

# Sycamore Valley Elementary **SHARK BITES**



## Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal September 08, 2022

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Dear Sycamore Families:

I hope you are staying cool in this blistering heat! I am not sure I have ever looked forward to a weekend as much as I am this one - with the temperatures returning to a cool 80ish degrees. The students and staff have been infinitely patient with schedule changes and adjustments to routines needed to ensure that we are keeping everyone safe. A hearty thank you to all of the parent volunteers who have jumped in this week to help with lunch supervision!! Following is some important information and some things to keep in mind:

### **REMINDERS:**

The parking lot at Beth Chaim will not be available  
to our school during these times:

Mon., Sept. 26, 9:00 am - 1:30 pm (Service begins at 9:30 am)

Wed., Oct. 5, 9:00 am - Noon (Service begins at 9:30 am)

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

Throughout September we will be considering Fairness as our character trait focus. Students are thinking about what is Fair and what isn't - young children have such a deep sense of this - and how to be fair when interacting with friends. I am sharing a few different books with classes this month. In TK-1st grades we are sharing *The Little Red Hen* by Paul Galdone, in 2nd and 3rd grades are enjoying *Strictly No Elephants* by Lisa Mantchev and in 4th and 5th grades we are sharing *One Grain of Rice* by Demi. Each of these stories offers the opportunity to reflect on fairness in action.

### **Shade for the Blacktop:**

It has been hot out there this week!! In the heat we are even more aware that the playground does not have an abundance of shade. We currently have

umbrellas, a pop-up tent and a few zones that are shaded. If we are outside on hot days, we open the MPR to provide a cooling spot for the students at morning recess. We would like to begin the process of bringing more shade to the blacktop. To that end, we are putting together a Shade Committee to explore interim and long term options for shade supervision. An informational meeting will be hosted on Wednesday, Sept. 21st at 8:10am in the MPR. Please join us if you can.

### **Available Language Programs and Language Acquisition Programs:**

San Ramon Valley Unified School District (SRVUSD) offers the following language and language acquisition programs for student enrollment. Parents/Guardians may choose a language acquisition program that best suits their child (EC Section 310/a/).

- **Structured English Immersion Program:** A language acquisition program for EL students in which nearly all classroom instruction is provided in English, but with curriculum and a presentation designated for students who are learning English. At minimum, students are offered designated ELD and provided access to grade level academic subject matter content with integrated ELD.
- **Mandarin Enrichment Program:** A language program for English learners and native English speakers in the SRVUSD which provides supplemental instruction in Mandarin including reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

### **How to Enroll Your Child in a Language Acquisition Program:**

If you would like to enroll your child in one of the Language Acquisition Programs in SRVUSD please submit a written request to the office of your local school. The following information must be included in your request:

- Date of request
- Parent and child names
- Description of request
- Grade level of student
- 

For More information, Please review this document [Language Programs](#)

### **Eagle Scout Project:**

Thank you and Big Shout Out to Eagle Scout Candidate Shane Badcock. Shane and his team engineered and built a new Buddy Bench and planter for our students to enjoy during recess. The new Buddy Bench has been installed next to our original bench.





### **Book Tasting 5th Grade:**

Students in Mrs. Crosthwait's and Mrs. Miller's classes enjoyed a Book Tasting this morning in a Parisian Café. Students sampled books during a 3 course "meal".



Thank you for the gift of your child,

Patricia Kawahara

**GO SHARKS!**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**



09/09 - Spirit Day - Wear Blue or your Sharkwear  
09/10 - Street Smart Bike Rodeo - 10:00am - 1:00pm registration required  
09/14 - Vision and Hearing Grades K/2/5  
09/15 - Chess Enrichment Class - 2:35-3:35  
09/19 - Volunteer Training for Recess and Lunch Helpers. - 8:10am - MPR  
09/19 - SLAM meeting 6:00pm - MPR  
09/19-09/25 - Giveback @ Dos Coyotes  
09/19-09/23 - International Culture Week  
09/21 - Shade Task Force Meeting - 8:10am - MPR  
09/21 - Dippin' Dots Sales  
09/22 - Chess Enrichment Class - 2:35 - 3:35  
09/22 - Festival Around the World - 5:00pm - 7:00pm - Blacktop  
09/26 - No School - School Recess  
09/27 - No School - Staff Development  
09/21 - Shark Fund Meeting - Virtual 6:30 - Zoom  
09/29 - Chess Enrichment Class - 2:35 - 3:35

## Attendance Line



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**Please call the attendance line  
to report an absence:  
925-855-2898**

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. It is recommended that your child stay home for 5 days.

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

**Lunch Time Volunteers - Signups**

Interested in volunteering more on campus?

Want to spend your lunch hour with us?

Sign up to help at lunch recess (either 1st-3rd grade time or 4th-5th grade time).

Volunteers are needed on the blacktop and inside the MPR. Sign up for as many days as you'd like!

Please check in at the office every time you come. Note: in order to volunteer, please make sure you have completed the "Be a Mentor" registration with the district.

Sign up here to Volunteer for Lunch Time Helpers:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C44ABAB2AABFA7-sycamore1>



**School Pictures**

You will need to enter your child's student ID# when placing an order for the school photos. You can order individual photos as well as a class photo. All students will be photographed. Purchasing photos is not a requirement.

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



**Library Corner**

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# Exciting news from the library!

Rakestraw Books is bringing us an award-winning, New York Times bestselling author to speak to our 3rd/4th/5th grade students on Tuesday, September 13!

