

# Sycamore Valley Elementary **SHARK BITES**



## Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal March 21, 2024

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Dear Sycamore Valley Families,

I hope you and your family are well. We have been enjoying these early days of spring - flowers around campus are in full bloom!

This past Thursday, the Sycamore staff was treated to a Ramadan feast! The food was delicious! A big thank you to the Barra, Kashif-Qadeer, Munshi, Taj, Elgindy, Bohsali, Ahsaan, Benhamida, Umair, Herb, Mir and Cheema families! It was so nice of you to think of us!

Marva Lockwood, our Night Custodian, has retired! Ms. Lockwood started with SRVUSD in 2004. Over the years she worked in a variety of departments including Child Nutrition, the Warehouse and Custodial Services. Ms. Lockwood started at Sycamore Valley Elementary in 2017. We will miss Ms. Lockwood and look forward to hearing about her many upcoming adventures! Thank you Marva for your dedication to the Sycamore community!!

Keep reading for some dates to remember, information about the student placement form, and information about appropriate shoe choices.

### **Dates to Remember:**

03/18-03/24 - Online Auction

03/22 - Conference Days - Minimum Day Schedule

TK-K Grade: 8:00 - 10:30

1st - 5th Grade: 8:00 - 12:00

03/22 - School Live Auction

03/29 - No School - Spring Break Starts

04/01-04/05 - No School Spring Break

### Student Placement Form:

In the next few weeks we will begin building classes for the next school year. We take a variety of factors into consideration as we build balanced classes. If there is information regarding the classroom environment that your child thrives in or other considerations, please complete the attached Student Placement form and return it to the school office no later than March 27th. Please do not request a specific teacher when completing this form. [Student Placement Form](#)

**Safe Shoes:** As the weather gets warmer many of us are shifting to our summer wardrobe. Please keep in mind that students should wear shoes that are safe for P.E. and recess. Flip flops and shoes without backs are not safe choices.

**Events Calendar, Shark Fund and PTA information below - keep scrolling!!**

Thank you,  
Patricia Kawahara

**GO SHARKS!**

## IMPORTANT DATES



**Incoming New TK & K Students Enrollment - Now Open**  
**Incoming New 1st - 5th Grade Students Enrollment - Now Open**

**03/22 - Conference Days - Minimum Day Schedule**

- TK-K Grade: 8:00 - 10:30
- 1st - 5th Grade: 8:00 - 12:00

**03/22 - Spirit Day - Wear Sharkwear or blue clothing**

**03/22 - School Live Auction**

**03/27 - Dippin' Dot Sales**

**03/29 - No School - Spring Break Starts**

**04/01 - 04/05 - No School Spring Break**

**04/08 - School resumes**

**04/10 - Dippin' Dot Sales**

**04/12 - Deadline to sign up for the Variety Show**

**04/16 - SLAM Science Builder's Challenge**

**04/22 - SLAM Science Fair.**

**05/01 - Variety Show Dress Rehearsal 1:00 PM in MPR**

**05/02 - Variety Show 6:00 PM in MPR**





## Sycamore Valley's Auction 2024

Proceeds benefit "Shark" Fund EDUCATIONAL programs like classroom paraeducators, weekly library, student interventions.

### LIVE Auction - March 22

Preview the [incredible packages](#) up for bid that evening.

## Live Event Doors Open at 6:15!

**Online Auction:** Keep Bidding / Online Closes Sunday 3/24/24 at 7:00pm!

"We hope that every family can support with at least 1 bid for the kids!!"

<https://event.auctria.com/9d7c1beb-2e26-4c2e-a4e1-caf9b8ceb452/e4ecad73805a4c09b9632ded058222b1>

**Staff Raffles** Due Tomorrow use link for forms.

<https://event.auctria.com/9d7c1beb-2e26-4c2e-a4e1-caf9b8ceb452/f4f429fd9a3d4543b0bde07c7cfd32cd>

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# LIVE AUCTION SOLD OUT!



