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# Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Bites Newsletter

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**Message from Principal Kawahara  
January 08, 2026**

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Kindergarten Snowman

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you and your family are well. While we love vacations, it is always nice to return to routines and catch up with our students. Following are some reminders to keep in mind.

**Correcting Students:**

If you have concerns around a student's actions, other than your own, please bring your concerns to a staff member so we may address it with the student. Kiddos are unsettled when adults they do not know speak to them about their behavior. It can feel intimidating and undermines the safe environment we strive to maintain for all of our students.

**Inclusive Schools Week:**

Inclusive Schools Week is January 12th through the 16th. PTA will be hosting stations for each class in the MPR for students to explore what it would be like to have different abilities. This bi-annual event develops understanding through hands-on activities and is always a hit with the students and staff. Please contact me with any questions.

**Bell Schedule: January at a Glance:**  
**[January At A Glance](#)****January Read Aloud:**  
**[January Read Aloud Schedule](#)****January Character Trait and Read Aloud:**

The character trait for the month of January is Cooperative. We will be exploring this topic with the following books: *The Little Red Pen* (Stevens), and *Little Blue Truck* (Schertle).

**February Character Trait and Read Alouds:**

In February, we will explore the character trait Courageous. We will read *Nellie's Big Splash* (Doerrfeld), *Brave Little Bear* (Small) and *Knight Owl* (Denise).

**2025-2026 Read Aloud Titles (December - May):**  
**[25-26 Sycamore Valley Read-Alouds](#)****District Updates:**

**Presented by**



**SAN RAMON VALLEY  
DIVERSITY COALITION**



# ***Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration***

**Honoree:**



**Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek  
and San Ramon branches**

**Monday, January 19, 2026  
San Ramon City Hall Rotunda  
Program 2:00 - 3:30 pm  
Reception 3:30 - 4:30 pm**

**Supported by:**

- Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan
- Supervisor Candace Andersen
- Danville Mayor Newell Arnerich and Vice Mayor Robert Storer
- San Ramon Valley Unified School District
- Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association-Tri-Valley Chapter (APAPA-TVC)
- Diablo Black Men's Group
- Discovery Counseling Center
- Narika
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Contra Costa
- PFLAG Danville-San Ramon Valley
- Rewire Community
- San Ramon Chamber of Commerce
- San Ramon Valley Council of PTAs

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.**

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## Important Dates to Remember

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

**01/12-01/16 - Inclusive Schools Week**  
**01/14 - Dippin' Dots**  
**01/15 - Abilities Awareness Workshop**  
**01/16 - Report Cards Available Online**  
**01/16 - Bookmark Contest Entries due to the school office**  
**01/19 - No School - Martin Luther King Holiday**  
**01/21 - Shark Fund Meeting - Virtual - 6:30pm**  
**01/22 - Site Council Meeting - Virtual - 4:30pm**  
**01/28 - Dippin' Dots**  
**01/28 - Book Swap - MPR - 1:00pm**  
**02/01 - 1st - 5th Grade Enrollment Open for New Students**  
**02/01 - Culture in the Community Celebration**  
**02/04 - Sharky Cinema**  
**02/16 - No School - President's Day**  
**02/17 - No School - Professional Development Day for Staff**  
**03/04 - Sharky Cinema**  
**03/16 - 03/22 - Silent Auction - Online**  
**03/21 - Live Auction - Blackhawk Country Club**  
**04/03-04/10 - No School - Spring Break**  
**05/06 - Sharky Cinema**

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**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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### **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).*

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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.



**SAN RAMON VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

# TK & KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

for the 2026-27 School Year




**Enroll Now**  
For Kinder and TK!

**Age Guidelines**

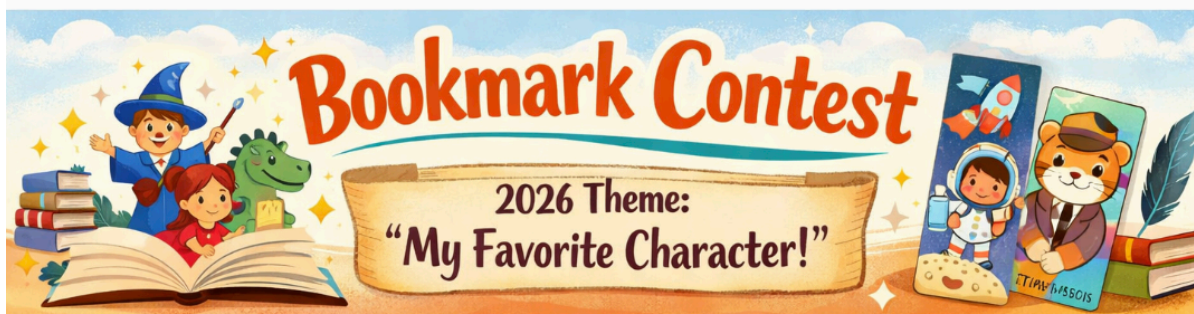
**TK for 2026-27**  
Child must turn 4 years of age  
on or before  
September 1, 2026

