



---

# Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Bites Newsletter

---

**Message from Principal Kawahara  
December 11, 2025**

---



2nd Grade - Mrs. Matejka's Class

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you and your family are well. Excitement is building as the winter holidays approach. This is such a fun time of year - with wonderful crafts and artwork in the classrooms, special events and impromptu sing-alongs during first grade lunch, thank you Mr. Ricardo for providing the music!

Today, morning recess was held indoors as the district painters came out to add some new games to the playground. They made a good start but will return to finish it up for us. A giant thank you to the staff, kiddos and painters for their flexibility in helping us!

**TK/K Enrollment Information:** 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

It is time to enroll your child for TK and Kinder for the 26/27 school year. Spread the word.

The application for TK and Kindergarten enrollment for the 2026-27 school year opened on November 1. Applications will continue to be accepted throughout the year on a first-come, first-served basis, as space allows at your resident school.

Kindergarten: Children who turn five years of age on or before September 1, 2026 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten only.

Transitional Kindergarten: Children who turn four years of age on or before September 1, 2026 are eligible to enroll in the TK program only.

**RESOURCES -**

[Quick Reference TK/K Enrollment Guide- 2026-27](#)

[TK FAQ- 2026-27](#)

=====

Sister School Program  
Connecting Communities



**Sister School Coat Drive:**

**Sister School Coat Drive:**

As we move through this season of giving, our school community has once again come together to support our sister school's (King Elementary in Richmond) annual Coat Drive. We are deeply grateful for the generosity already shown — your kindness makes a real difference.

However, we are still facing a significant and urgent need. **Over 100 coats remain unpurchased**, and without additional support, many children may go without a warm coat this winter. The thought of some students receiving one while others do not is truly heartbreaking.

Because the coats are needed by December 15, the turnaround time for families to purchase, ship, and deliver an item on their own has become very tight. For this reason, **the most effective way to help right now is through a Future Fund donation**, which allows our team to quickly purchase the exact coats still needed without risking delays. **Action: If you are able, please take a moment**

to donate through the link below by Monday, December 15th.

[Future Fund](#)

Even a small gift goes a long way when we come together as a community. Your support helps transform what could be a cold holiday season for some children into one filled with warmth, dignity, and compassion. Thank you for embracing the spirit of the season and helping ensure every child feels the care and kindness of our Sycamore community.

=====

**African American Showcase:**

Volunteers needed to help coordinate the African American Showcase. This event will be held in February. We need volunteers now to ensure the success of this important event at Sycamore. See the flyer in the PTA section below.

**Bell Schedule: December at a Glance**

[December At A Glance](#)

**Bell Schedule: January at a Glance**

[January At A Glance](#)

**December Read Aloud:**

[December Read Aloud Schedule](#)

**January Read Aloud:**

[January Read Aloud Schedule](#)

Please keep reading for some upcoming event information, important dates and other PTA/Shark Fund News.

Thank you,  
Patricia Kawahara

---

**NOTE: Gmail users, please be sure to click "View Entire Message" at the bottom of this email to avoid missing all important updates.**

**A new window will open displaying the full newsletter.**

---



---

## Important Dates to Remember

---

### **TK/K - Enrollment Open**

12/17 - Dippin' Dots  
12/22 - 01/05 - No School - Winter Break  
01/06 - School Resumes  
01/14 - Dippin' Dots  
01/16 - Report Cards Sent Home  
01/19 - No School - Martin Luther King Holiday  
01/28 - Dippin' Dots

---

### **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**

---



### **Attendance Line**

**Please call or email the attendance line to report  
your child's absence:**

**925-855-2898**

**[sy-attendance@srvusd.net](mailto:sy-attendance@srvusd.net)**

If your child will be absent from school, please notify the school office by phone or by email. (925) 855-2898 or [sy-attendance@srvusd.net](mailto:sy-attendance@srvusd.net) Please provide your child's first and last name (spell the last name), teacher's name / grade, and the reason for the absence

*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).*



TK and Kindergarten enrollment  
for the 2026-27 school year is still open.  
Children who turn 4 (TK) or 5 (Kinder) by September 1, 2026  
are eligible to attend.

---

## SPIRITWEAR

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

**This is your last chance to grab custom holiday gifts!** Save 30% off sitewide on Sycamore Valley Elementary School spirit wear for everyone—Mom, Dad, grandparents, and siblings.

Order today and enjoy free shipping over \$75 with delivery guaranteed by December 23rd! Once this sale ends, prices return to normal.

<https://1stplace.sale/13542>

Let's make this holiday season joyful and successful for Sycamore Valley Elementary School!

Don't miss this limited time offer! [Shop Now!](#)

Store Link: <https://1stplace>.