LIVE LOT SNEAK PEAK



## A SICILIAN AFTERNOON

PRIVATE CHEFS DINNER  
AND WINE PAIRING FOR 6

Experience an unforgettable culinary journey at Danville's newest hotspot, Isola Osteria. Enjoy a private early dinner with a Sicilian wine pairing for your group of six, prepared by a private chef. Indulge in authentic Italian cuisine and explore the flavors of Sicily. Generously donated by Mr. Angelo Dalo, owner of Isola Osteria.



## FUND-A-NEED 2024

GOAL: \$25K

GOAL: Raise \$25,000 to enhance Sycamore's blacktop, communal campus areas and kinder yard to be completed by Fall 2024 to allow our students more choices during recess and instructional time.



## ONLINE AUCTION

MONDAY 3/18 9AM

Check out all the amazing items donated to our school and BID FOR OUR KIDS!! With over 100 items including getaways, sports memorabilia, summer camps and SO much more, there is something for everyone. [www.sycamore-auction.com](http://www.sycamore-auction.com)

### Online Auction - March 18-24:

Online Auction 3/18 - 3/24!

Check out all the amazing items donated to our school and BID FOR OUR KIDS!! Over 200 items [www.sycamore-auction.com](http://www.sycamore-auction.com)

### Staff Raffles:

Order forms went home with students this week and can also be found in the school office or [here](#)! Enter your child(ren) to win a chance to hang out with our beloved teachers and staff! Experiences are 100% donated by teachers and staff and raise several thousand dollars for our school each year! Be sure to turn your order form and check (payable to Shark Fund) in to the office by the 3:00 pm deadline on 3/22. Click [here](#) to download a new form.

### Fund-A-Need:

*"A Fund-a-Need is focused fundraising to make direct contributions towards specific educational needs to upgrade Sycamore"*



**We want our campus to look like a place where children live!**

**Peaceful Playgrounds** (<https://peacefulplaygrounds.com>)

**GOAL:** Raise \$25,000 to enhance Sycamore's blacktop, communal campus areas and kinder yard to be completed by Fall 2024.

**DONATE NOW:** <https://tinyurl.com/Fund-A-Need-2024>

Your Fund-A-Need donation is 100% tax deductible and qualifies for Corporate Match.

Visit [Sycamore Shark Fund](#) for more information.

EVERYONE should participate!!!

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### **Classroom Placements: Parents you are welcome to complete the attached form if you believe your child has specific needs.**

After spring break, teachers will meet with Principal Kawahara to begin building balanced classes for the 24/25 school year. Parents and students will be notified of teacher and classroom placement on August 12th, 2024.

Careful consideration is given to the class placement of each student. The primary factors considered in class placement are: 1. Current year's teacher assessment of the student's needs. 2. Input from support staff - resource, speech, school psychologist, reading specialists. 3. Class balance: academic performance, test scores, behavior, and boy/girl ratio. 4. Physical, medical, emotional and social development of the child. 5. Parent information regarding student's specific needs.

This form is not required, however if you believe your child has specific needs and/or excels in a particular type of classroom environment that the staff should consider when placing him/her, you are welcome to complete and return the attached form. **Please do not request specific teachers. Letters that state a specific teacher's name or that tries to describe a specific teacher will not be considered.**

**This form is due to the school office no later than March 27, 2024.**

**[2024-2025 Student Class Placement](#)**

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**[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**





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Sign Up genius links:

General Lunch Recess Helpers, General Morning Recess Helpers.