**KINDERGARTEN for 2026-27**  
Child must turn 5 years of age  
on or before  
September 1, 2026

**TK/Kinder Webpages**

- [TK FAQ](#)
- [Kindergarten Readiness](#)
- [TK/Kinder Enrollment Quick Reference](#)

[www.srvusd.net/enrollyourchild](http://www.srvusd.net/enrollyourchild)



The Annual Book Swap is coming up later this month! As part of the Book Swap, we are launching the accompanying Bookmark Contest.

Theme for the 2026 Bookmark Contest is "My Favorite Character"

Bookmark Contest Entries for our annual Book Swap are available in the Office and attached below.

Completed entries are due FRIDAY, January 16th in the Office. ONE (1) entry per student. Artwork should be done by hand and by the child whose name is on the form (Exception: young children may receive help in writing letters and numbers). All bookmark entries will be displayed in the Sycamore Library. Winning bookmarks will be reproduced and given out at the Book Swap.

### **[Bookmark Entry Form](#)**

Questions? Contact Lisa Comeau at [comeaurx@gmail.com](mailto:comeaurx@gmail.com) or Lisa Chen at [lisacquan@gmail.com](mailto:lisacquan@gmail.com)

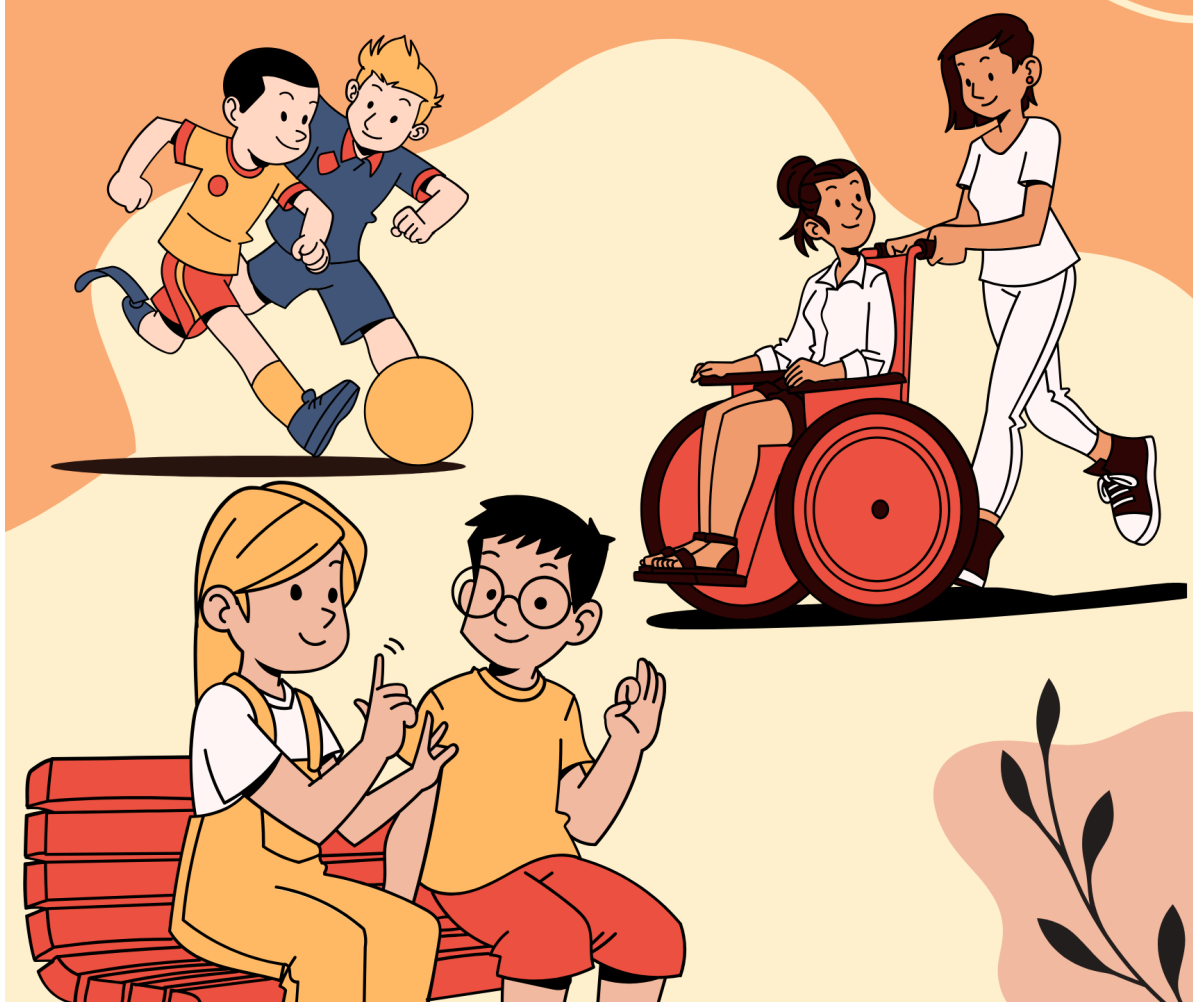
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## ***Exceptional Abilities Workshop***

