



Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Bites Newsletter

Message from Principal Kawahara
October 16, 2025



Cain's Arcade - 5th Grade

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you and your family are well. One of the big highlights this week was the 5th Grade Caine's Arcade. This deep learning and innovative activity is inspired by the short documentary ([Caine's Arcade](#)). Every year I am blown away by the 5th graders' creativity and enjoy playing the games.

Keep reading for some reminders, information about volunteer requirements, and some district updates. Please note that Dates to Remember will be listed following my note so please keep reading.

Monday, Oct. 27th - Kindergarten will have a visit from our local Fire Engine.

Bell Schedule: October at a Glance

[October At A Glance](#)

October Read Aloud:

[October Read Aloud Schedule](#)

November Read Aloud:

[November Read Aloud Schedule](#)

Halloween Information for Families: Halloween Costumes, parade, parties, etc., information provided in the attached Halloween Information Document:

[Halloween Information](#)

District Updates:

Invitation to State of the School District

The community is invited to attend the State of the School District on October 29th. The program will feature remarks from Superintendent CJ Cammack, who will provide an overview of District priorities and achievements, and will celebrate the distinguished young alumni selected for this year's 30 Under 30 Alumni Recognition. Register at: bit.ly/StateofSRVUSD.

→ [Flyer invite](#)

November Resolutions and Resources

National Native American Heritage Month

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of November as National Native American Heritage Month. We acknowledge that this country was home to generations of Indigenous Peoples long before the arrival of European explorers and that these tribes had a unique and vibrant culture. The California State Board of Education recognizes that each student needs an opportunity to understand the common humanity underlying all peoples and our California Frameworks state that the history curriculum must reflect the experiences of all people. During this month, a special focus is placed on improvement in education about Native American Heritage.

Substitute Educators Day: November 21, 2025

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes November 21, 2025, as Substitute Educators Day. Our substitute educators are an essential part of the education of students in our district. They provide continuity in the learning process and safe, healthy learning environments for students. The Board of Education and the district administrative team extend sincere appreciation to the substitute educators of SRVUSD and encourage the community to celebrate their contributions.

Register for Next Year's Run for Education

Please share [this flyer](#) and blurb below with your school community before the end of the month so they can take advantage of early bird pricing and your school can nab an early lead in the race for the 2026 Cup!

Registration is now open for our [43rd Annual Run for Education](#) on Sunday, October 11, 2026, with special pricing for a limited time. 2026 Run pricing will never be lower!

9-11 Essay Competition for Students in Grades 1 through 12

The Exchange Club of the San Ramon Valley invites students to participate in their 9-11 Essay Competition. Cash prizes for Elementary, Middle, and High School divisions. Submission deadline is October 30. For more information and essay rules, visit <https://srvexchangeclub.com/>

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

10/16 - Festival Around the World - 5:00pm - 7:00pm - MPR
10/22 - Dippin Dots
10/23 - Site Council Meeting - 4:00pm - Virtual Meeting
10/24 - Monster Mash - MPR & Blacktop 5:00pm-6:30pm -
Tickets for sale on future fund.
10/25 - Street Smart Bike Festival 10:00 - 2:00 @ Iron Horse Middle School
10/27-10/31 - Red Ribbon Week
10/31 - Halloween - Wednesday Day Schedule
All TK/K = 8:00 - 11:30
All 1st - 5th = 8:00 - 12:50
10/31 - Halloween Parade 9:15 @ Turf Field
11/01-11/30 - TK/K Priority Enrollment Window Open
11/02 - Day Light Savings Time End
11/05 - PTA Association Meeting - 8:05am - MPR
11/05 - Sharky Cinema - 1:00pm - MPR
11/05 - Dippin Dots
11/06 - Fun Run at Sycamore - Turf Field - ALL grades
11/19 - Dippin Dots
11/19 - Shark Fund Meeting - 6:30pm - virtual
11/24-11/28 - No School - Thanksgiving Break
12/01 - Astronomy Night - 5:30 - 7:30 on the Blacktop
12/03 - PTA Association Meeting - 8:05am - MPR
12/03 - Sharky Cinema - 1:00pm - MPR

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 the attendance line to report
your child's absence:
925-855-2898
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 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).