**Lunch Recess General Volunteers:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DAFA72DAAFAC25-44467019-lunch>

**Sycamore General Recess Volunteers:**

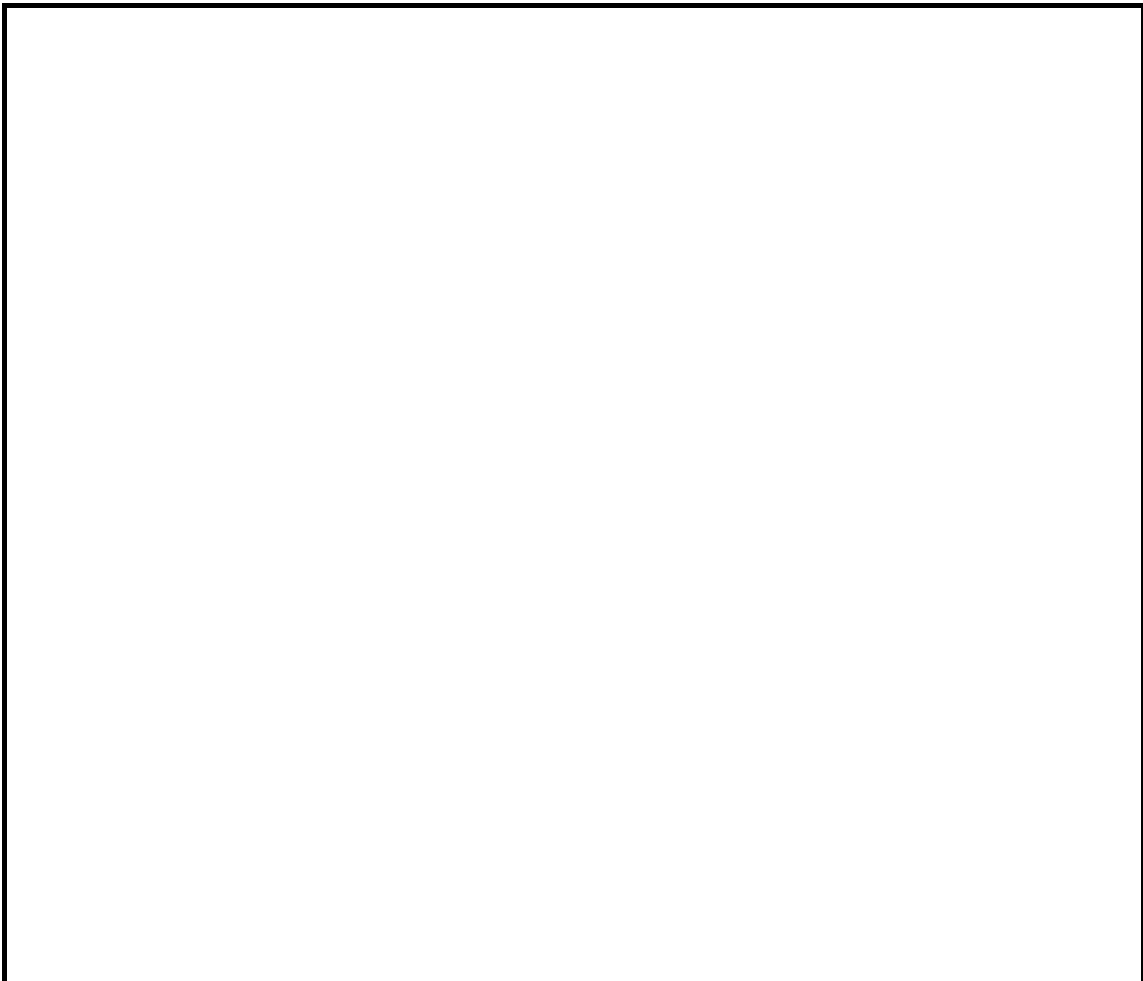
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DAFA72DAAFAC25-44466238-sycamore>

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Click here for the **[Spiritwear Sale](#)**

*The Sycamore Valley Spring Spirit Wear Sale is underway! Choose from hundreds of designs and garments that are delivered to your home in days! You'll save 25% off the entire site! New product lines include Nike and Adidas! Shop at <https://1stplace.sale/13542>.*

