed and updated annually.

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



**The next Site Council meeting will be held in:
In September - Tentative date: Sept. 14th at 4:00pm
All parents/guardians are welcome!**



More information about Site Council is available at:
<https://syes.srvusd.net/Families/Site-Council/Site-Council/index.html>



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

School photos were 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. If you missed school photo on August 30th, we will have a make-up day on October 11th.



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](#)

=====

Sports Camp - Fall 2023 - Start Date Sept. 21st

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 Information](#)
[Sports Camp Flyer](#)



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.



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

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

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Sent bybjones1@srvusd.netpowered by



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