SAN RAMON VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TK & KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

for the 2026-27 School Year



Enrollment Dates

**PRIORITY ENROLLMENT WINDOW
NOVEMBER 1 - 30, 2025**

* Completed online enrollment applications submitted by Nov. 30th will be included in 1st round of confirmation of space at the resident school site. Applications submitted after Nov. 30 are received on a first come-first served basis for space.

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

Parent Information Night

**TK and Kindergarten
Information Night
(virtual*)**

**Tuesday, Oct. 7
6:00-7:00 pm**

*Virtual meeting link can be found
on our [TK/Kinder webpage](#)

TK/Kinder Webpages



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

www.srvusd.net/enrollyourchild

TK and Kindergarten enrollment opens November 1st
for the 2026-27 school year.
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 Clothing Sale - Oct 13th - Oct 19th

Stock up and get cozy with fall essential long sleeve tees and crewnecks repping Sycamore Valley!

\$10 off all long sleeve tees and crewnecks with code **COZY10**

All delivered to your door in days!

Shipping is FREE on orders of \$75 or more!

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

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

SYCAMORE VALLEY
OFFICIAL FAN GEAR STORE

LAYER UP FOR FALL

\$10 OFF
LONG SLEEVE TEES
& CREW NECKS
USE CODE:
COZY10

SHOP NOW

SHOP AT: 1STPLACE.SALE/13542

1ST PLACE
Spiritwear

The advertisement features a background of autumn trees. In the center, two long-sleeved shirts are displayed: a blue one with 'SYCAMORE VALLEY SHARKS ELEMENTARY' and a grey one with 'SYCAMORE VALLEY Sharks' and a shark logo. The '1ST PLACE Spiritwear' logo is in the bottom right corner.



Be A Mentor:

Volunteer Clearance - Reminder - NEW REQUIREMENTS

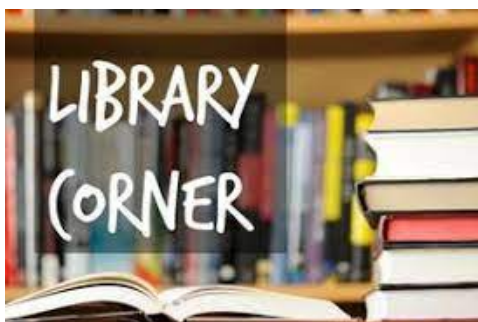
We ask all of our parents/guardians to register w/ Be A Mentor for level #1 - general volunteer. This clearance will allow you to be on campus and/or in the classroom with the children. All volunteers must be finger printed. Here is the link to sign up. [Be A Mentor](#) Click on the New Volunteers Apply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



It's been so great to get back into the swing of things here in the library!
Just a reminder that we are now 1 month into our library visits and are trying to remember our weekly routines - especially when it comes to remembering our books each week.

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



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



Sycamore Valley 2025 Fun Run

RUN DATE: Thursday, November 6, 2025

What is the Fun Run?

The Fun Run is the biggest PTA fundraiser of the year and it's almost here! Students will collect pledges (per lap or one-time) from family and friends, then run as many laps as they can on Fun Run day. Funds raised support programs like yearbook, STEAM nights, Red Ribbon Week, family game nights, and more!

How can my student participate?

New for 2025: All students must have a Pledgestar account and a completed online waiver to participate.

1. Create your account at <https://sycamore.pledgestar.com> or scan QR code
2. After setting up your account, you will receive an email with a link to the waiver.
3. Parents must complete the waiver for their student(s) to participate.



Every registered student will receive a Fun Run t-shirt and water bottle on the day of the event! The top fundraising class AND top 20 INDIVIDUAL fundraisers will earn an ice cream party at Sycamore Valley Park.

When will my student run?