**Free Shipping \$75+**



**SYCAMORE VALLEY**

OFFICIAL ONLINE STORE

**1ST PLACE**   
*Spiritwear*

*Spring*  
**SALE**  
**25%**  
**OFF**



ORDER AT [1STPLACE.SALE/13542](https://1stplace.sale/13542)

**HURRY! SALE ENDS MARCH 26TH**



**SCAN HERE  
TO ORDER**

**2024/2025 PTA Proposed Slate of Officers**



2024-2025 PTA  
Proposed Slate of Officers

President	Cami Severson
EVP	Julie Lovren
Secretary	Audrey Sullivan
Treasurer	Ed Pan
Financial Reviewer (Auditor)	Celia Schebella
Financial Secretary	Christian Ruether
Parliamentarian (appointed)	Dana Claffey
1st VP Health & Wellness	Gabby Slivka
2nd VP Ways & Means	Jenna Mesic
3rd VP Programs	Ays Aytolu
4th VP Volunteers	Kristina Buskirk
5th VP Legislation	Katerina Mc



**Variety Show:**  
**OUR VARIETY SHOW IS BACK FOR 2024**  
**AND WE ARE SO EXCITED!!!**

Does your child love to perform on stage? Would they like to present an entertaining act of their choice in front of an audience? Solo or as a group, we would love to see your rising star showcased in this year's  
**Sycamore Valley Variety Show!**

**IMPORTANT 2024 VARIETY SHOW DATES:**

Deadline to submit Variety Show Act Participation Information and

**Music: Friday, April 12th**

**Variety Show Dress Rehearsal:** Wednesday, May 1st at 1:00 PM in MPR

**Variety Show:** Thursday, May 2nd at 6:00 PM in MPR Please read the **Variety Show 2024 Handout (Attached Below)**

for all information pertaining to this year's show and how to get your act signed up in time!

## **Variety Show 2024 Handout**

If you have any questions, please contact:

Laurie Campbell, Marisa Montierth & Kali Fama Variety Show Directors

[dancelm@mac.com](mailto:dancelm@mac.com) [marisamontierth@gmail.com](mailto:marisamontierth@gmail.com) [kalifama@hotmail.com](mailto:kalifama@hotmail.com)

## **San Ramon Childrens' Makers Market**

Vidhra, in collaboration with the City of San Ramon, is thrilled to announce the San Ramon Children's Makers Market taking place on May 4th, 2024, 10AM to 2PM at the Dougherty Station Community Arts Center in San Ramon. This unique one-day marketplace empowers children (ages 7 to 17) to explore their entrepreneurial ideas, receiving valuable feedback from genuine customers in a real-world setting. It serves as an excellent platform for young minds to grasp the intricacies of building a business marketplace. For more information, interested children can contact [thevidhra@gmail.com](mailto:thevidhra@gmail.com). Act quickly, as applications will be closing soon.



**San Ramon**  
**Children's Makers Market**  
One day marketplace for children to create, plan and launch a business  
**Dougherty Station Community Arts Center, San Ramon**  
**Saturday, May 04, 2024**  
**10am - 2pm**

Apply today

Calling all youth creators, dreamers, artists...

Do you always dream of being an entrepreneur?

Are you between 7 years and 17 years old? Then, this is for you!



**Event Sponsors:**



For further details, contact: [TheVidhra@gmail.com](mailto:TheVidhra@gmail.com)



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**Extracurricular Extension Programs for Grades 1 - 5 in the subjects of Science, Language, Arts, Math and Research!**

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### **Battle of the Books:**

The book list for the 2023/2024 school year is [here](#)! A minimum of **9 books** (not 8 as previously misstated) must be read in order to compete in the Spring tournament.

**May 8, 2024**

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### **Science Fair:**

Mark your calendars for the SLAM Science Fair coming this Spring on **Monday, April 22nd**! Open to all 1st-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 want to participate and haven't signed up yet, please sign up [here](#) by February 29th!