**SYCAMORE VALLEY**

**Holiday Sale**

**EXTENDED**

**THRU TODAY!**

**30% OFF**

**SITEWIDE**

**DELIVERY BY GUARANTEED DEC. 23RD**

**SHOP NOW**

**FREE Shipping On Orders Over \$75**

**SHOP AT: 1STPLACE.SALE/13542**

**1ST PLACE Spiritwear**



## Be A Mentor:

### Volunteer Clearance - Reminder - **NEW REQUIREMENTS**

We ask all of our parents/guardians to register w/ Be A Mentor for level #1 - general volunteer. This clearance will allow you to be on campus and/or in the classroom with the children. All volunteers must be finger printed. Here is the link to sign up. [Be A Mentor](#) Click on the New Volunteers Apply Now on the bottom right side of the page.

Clarification regarding volunteer drivers. As of June 2025, all volunteers who wish to drive on a field trip will need to complete the DMV report through their Be A Mentor account. There is a \$2.00 fee for this process. Be sure to upload your Driver's License information as well.

There are 3 requirements that are necessary every year.

1) DMV report



- 2) Annual Training (2)
- 3) Car Insurance Declaration Page updated

## [Volunteer Handbook](#)



**YEARBOOK**  
**eShare**

A smartphone is shown at an angle, displaying the YearbookShare app. The screen shows a photo of a person playing a game at a table, with text overlay: "Playing a game at Trunk or Treat". The app interface includes a "Upload Yearbook Photo" button and a "Submit" button.

A yearbook spread is shown, featuring a grid of photos from a Trunk or Treat event. The photos are arranged in a grid, with some photos showing people in costumes and others showing people playing games. The text "Trunk or" is visible at the top left of the grid.

**STEP-BY-STEP:**

**How to upload a photo for yearbook consideration**

- Go to YearbookShare.com and enter your school code.
- Locate the picture (file) to upload. Select it, click Open.
- To upload more than one file, Ctrl-click on each file name. You can upload 10 images at a time.
- Click each thumbnail to select it and enter information about all images. **Please include teacher name in description when submitting photos.**
- Click Submit Image Information when you are done.

**From your phone into the book.**

A QR code is located in the bottom left corner of the flyer, which links to the YearbookShare website.

USE THE QR CODE OR VISIT [YEARBOOKSHARE.COM](http://YEARBOOKSHARE.COM)

THEN, USE OUR SCHOOL CODE:

**sycamoresharks**

The logo for Varsity Yearbook, featuring a stylized "V" and the text "VARSITY YEARBOOK".

## [Yearbook eShare Flyer](#)

---

**Attention parents...We are now collecting photos for the yearbook!**

- First day of school
- 5th grade arcade
- Halloween parade & class parties
- Trunk or treat
- Fun Run
- Around the World Festival
- 5th grade outdoor ed
- Field trips
- Art docent
- Many more!

**A few tips:**



Candid photos are great!



Make sure you have at least 2-3 students in a photo, preferably the same grade level.

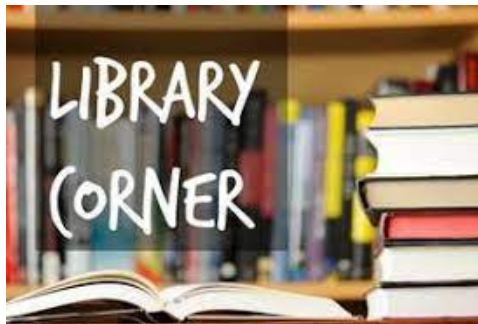


Please include grade level & teacher. Individual names are not necessary.



No photos of students at home or outside of school.

---



Please help your reader remember their library day and to turn their books in when they're due!

Any questions - contact Mrs. Prindiville - [jprindiville@srvusd.net](mailto:jprindiville@srvusd.net)

---



P.E. News

Hello Shark Family!



You're welcome to join me out on the field to volunteer. Here's the link for the [Sign Up Genius](#). Make sure you're cleared by Be a Mentor first.  
Thank you to everyone who has already helped out. You're the best!!!

---



## PTA Updates

---

***African American History Museum:***

**VOUNTEERS NEEDED**

**AFRICAN AMERICAN  
HISTORY SHOWCASE**

**Volunteers needed immediately to work with teachers to spearhead this fun, interactive and educational event at Sycamore. We hope this great program can continue, and it would be disappointing to the kids if cancelled.**

Reach out for more information:

Meghan Johnson

dei@sycamorevalleypta.org





**SYCAMORE NEEDS YOU!**

**Become a 2025/2026 Sponsor Today!**

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.**

**[Sponsorship Flyer](#)**

Questions? Contact Jeannine Pickering [jeannine.pickering@gmail.com](mailto:jeannine.pickering@gmail.com)  
and Katerina McCormack [katerinita@aol.com](mailto:katerinita@aol.com)



