

Translate



Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Bites Newsletter

Message from Principal Kawahara January 22, 2026



TK - January Snowflake Artwork

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope all is well with you and your family. We have been busy completing screeners and using that data to inform next steps in instruction. Following are some things to note.

Crossing Guard: We do not have a crossing guard at the intersection of Holbrook and Camino Tassajara. If you are interested in helping with this, please let me know.

Bookmark Contest submissions:

All submitted bookmarks will be proudly displayed in the Sycamore Library, and winning designs will be professionally reproduced and given out at the Book Swap on January 28th. Please see the PTA section below for more information about the upcoming Bookswap.



Phone Policy:

Mobile Communication Device Policy Reminder

Effective August 2025: SRVUSD's new district-wide policy regarding [student use of cell phones and other mobile communication devices](#) (MCDs) during the school day.

Students' devices should be kept in their backpack if they are brought to school. Sycamore is not responsible for lost or misplaced devices.

Mobile Communication Devices (MCDs) include, but are not limited to:

- Smartphones
- Smart watches
- Any wearable communication device

Effective August 2025, the SRVUSD Mobile Communication Devices policy will be implemented for all students.*

	Before the Morning Bell**	During Instructional / Class Time	During Lunch, Recess, Breaks, and Passing Periods	After the School Day**
Preschool through Grade 5				
Devices must be turned off or silenced, and stored in backpacks or other designated storage				
Grades 6 - 8				
MAY BE PERMITTED by teacher for instructional purposes				
Devices must be turned off or silenced, and stored in backpacks or other designated storage				
Grades 9 - 12				
MAY BE PERMITTED by teacher for instructional purposes				
Devices must be turned off or silenced, and stored in backpacks or other designated storage				

* [SRVUSD 5131.8 BP](#) permits exceptions for emergency situations.

** [SRVUSD 5131.8 AR](#) defines the school day as ...the period from the time a student arrives on campus until the time of their dismissal, including class time, passing periods, breaks, and lunch periods...





Student Use of Mobile Communications Devices
EFFECTIVE 2025-26

[SRVUSD Board Policy 5131.8](#)

Bell Schedule: January at a Glance

[January At A Glance](#)

January Read Aloud:

[January Read Aloud Schedule](#)

February Read Aloud:

[February Read Aloud Schedule](#)

District Updates:

Safety Town Hall

SRVUSD and SRVCPTA are hosting a Campus Safety Town Hall on Thursday, February 5. Please join us at this important event to hear more about student safety on our campuses. A panel consisting of SRVUSD personnel and local law enforcement agencies will address topics of interest in the moderated event. Specific questions can be submitted during the [online registration](#) for the event.



CAMPUS SAFETY TOWN HALL

**Thursday, February 5, 2026
6:00 - 7:30 pm**

SRVUSD Board Rooms (in-person)
699 Old Orchard Drive, Danville

Hear from a panel of experts from SRVUSD and the community:



CJ Cammack
Superintendent
SRVUSD



Danny Hillman
Asst. Superintendent
Business Services/CBO
SRVUSD



Jessica Coulson
Coordinator
SRVUSD



**Chief
Becky Chestnut**
San Ramon Police Dep't



**Chief
Tom Rossberg**
Danville Police Dep't



**Corporal
Mike Wickman**
School Resource Officer



**Lieutenant
Scott Dickerson**
Contra Costa County
Office of the Sheriff

Please register to attend:
bit.ly/CampusSafetyTownHall

SRVUSD Tech Talk: Bringing History to Life with Gemini Gems

This week, we are excited to share a specialized look at how Artificial Intelligence is being used to deepen student engagement and critical thinking in *Jeff Vangene's classroom at Dougherty Valley High School*.

We invite you to [watch this "SRVUSD Tech Talk"](#) to see how Jeff customizes AI agents—known as Gemini Gems—to move beyond simple chatbots and create truly immersive learning experiences.