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## Science Builder's Challenge:

The Science Builder's Challenge is coming up on **Tuesday, April 16th!** The project goal of this year's challenge is to design, build, and launch a trebuchet/catapult at a target 20 feet away. If you want to participate and haven't signed up yet, please sign up [here](#) by the end of March!

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## Odyssey of the Mind:

A huge congratulations are in order for our 3rd grade Odyssey of the Mind team as they are now advancing to World Finals to be held in Iowa in May of 2024!!!

**Ethan K., Arnav K., Daniel K., Zoe L. Jaxon L., and Rohan S.** came in 2nd place at the State tournament, held on March 9, 2024 in Concord, California. The top two teams advance to the World Finals. Previously, the Sycamore team received the highest scores for their overall performance, beating out 28 other teams at the Qualifying tournaments held on February 3 and 10, 2024. We are incredibly proud of this hardworking and phenomenal team!



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## WordMasters:

Our WordMasters 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders completed Challenge #2 this month! Congratulations to 3rd graders **Griffin Rapp, Leo Hermon, and Luca Pignati**, and 4th/5th Graders **Zara Hermon, Karthik Jayaraman, Zoya Kashif, and Lauren Eves** for the highest scores this round. 2 challenges down, 1 to go!

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## Research:

The final research topic for this year is the **SOLAR SYSTEM**. Students can pick any item related to the Solar System (e.g. Stars, Planets, Asteroids, Comets, Galaxies, etc). Presentations should be trifold and/or poster board only. Students may work individually or in pairs. Presentations are due **Friday, April 26th**. Students should submit presentations to the front office to be



displayed in the library. Please email [rajiedeol@gmail.com](mailto:rajiedeol@gmail.com) to get SLAM credit.

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### **STEAM Art & Play:**

The next class is **Tuesday, April 9th**, at 2:30pm in the MPR. Your child(ren) may only attend if they are signed up via the signup genius. Classes are FULL, so if your child(ren) cannot attend, please delete their signup so that their spot may be offered to someone on the waitlist.

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### **SuperSTEM:**

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### **SLAM Program signups are now open!** **Please sign up your students [here](#).**

Most SLAM programs are best suited for 3rd-5th graders, however, several programs this year are open to students from grades 1-2 also (if there is enough interest and we have enough parent volunteers).

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Any questions about SLAM?  
Please email : [goscymoreslam@gmail.com](mailto:goscymoreslam@gmail.com)

# 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!*



**Join Our Shark Fund Graphics Team and Dive into Creativity!**





Join Our Shark Fund Graphics Team and Dive into Creativity!



Attention talented graphic designers!



**Are you a wizard with Adobe Illustrator?** We're on the lookout for a creative mind to join our dynamic graphics team for Shark Fund. Your skills will play a crucial role in updating and creating eye-catching flyers and social media graphics for our exciting fundraising events, including Sharky Cinema, Dine-To-Donate, and the Live Auction extravaganzas.

To dive into this fantastic opportunity, please reach out to Christine Hoffman at [christy1a@aol.com](mailto:christy1a@aol.com). Your artistic talents will make a difference, and we truly

appreciate your support in shaping the future of our school community!



#SharkFund #GraphicDesignOpportunity #JoinTheTeam



### Dippin' Dot Calendar: 3/27, 4/10, 4/27

#### Dippin Dot Pre-pay Punch Cards are Back!

Punch cards can be purchased for **\$25.00** at all Dippin Dot Wednesday events with cash or check made payable to "Sycamore Shark Fund"

- Prepay for 5 Dippin' Dots, get one free
- Save time in line
- No need to bring money to school
- Families can share one card
- 100% of proceeds benefit your students at Sycamore

#### Shark Fund would like to Thank You for your support with our Wednesday Dippin' Dot Wednesday Fundraiser.

Dippin dots has sold **over \$8,000!!!!!!**

Kindergarten Sales @ 11:30 am near the Kinder playground  
1st-5th Grade Sales @ 12:50-1:10pm near the back MPR/blacktop entrance  
Lost Punch Cards or any other Dippin Dot questions please contact  
Dippin' Dot Dana Claffey  
925-407-7178 [Dana.claffey@gmail.com](mailto:Dana.claffey@gmail.com)