## Exceptional Abilities Workshop

**Volunteers needed to help classes go through  
ADHD, DYSLEXIA, AND PHYSICAL ABILITY  
simulation stations. (Easy way to get involoved!)**

**Click Link below to Sign Up!**



[Sign Up Link](#)

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**SPIRITWEAR**



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

Parents, our big Sycamore Valley Elementary School Year-End Spirit Wear Clearance Sale closes this weekend!

Save \$5 on all tees, \$10 on all hoodies, and \$15 on all jackets through January 11th.

Prices start at just \$18.49, with FREE shipping on orders \$85+.

Don't miss out—and don't forget—part of every purchase supports our school! <https://1stplace.sale/13542>

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

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

**SYCAMORE VALLEY**  
OFFICIAL SPIRIT WEAR STORE

# YEAR-END CLEARANCE

**\$5 OFF**  
ALL T-SHIRTS  
AS LOW AS **\$18.49**

**\$10 OFF**  
ALL HOODIES  
AS LOW AS **\$32.49**

**\$15 OFF**  
ALL JACKETS  
AS LOW AS **\$44.99**

[SHOP NOW](#)

**FREE Shipping on orders over \$85**  
**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](#)

shutterstock.com: 1157158994



**YEARBOOK**  
**eShare**

**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.**



USE THE QR CODE OR VISIT [YEARBOOKSHARE.COM](https://yearbookshare.com)

THEN, USE OUR SCHOOL CODE:

**sycamoresharks**



## 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!



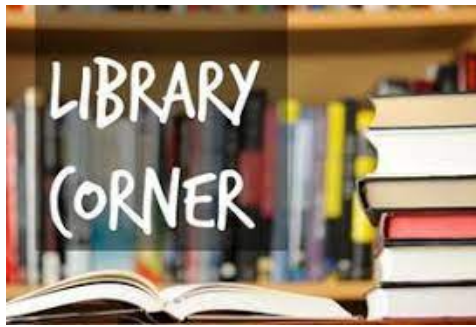
Make sure you have at least 2-3 students in a photo, preferably the same grade level.



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)

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## 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!!!

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## PTA Updates

## **2026 Culture in the Community Celebration**

The 2026 Culture in the Community Celebration will be held on Sunday, February 1st from 12pm to 5pm at the Dougherty Station Community Arts Center organized by the City of San Ramon. All are welcome to attend (free and all-ages) this celebration of the diverse cultures that make up San Ramon through art, dance, music and games from around the world. Please join us with the whole family and spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and various communities.

**CULTURE IN THE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION 2026**

Share & celebrate the diverse cultures of San Ramon, through art, dance, music & games from around the World.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026**  
FROM 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**DOUGHERTY STATION COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER**