🎓 What You'll Learn:

- Immersive Historical Simulations: Watch how students prepare for a mock trial of the Impeachment of Andrew Johnson. By "interviewing" Gems programmed as Radical Republicans or Presidential Defense teams, students build sophisticated, evidence-based arguments.
- The AI Writing Coach: See a Gem in action that acts as a coach, not a ghostwriter. This tool provides personalized, real-time feedback on thesis statements and topic sentences, ensuring students maintain ownership of their ideas.
- Differentiated Learning: Discover how a single writing Gem can be tailored to support all levels—from foundational skill-building in Regular US History to advanced synthesis for AP-level Long Essay Questions (LEQs).
- Building a Stronger Gem: Jeff demonstrates how to use Gemini's native capabilities to refine instructions, making your custom agents more reliable and curriculum-aligned.

Resources:

[**Building a Stronger Gem**](#)

[**How to Use Gemini to Create a Stronger Google Gem**](#)

[**Immersive Historical Simulations**](#)

[**Click Here to Watch the SRVUSD Tech Talk**](#)

February Board Resolutions

[**African American/Black History Month**](#)

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of February as African American/Black History Month. We acknowledge that Americans of African descent helped develop our nation in countless ways. African American/Black history reflects a determined spirit of perseverance and cultural pride to fully and equally share in the opportunities of a nation founded on the principles of freedom and liberty. Acknowledging that each student needs an opportunity to understand the common humanity underlying all people, the Board of Education encourages all schools to commemorate this month with appropriate instructional activities.

[**Career and Technical Education Month**](#)

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of February as Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. SRVUSD is committed to supporting students through CTE classes that prepare them for high-wage, high-demand careers. SRVUSD students have the opportunity to participate in CTE classes such as Automotive Repair, Biomedical Science, Business & Entrepreneurship, Digital Media, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood Education, Engineering, Environmental Science, Sports Medicine, and Welding. We support opportunities to enable all students to achieve their career goals and contribute to the local economy.

[**Words Matter Week: February 2-6, 2026**](#)

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the week of February 2-6, 2026, as Words Matter Week. By bringing attention to name-calling, hate speech, and verbal bullying of all kinds and providing schools, students, and parents with the tools to launch an ongoing dialogue about ways to eliminate these acts in our schools and communities, the schools in our district will be safe places for all students to learn.

National School Counseling Week: February 2-6, 2026

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the week of February 2-6, 2026, as National School Counseling Week. As a district, we value and acknowledge the services and support that school counselors provide to our students. Counselors help students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents to help them reach their full potential and guide them in academics and career awareness. We acknowledge the assistance they provide parents and staff and we commend our district counselors for their outstanding contributions and dedication to quality education for all students.

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

- 01/16 - Report Cards Available Online @ 2:30pm**
- 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 12:00 - 5:00
02/04 - Sharky Cinema
02/05 - 5th Grade Class Panoramic and "26" photo shoot
02/11 - Melos Giveback - 20% to Sycamore
02/16 - No School - President's Day
02/27 - Deadline to submit Variety Show Act
02/17 - No School - Professional Development Day for Staff
03/04 - 5th Grade Math Placement exam for entering Middle School
03/11 - Sharky Cinema
03/16 - 03/22 - Silent Auction - Online
03/21 - Live Auction - Blackhawk Country Club
04/01 - Variety Show Dress Rehearsal 1:00 - 3:00pm - MPR
04/02 - Variety Show - MPR - 6:00pm
04/03-04/10 - No School - Spring Break
05/06 - Sharky Cinema

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**

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).

Student Enrollment



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

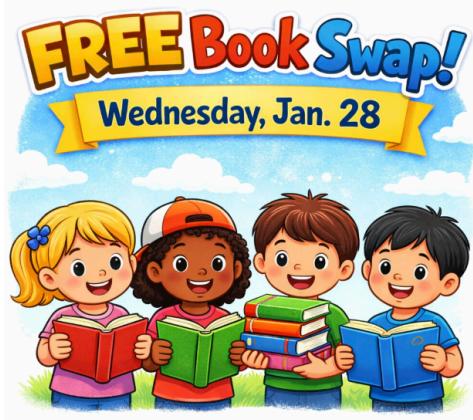
KINDERGARTEN for 2026-27
Child must turn 5 years of age
on or before
September 1, 2026

TK/Kinder Webpages



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

www.srvusd.net/enrollyourchild



FREE Book Swap Wednesday, Jan. 28

- TK & Kindergarten: 11:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Kindergarten Playground
- All Grades: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. MPR

*The Book Swap is a FREE community event sponsored by the Sycamore Valley PTA.