Double the impact of your school donations with Corporate Match!  
Follow these simple steps: <https://srvef.org/matching-gifts/>

FRANKLIN TEMPLETON CHEVRON CISCO FARGO FOUNDATION WELLS FARGO MCKINSEY VISALINKEDIN VEEVA SYSTEMS BANK OF AMERICA VERIZON AIG APPLE ROBERT HALF AIG GENENTECH BRISTO-MYERS SQUIBB INTEL KAISER CLOROX EBAY AT&T YNCH ERICSSON AUTOMATIC DATA PROCESSING INC. ROCHE MOLECULAR BANK OF THE WEST CHUBB WORKDAY DODGE & COX EBAY ORACLE PG&E



**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 \$35,000

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

NOVARTIS CHEVRON VISA APPLE ELI LILLY MERCK GARTNER GENENTECH EBAY PEPSICO ADOBE BRISTO-MYERS SQUIBB AT&T WELLS FARGO



## THANK YOU TO SYCAMORE'S 23-24 PLATINUM CORPORATE SPONSORS



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925.389.2380

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KINGS**  
1-888-GARAGES



**JENNIFER LARSON**  
arriveREgroup.com  
DRE #01897234

**armanino**



## Library Corner

Please help your reader find their missing library books, or replace the book/pay the fine and let me know via email at:

[jprindiville@srvusd.net](mailto:jprindiville@srvusd.net).

- 
- Battle of the Books (3rd - 5th) --> Program Lead: Christiana at [analeung817@yahoo.com](mailto:analeung817@yahoo.com)
  - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4CAEA92FA31-battle1#/>

Take Care,  
Jen Prindiville  
Library Media Coordinator  
Sycamore Valley Elementary

# Sharky Shout Out:

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SHOUT OUT GOES TO ALL OF the  
SYCAMORE AUCTION COMMITTEE and SUPPORTERS  
for the coming together for the schools largest fundraiser.  
KEEP IT STRONG through SUNDAY!!

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**Mark your calendar:**

**Date to Be Determined @ 4:00pm**

**The meeting will be virtual.**

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More information about Site Council is available at:

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



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

**With the change of weather our lost and found is growing!!!**

**Take a look at the rack and in the yellow bin.  
You may be surprised and find a sweatshirt / jacket / or sweater that you  
did not know was left behind.**

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.

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## **Black Dragon Chess - Spring 2024**

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

Chess class will be held in our school library.

Mar. 14th - May 30th

No class during winter break.

See attached flyer to sign up.

[Chess Enrichment Class](#)

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## **Brick Techniques: STEM Basics with Lego - Spring 2024**

**Grades 3 - 5th**

April 8 - May 20, 2024

2:30pm - 4:00pm Science Room

See attached flyer to sign up

[Prime Robotics with Lego](#)

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## **Brick Techniques: STEM with Lego - Spring 2024**

**Grades K - 2nd**

Jan. 29 - Mar. 25, 2024

2:30pm - 4:00pm School Library

See attached flyer to sign up

[STEM with Lego](#)

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## **Sports Camp - Winter 2024 - Session #3 - 1/18-3/14**

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 Flyer](#)

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**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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## **Job Opening at Sycamore**

Kitchen Assistant  
Monday - Friday  
10:00am - 1:45pm



# We Are Hiring



Serve students great meals.



## KITCHEN ASSISTANT AT SYCAMORE VALLEY 10AM-1:45PM DAILY

Competitive wages, paid holidays, school  
schedule, weekends & evenings off.

See all jobs here:  
or visit  
**SRVUSD.net -  
Child Nutrition**



Questions?  
Email [SRVUSDEats@srvusd.net](mailto:SRVUSDEats@srvusd.net)

**San Ramon Valley Unified School District**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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

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