**ALL AGES ARE WELCOME AT THIS FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**

**CULTURAL BOOTHS**

**MULTICULTURAL PERFORMANCES**

**INTERNATIONAL CRAFT WORKSHOPS**

**SAN RAMON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**  
JOHN MUIR HEALTH PARTNER

**SAN RAMON VALLEY DIVERSITY COALITION**

**JOHN MUIR HEALTH**

**PTA**

**San Ramon Parks & Community Services**  
SRCultureintheCommunity.com  
925-973-3200

## ***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



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

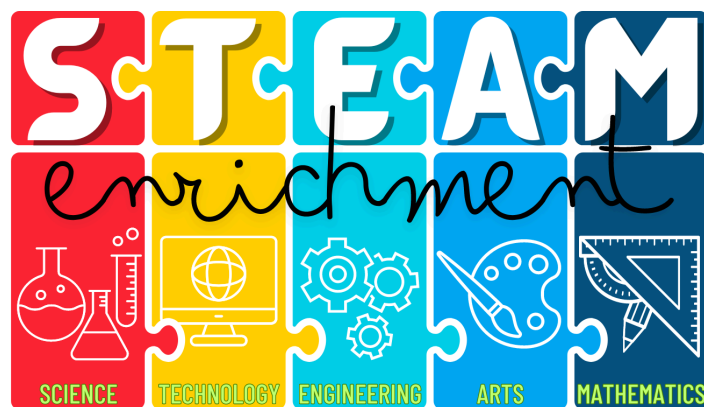


**KEHRIG**  
— REAL ESTATE TEAM —



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





### **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 **Wednesday, January 21st, after school in the Science Room**. The book that will be discussed is ***Magic Treehouse: #1 Dinosaurs Before Dark* by Mary Pope Osborne**. 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**. The book that will be discussed is ***The Unexplainable Disappearance of Mars Patel* by Sheela Chari**. 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. There is no Spring session. 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:**

This program has been canceled this year due to low response. For any questions, please contact Sruthi ([sciencebuilders@sycamorevalleypta.org](mailto:sciencebuilders@sycamorevalleypta.org)).

**Science Fair:**

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)).

**Word Masters Challenge:**

Great job to all students on completing their WordMasters Challenge 1 (Word List 1) test! Everyone did very well on this challenge. Congratulations to the top 3 scorers: **Jaden G., Daniel K., and Devin J.** The 2nd Round WordMasters Challenge has been released. 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

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**SHARK FUND MEETING:**

Everyone is invited to join the next Shark fund meeting!!  
Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm.  
Our next meeting is January 21st at 6:30.

Meeting will be virtual: <https://meet.google.com/ttd-tnzn-mks>





## 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#/>

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## Auction!

Save the Date! This year there will be both an Online and Live Auction! The Live Auction will be held the evening of March 21st at Blackhawk Country Club. Join for a night of dinner, dancing, and FUNdraising! Stay tuned for more information about ticket sales and additional details. We are still looking for volunteers to help with the event, please reach out to [Douglas.Merian@gmail.com](mailto:Douglas.Merian@gmail.com) today!

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

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

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## Dippin' Dot Calendar:

**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

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

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

Prepay for 5 Dippin' Dots, get one free

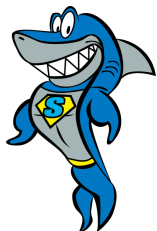
Save time in line

No need to bring money to school

Families can share one card

100% of proceeds benefit your students at Sycamore

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## Sharky Shout Out:

A big thank you to all our Shark parents who made all sorts of holiday magic happen for all of our students over winter break! We hope your 2026 is off to a great start!

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## School Site Council Update

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### School Site Council Meeting

**January 22, 2026 @ 4:00pm Virtual Meeting**

Meeting ID

[meet.google.com/mon-pnzw-doe](https://meet.google.com/mon-pnzw-doe)

Phone Numbers

(US)+1 [240-490-4666](tel:2404904666)

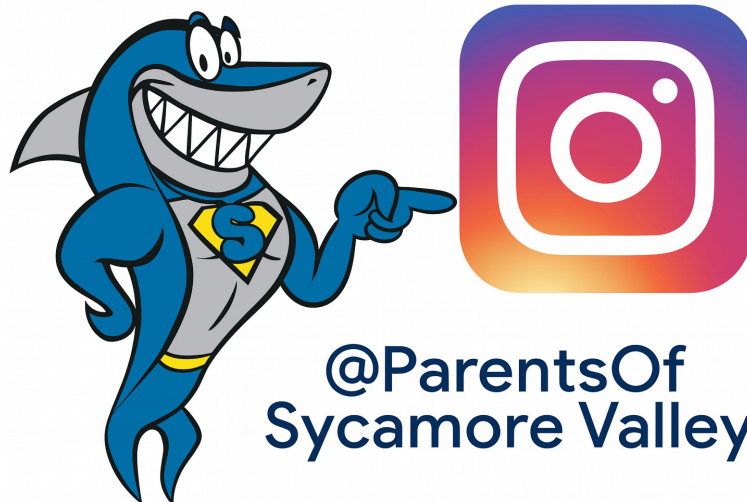
PIN: 557 572 516#

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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](#)

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## **Read Our Announcements**

[VIEW ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

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## **Keep in Touch with Us!**

Follow and Like Us!



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2200 Holbrook Dr., Danville, CA 94506

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

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