Important Dates

<u>8:15am - 9:00am</u>: 2nd and 3rd grades <u>9:30am - 10:00am</u>: TK, K and 1st grades <u>10:15am - 11:00am</u>: 4th and 5th grades	10/24: Pledgestar account and waiver due 11/6: FUN RUN 11/7: by this date, notification of how many laps ran via email through pledgestar 11/10-11/21: collect and turn in any checks to the school office for per lap donations (for those not paying by credit card online) 11/21: FINAL DATE TO TURN IN CHECKS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDRAISING ICE CREAM PARTY
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Pledges and Waivers are online this year, can I still donate by check?

YES! Simply enter your pledge online and send a check into the school office for both flat donations and per-lap pledges. Please note your student and teacher's name on the envelope and turn in by 11/21.

Questions?

Please reach out to Erin Meyer & Jenna Mesic at funrun@sycamorevalleypta.org

African American History Museum:

VOLUNTEERS 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

Streets Smart Community Bike Festival - October 25th

Families are invited to a free fun-filled time of activities, games, music and hands-on learning focused on bike and pedestrian safety at the [Street Smarts](#)

Community Bike Festival on Saturday, October 25, 2025 on the Blacktop at Iron Horse Middle School, 12601 Alcosta Blvd., in San Ramon. Drop in anytime between 10am and 2pm.

Pre-registration is encouraged and makes your child (ages 3-12) eligible for the bike drawing and other prizes. While activities, prizes and giveaways are designed for children ages 3-12, all ages are welcome to attend the event. No bike? No problem! There are plenty of non-riding activities for everyone to enjoy!



COMMUNITY BIKE FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25
10 AM- 2 PM

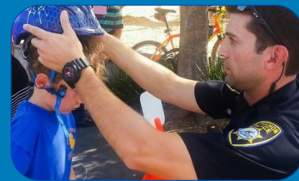
Enjoy a FREE, FUN-FILLED Event!

Bring the family and friends for a day of hands-on learning and fun! Discover essential bike & pedestrian safety tips and build safety skills together. Prizes and bike course are available for children ages 3-12 only.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Meet your local Police Officers & Firefighters!
- Learn hands-on CPR Training!
- Visit the Bike Maintenance Station!
- Receive Guided Helmet Fitting!
- Learn Bike and Pedestrian Safety Instruction!
- All Bike and Scooter parking available!
- Snacks available for purchase!
- Try the Safety Bike Skills Course! (Bike & Helmet required)

NO E-BIKES OR E-SCOOTERS ALLOWED ON THE COURSE!



Pre - Registration is encouraged, but not required.



Scan barcode or visit [Street-Smarts.com](https://www.street-smarts.com) for detailed information.

All PRE-REGISTERED participants are automatically entered to win \$300 towards a bike purchase.



ASTRONOMY NIGHT

2025

Great fun for families and enthusiastic
astronomers alike!

DECEMBER 1

Activity Program :



- Telescope Displays
- Talk with astronomers
about the night sky
- Enjoy hot cocoa

5:30-7:30

Sycamore Valley
Elementary
Blacktop



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
and Katerina McCormack katerinita@aol.com