**GARAGE  
KINGS**  
925-786-6822



**Little Genius**  
— academy —

**SHARKY SHOUTOUT  
TO OUR 2025-2026  
SYCAMORE VALLEY  
ELEMENTARY SPONSORS**



**ARRIVE**  
REAL ESTATE GROUP  
**JENNIFER LARSON**  
OWNER | TEAM LEAD | BROKER

**KEHRIG**  
— REAL ESTATE TEAM —

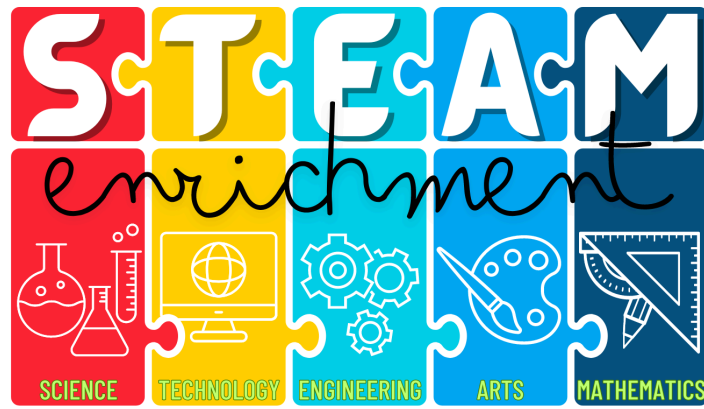


**FLOURISH**  
*airway*  
**COLLECTIVE**



**RK Dentistry**

Dr. Richard J. Koeltl, D.D.S. Committed to Healthy Smiles



---

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

The booklist has been sent out to all enrolled participants. *Students MUST read 9 out of 10 books to be able to participate in the competition in May.* Please reach out to Deepa ([battleofthebooks@sycamorevalleypta.org](mailto:battleofthebooks@sycamorevalleypta.org)) if you missed the book list. For anyone still interested in participating in this program, please [sign up here](#).

### **Book Club 1st-2nd:**

The next book club meeting for 1st and 2nd graders will be held **next Wednesday, December 17th, after school in the Science Room.** The book that will be discussed is ***The Boy Who Cried Wolf, retold by Leah Osci.*** It is on the EPIC website, and kids can read it for free. <https://www.getepic.com> Please [sign up here](#) to attend specific book club dates (for both student participation and to be a parent helper). For any questions, please contact Sukhdeep ([1\\_2bookclub@sycamorevalleypta.org](mailto:1_2bookclub@sycamorevalleypta.org)).

### **Book Club 3rd-5th:**

The next book club meeting for 3rd-5th graders will be held on **Wednesday, January 14th, after school in the Science Room.** Please [sign up here](#) to attend specific book club dates (for both student participation and to be a parent helper). For any questions, please contact Juliana ([3\\_5bookclub@sycamorevalleypta.org](mailto:3_5bookclub@sycamorevalleypta.org)).

### **Math Madness:**

The Math Madness season is now complete. Thank you to everyone that participated! For any questions, please contact Deepa ([mathchair@sycamorevalleypta.org](mailto:mathchair@sycamorevalleypta.org)).

### **Math Olympiad:**

The team meets every Friday morning @ 7:15am for practices. For more information, please reach out to Deepa ([mathchair@sycamorevalleypta.org](mailto:mathchair@sycamorevalleypta.org)).

### **Research Projects:**

Stay tuned for new research topics after the winter break! For any questions,

please contact Raj ([researchprojects@sycamorevalleypta.org](mailto:researchprojects@sycamorevalleypta.org)).

**Science Builder's Challenge:**

Thank you for signing up. This program will kick off after the winter break, so stay tuned. For any questions, please contact Sruthi ([sciencebuilders@sycamorevalleypta.org](mailto:sciencebuilders@sycamorevalleypta.org)).

**Science Fair:**

Thank you for signing up. This program will kick off after the winter break, so stay tuned. For any questions, please contact Juliana ([sciencechair@sycamorevalleypta.org](mailto:sciencechair@sycamorevalleypta.org)).

**WordMasters Challenge:**

Registration has closed, and the program is underway. For any questions, please contact Rachel ([wordmasters@sycamorevalleypta.org](mailto:wordmasters@sycamorevalleypta.org)).

Contact [steamenrichment@sycamorevalleypta.org](mailto:steamenrichment@sycamorevalleypta.org) with any questions about the STEAM Enrichment program.



---

## Shark Fund Updates

---



### Sharky Cinema - Volunteers Needed for January & March

Sharky Cinema will be the first Wednesday of each month this year 12:50-2:30pm. We still need volunteers the first Wednesday of the month moving



forward! The December Sharky Cinema movie will be The Grinch, so be sure to buy your tickets!

