

Sycamore Valley Elementary **SHARK BITES**



Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal September 15, 2022

Dear Sycamore Families:

I hope all is well with all of you. It has been another great week! Kelly Yang, the author of Front Desk and other titles, came to visit grades 3rd - 5th. It was our first assembly and we all enjoyed hearing about her life, her journey as an author and tips for us to apply to our writing. Thank you to Mrs. Prindiville for setting up the visit! Some pics of the visit are below.

Following are some reminders and some dates to note.

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)

No School - Monday, Sept. 26th - School Holiday

No School - Tuesday, Sept. 27th - Teacher Work Day

Volunteer Training for Recess/Lunch Helpers:

Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 19th at 8:15am

Shade For the Playground Committee:

Meeting, Wednesday, Sept. 21st at 8:10am in the MPR

We are holding an informational meeting regarding the shade situation on the playground. We will be looking at short term and long term solutions and forming a committee to spearhead this work. Please join us if you are interested in helping with this endeavor.

Morning Safety:

Wednesday morning at 7:35am, when staff arrived, there were several students already on the blacktop. Students had brought balls from home (which

is not allowed). Balls rolled out of the gate and students ran out into the street to collect the balls.

As a reminder. Students should not enter the blacktop before 7:45am as supervision does not start until this time. Students should not bring balls from home. And students should not be playing with equipment on the blacktop before school hours.

In an effort to keep our students safe, please remind your child of these rules.

Author Visit:

We were fortunate to have author Kelly Yang visit our school on Tuesday. The students enjoyed hearing her story. Ms. Yang's books are available at Rakestraw Bookstore in downtown Danville.



Thank you for the gift of your child,

Patricia Kawahara

GO SHARKS!

IMPORTANT DATES



09/16 - Spirit Day: Shark Wear or Blue Attire
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 - Morning Mile - 7:30am - Turf Field
09/21 - Shade Task Force Meeting - 8:10am - MPR
09/21 - Dippin' Dots Sales
09/21 - Shark Fund Meeting - Virtual 6:30pm
09/22 - Chess Enrichment Class - 2:35 - 3:35
09/22 - Festival Around the World - 5:00pm - 7:00pm - Blacktop
09/23 - Spirit Day: Shark Wear or Blue Attire
09/26 - No School - School Recess
09/27 - No School - Staff Development
09/21 - Shark Fund Meeting - Virtual 6:30 - Zoom
09/28 - Morning Mile - 7:30am - Turf Field
09/29 - Chess Enrichment Class - 2:35 - 3:35
09/30 - Spirit Day: Shark Wear or Blue Attire
10/03-10/07 - Conference Week - Minimum Day Schedule
10/05 - PTA Meeting - 8:10am - MPR
10/05 - Shark Cinema - 1:00pm - MPR
10/12 - School Photo Make Up and Retake Day

Attendance Line



**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>

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 last week, and still want to help, please email (Angel Garrett) at 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>



SLAM Information Night: Monday, September 19 @ 6:00pm in the MPR

**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>

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>

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.

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 gositycamoreslam@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

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
21st (or scanned and emailed to christy1a@aol.com).

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

[Entry Form](#)

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



Cover Suggestions

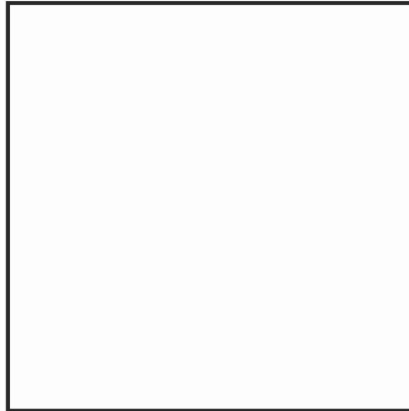
- Dark Ink and Black & White drawings with clean lines show up best.
- Dimensions: 4 ½ in x 4 ½ in
- Show how we "Stay Connected" at Sycamore!

Student Name: _____

Teacher Name: _____

RETURN ENTRIES TO THE OFFICE BY: **WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 21ST**

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



School Pictures

Did you miss school picture day?
Do you want to retake the photo?

Mark your calendar for School Photo
Retakes and Make-Up day.
Wednesday, October 12th, 2022

If you placed and order for your child's photo, the photo packets will be arriving soon.

If you wish to have your child's photo retaken, please return the photo packet to our school office on or before Photo Retake/Make Up day.

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



Library Corner

Exciting news from the library!

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/>

***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>



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



\$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!

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:

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

Does your child misplace their water bottles, lunches boxes or clothing???

Help keep track of your kids' water bottles, lunchboxes, sweatshirts, sports equipment and more with washable, durable labels from Mabel's Labels and they will donate 20% of your order back to Sycamore Valley Shark Fund on <https://campaigns.mabelslabels.com/> when you select "Sycamore Valley Shark Fund"

mabel's labels
FUNDRAISING

SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER!

Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Fund

Buy Mabel's Labels waterproof, durable labels to help reduce classroom mix-ups and keep your items coming home!



→ Go to campaigns.mabelslabels.com and search for **Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Fund**



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

Sharky Shout Out:

A huge THANK YOU to the Fama, Olsen, Hoffman, Nastro, Garrett, Palajac, Wochok, Santo and Young families for hosting the famous Woodranch Sycamore Auction Progressive Dinner.

The night took attendees around the globe in food, music and fun to Italy, Cuba, and Mexico.



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

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://syces.srvusd.net/Families/Site-Council/Site-Council/index.html>



Kids Are Talking

What makes you smile?



Olivia
Seeing dogs play and butterflies. I like to see lots of things play and have fun.



Kalei
When my Dad, my Grandpa or my brother tell me something funny or they show me a funny picture of someone or something.

James
Seeing my dog doing hilarious things, like jumping on the ottoman and then going too far and falling off the other end.

Arya
When I see my dogs and my family and when I see flowers, and when I get good grades in school.

Janetta
Seeing cats and seeing funny videos. I like seeing spiders spinning their webs and I like ladybugs, that's what makes me smile.

Calvin
Sometimes jokes and silly things mostly make me laugh, but can make me smile. Birthdays and holidays, like Christmas and a couple of others.

Charlotte
When my Mom packs me lunch everyday, I always smile at what the contents are, and when she gives me hugs.



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>

Shark Fund - Corporate Match

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DOUBLE YOUR SHARK FUND DONATION WITH

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LAST YEAR SYCAMORE ELEMENTARY RECEIVED OVER

OVER \$25,000

FROM CORPORATE MATCHES!



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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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