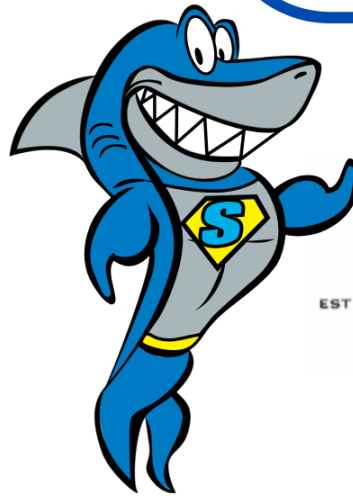


**GARAGE
KINGS**
925-786-6822



Little Genius
— academy —

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



KEHRIG
— REAL ESTATE TEAM —



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

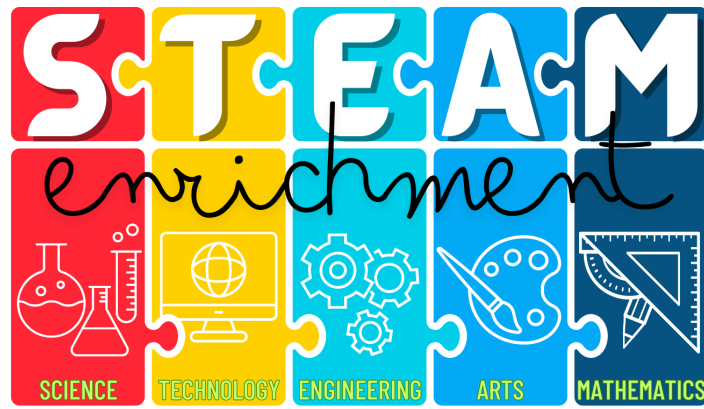


FLOURISH
airway
COLLECTIVE



RK Dentistry

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



Reminder to sign your kids up for our various STEAM programs listed below. Sign-ups are well under way and there are still some spots left! Students can sign up for as many programs as they like.

Battle of the Books

The book list is now available for Battle of the Books! Please contact Deepa (battleofthebooks@sycamorevalleypta.org) for the book list and any questions about the program.

Book Club 1st-2nd

The first book club meeting for 1st and 2nd graders will be held on **Wednesday, October 29th**, after school in the Science Room. The book that will be discussed is ***Teach Your Dragon About Feelings: A Story About Emotions and Feelings by Steve Herman***. 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).

Book Club 3rd-5th

The first book club meeting for 3rd-5th graders will be held on **Wednesday, November 5th**, after school in the Science Room. The book that will be discussed is ***Ivy Lost and Found by Cynthia Lord***. 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). Contact steamenrichment@sycamorevalleypta.org with any questions about the STEAM Enrichment program.

Science Builder's Challenge:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4DAEA82BA7FD0-59128380-science#/>

Science Fair:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B45A4AE2FABF49-58529308-science#/>

Math Madness:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944AAA62AA3F9CF8-58517479-math>

Math Olympiad:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944AAA62AA3F9CF8-58519098-math>

STEAM Art: *Need parent volunteer to lead this*

WordMasters Challenge:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044AAFA72AA46-58538422-wordmasters#/>

Odyssey of the Mind:

Note: This is a community program and does not fall under our school's PTA.

[Sycamore Valley Odyssey of the Mind Information Session.xlsx](#)

We are looking for parent volunteers to lead/co-lead various STEAM Enrichment programs!
Any parents that would like to volunteer, please fill out this form:

<https://forms.gle/UYXqdHs7HvicUqvL8>

Contact steamenrichment@sycamorevalleypta.org with any questions about the STEAM Enrichment program.



Shark Fund Updates



Mark your Calendars!

Monster Mash is Friday October 24th! 5:00pm - 6:30pm

We will kick off the Halloween celebrations with Monster Mash - trunk or treat on the blacktop and a glowstick dance party in the MPR! Tickets are now on sale for \$25/per person. Similar to last year, we are looking for 15-20 volunteers to do the trunk or treat on the blacktop. If you host a trunk, you will get two tickets comp'd (so a family of four would then purchase 2 tickets, 2 are free).

Sign up genius for trunk or treat:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAFA82DA5FDC61-58992022-monster#/>

Tickets:

<https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/go/58068-monster-mash-2025>



Sharky Cinema - Volunteers Needed!

Sharky Cinema will normally be the first Wednesday of each month this year 12:50-2:30pm.

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 (Doug - President)

Sycamorevalley.edfundvp@srvef.org (Adele - VP)



Dippin' Dot Calendar:

10/22 - Dippin Dots -

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

11/05 - Dippin Dots -

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

11/19 - Dippin Dots -

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

Dippin Dot Pre-pay Punch Cards are Back!

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

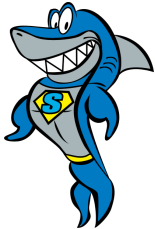
Prepay for 5 Dippin' Dots, get one free

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 big thank you to our Festival Around the World committee for working hard to put on an incredible event and securing 10 international booths and activities for our students tonight from 5-7pm in the MPR.



School Site Council Update

October 23, 2025 4:00pm Virtual Meeting

Meeting ID

meet.google.com/www-uhrw-njv

Phone Numbers

(US)+1 267-371-7884

PIN: 640 902 960#



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

Instagram:



**@ParentsOf
Sycamore Valley**



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!

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