Kelly Yang is the author of the very popular (and semi-autobiographical) Front Desk series as well as New From Here, Finally Seen and the non-fiction book Yes We Will: Asian Americans Who Shaped This Country. <https://www.kellyyang.com/>

She will be promoting the newest book in the Front Desk series - Key Player (book 4), which is available to order through Rakestraw.

New to the *Front Desk* series? Save \$3.50 (10% discount!) by buying the 1st three books in the series (*Front Desk*, *Room to Dream*, and *Three Keys*). Rakestraw will adjust the price when we process your order.

**\*Books ordered through Rakestraw will be signed by Kelly Yang (not at the event) and will be delivered to the library for me to hand out to your students after the event.**

<https://www.rakestrawbooks.com/event/school-yang>



Take Care,  
Jen Prindiville / Library Media Coordinator  
<https://syc-srvusd-ca.schoolloop.com/sylibrary>

# Festival Around the World

Thursday, Sept. 22 (5 to 7 p.m.)

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.

## Festival Around the World

Sycamore is excited to be holding an in-person Festival Around the World to celebrate different cultures and countries. The event will take place on **Thursday, 9/22, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.** on the black top. We are looking for more families to host a booth for the Festival – for a booth, the host will need to put together a poster board with information about the culture/country and a few items for the students to see (e.g. art, clothing, tools, flags, etc.) and a hands-on activity (e.g., small art project, a game, a toy to try). We are also looking for general volunteers for the day of the event, including setup and clean up.

If you did not make the meeting yesterday, and still want to help, please email (Angel Garrett) at [anglin1220@gmail.com](mailto:anglin1220@gmail.com) or sign-up for country/culture booths, performance slots, donations, and volunteers for set-up, clean-up and helping out the day of the event at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0945aea929abf94-festival>





## 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).

**\$5 each**

**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!

**DIPPIN' DOT PREPAID PUNCH CARD**

**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](mailto: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:**  
**9,21, 10/5,10/19**

**\*\*\*weather permitting\*\*\***

Shark Fund would like to Thank You for your support with our Dippin' Dot Wednesday Fundraiser. Our first event raised over \$1,600.00!!!! 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)



### **Morning Mile:**

Morning Mile starts next week Wednesday September 14th at 7:30 am, 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!

# Dos Coyotes Border Café



Eat at Dos Coyotes  
Crow Canyon Commons  
3191 Crow Canyon Pl,  
San Ramon  
from **11:30am - 8pm**  
**September 19 - 25, 2022**

and **25%** of your bill will be donated to:  
**Sycamore Valley Elementary School**

Please show a physical or  
electronic copy of this  
flyer when ordering.

**Thank you!**



*Not valid with any other offer*



## Black Dragon Chess - Fall 2022

Chess classes will be offered Thursday afternoons 2:35pm - 3:35pm.  
Sept. 15th - Dec. 1  
No class on Oct. 6th and Nov. 24th.  
See attached flyer to sign up.

[Chess Enrichment Class](#)





## Reflections

### "Show Your Voice"

#### REFLECTIONS ART PROGRAM

All students are invited to participate and submit original artwork in one of six areas aligned with the theme "Show Your Voice":

- Dance Choreography
- Literature
- Photography
- Film Production
- Music Composition
- Visual Arts

Submission deadline TBD in October. Selected artworks will be judged by Sycamore PTSA, and are then sent on to councils and then districts for consideration. The final artworks submitted to California State PTA by districts are then considered for Outstanding Interpretation, Awards of Excellence or Awards of Merit.

#### [Official Entry Form and Rules](#)

Contact Kristina Buskirk for more information.

[kristinabus Kirk@gmail.com](mailto:kristinabus Kirk@gmail.com)



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

Check out our new SLAM website to read about the projects, learn how to volunteer, and check out pictures from last year's SLAM program!

<https://sites.google.com/view/sycamoreslam/home>

Watch this space for details on Information Night and Sign Ups!!

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## SCIENCE ALLIANCE

Science Alliance is an after-school enrichment program sponsored by the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation created to pair curious and motivated 5th grade students (buddies) with high school students (mentors).

There will be a parent meeting at each of the four comprehensive high schools on **Tuesday, September 13 at 7pm.**

**Registration opens on September 20 at 7pm.**

Please visit this site for more information: <https://www.srvef.org/Science-Alliance/Science-Alliance-After-School-Program>

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## RESEARCH

Even though we haven't had sign ups yet, you can start prepping for the first Research project. **Make an informative tri-fold poster board, slide show or video about a COUNTRY for Sycamore's Festival Around the World!** See examples on the front page of our SLAM site. Projects are due by Thurs, Sept 22nd.

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Information Night and Sign Ups will be on Monday, September 19th at 6:00pm in the MPR.

We are still seeking parent volunteers!

Please email [goscymoreslam@gmail.com](mailto:goscymoreslam@gmail.com) to see how you can help.



***Way to go, Sycamore SLAM!***

For complete Sycamore SLAM program updates, please refer to the SLAM page - [SLAM Site](#)

**GO SLAM**

## Sharky Shout Out:

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Thank you to all the parent volunteers who have helped with



indoor recess this week!

We appreciate you spending your lunch hour with our Sharks!



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If you are interested in becoming part of our Site Council,  
**We need two parents for the upcoming  
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://syes.srvusd.net/Families/Site-Council/Site-Council/index.html>



**Kids Are Talking**

Stay Tuned for the Next Issue !

**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>

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## Shark Fund - Corporate Match

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A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION BENEFITING ALL SYCAMORE VALLEY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

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[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  
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