**Volunteer sign up:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAFA82DA5FDC61-58993180-sharky#/>

---



## **Auction!**

This is a live auction year and we are gearing up for a great event! If you are interested in helping with the auction in any capacity - please reach out to the Shark Fund board, as planning meetings will start soon!

[Sycamorevalley.edfund@srvef.org](mailto:Sycamorevalley.edfund@srvef.org) (Doug - President)

[Sycamorevalley.edfundvp@srvef.org](mailto:Sycamorevalley.edfundvp@srvef.org) (Adele - VP)

---



## **Dippin' Dot Calendar:**

**Dippin Dots - 12/17/25**

TK/Kinder 11:30am, 1st-5th 12:50pm

**Dippin Dots - 01/14/26**

TK/Kinder 11:30am, 1st-5th 12:50pm

**Dippin Dots - 01/28/26**

TK/Kinder 11:30am, 1st-5th 12:50pm

---

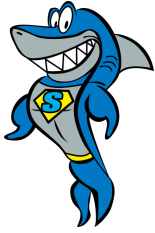
## **Dippin Dot Pre-pay Punch Cards are Back!**

Punch cards can be purchased for **\$25.00**.

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

---



## **Sharky Shout Out:**

A huge thank you to Dana Claffey and team for organizing another wonderful Family Game Night last Friday! The kiddos had an awesome time and had a chance to win some awesome prizes!

---



## **School Site Council Update**

---

### **School Site Council Meeting**

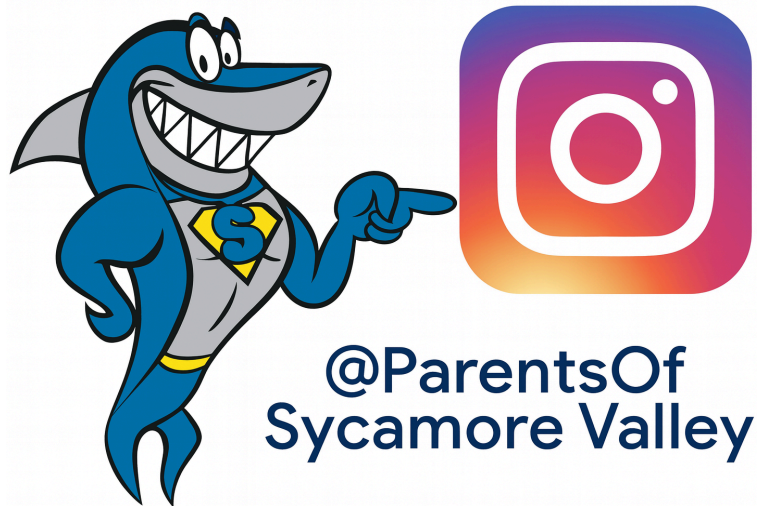
**January 2026 @ 4:00pm Virtual Meeting To Be Determined**

---



Follow our new Instagram page @parentsofsycamorevalley for bite-sized updates on school events, programs, and all the fun happening at our school!

***Instagram:***



---

## After School Enrichment

Please refer to Peach Jar for after school enrichment opportunities that are offered for Sycamore students.

[Sycamore Valley Peach Jar](#)



---

## Lost & Found

**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 on 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 and lunch will continue to be offered free of charge for all students for the 25/26 school year, funded through the California Universal Meals Program.**

Here's the link to the Child Nutrition website.

[link](#)

**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>

#### Can my child purchase a second meal?

Yes, but they need to have funds on their prepayment account, which can be done on the Titan [Family Portal](#). Cash will not be accepted in the breakfast or lunch line. Cash or checks can be given to the Child Nutrition Manager outside of the breakfast or lunch meal service time. A second breakfast is \$4.00 and a second lunch is \$5.75 at Elementary Schools and \$6.00 at Middle and High Schools. School staff can purchase a breakfast for \$4.50 and lunch for \$6.00.

---

---

---

## Read Our Announcements

[VIEW ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

---

## Keep in Touch with Us!

Follow and Like Us!



---

You are receiving this email because your email address is associated with

**Sycamore Valley Elementary**

2200 Holbrook Dr., Danville, CA 94506

[\(925\) 855-2800](tel:(925)855-2800)

[Opt Out](#)

**Statement of Confidentiality:**

The contents of this e-mail message and any attachments are intended solely for the addressee. The information may also be confidential and/or legally privileged. This transmission is sent for the sole purpose of delivery to the intended recipient. If you have received this transmission in error, any use, reproduction, or dissemination of this transmission is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please immediately notify the sender by reply e-mail and delete this message and its attachments, if any.  
(Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 USC SS 2510-2521)

Copyright © 2021

Powered by [Catapult Connect](#)