DROP OFF gently used books beginning Monday (1/26), Tuesday (1/27) and Wednesday (1/28) at the front of the school and Kindergarten Playground between 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Also, we will be at the front of the school on Monday and Tuesday between 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. for Late Sharks. Students will receive one (1) ticket per donated book, maximum five (5) tickets per student.

Rules for the Book Swap

Books to be swapped should be FROM our students, FOR our students. Encourage your child to bring books they've loved that they think their friends might love too! No preschool books, magazines, sticker books, coloring books, activity books, young adult or grown-up books.

Students may swap up to five (5) books but are encouraged to bring additional book donations. All remaining books after the swap will be donated. Students can trade one (1) ticket for one (1) book at the Book Swap.

Thank you to all who participated in the bookmark contest. All entries will be displayed for student voting in the library. Bookmark contest winners will be announced at the Book Swap.

Volunteers Needed for Book Swap

We are looking for volunteers to help with collecting books next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning during drop off and volunteers to help students during the actual book swap. Please check the [**sign up genius here**](#) and sign up to help if you are available.

SPIRITWEAR

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

New season. New layer.

The Sycamore Valley Hooded Long Sleeve Tees just dropped, and for a limited time you'll **save \$5 per shirt**. Order now and get free shipping over \$75 while supplies last.

[Shop Now!](#)

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

NEW ARRIVALS

SYCAMORE VALLEY
OFFICIAL SPIRIT WEAR STORE

STOCK UP. SHIP FREE.

SAVE \$5 ON
HOODED LONG SLEEVE TEES
ONLY \$27.99

[SHOP NOW](#)

FREE Shipping on orders over \$75
SHOP AT: 1STPLACE.SALE/13542

INTRODUCING
SYCAMORE VALLEY
Surf Club



[SHOP NOW](#)



[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**](#)



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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
 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!



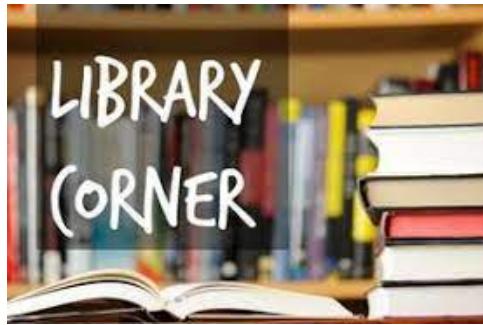
Make sure you have at least 2-3 students in a photo, preferably the same grade level.



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



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



Variety Show

This is the link to the info sheet - [**Info Sheet**](#)

Registration Form: [Variety Show Registration Form](#)

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



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.

CULTURAL BOOTHS

MULTICULTURAL PERFORMANCES

INTERNATIONAL CRAFT WORKSHOPS

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

SAN RAMON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
JOHN MUIR HEALTH PARTNER

SAN RAMON VALLEY DIVERSITY COALITION

JOHN MUIR HEALTH
San Ramon Valley District of PTA

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

Parks Make Life Better!



SYCAMORE NEEDS YOU!

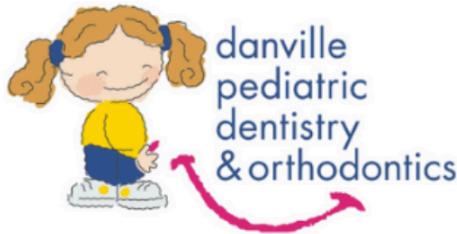
Become a 2025/2026 Sponsor Today!

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 katerinitisa@aol.com



Little Genius
academy

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

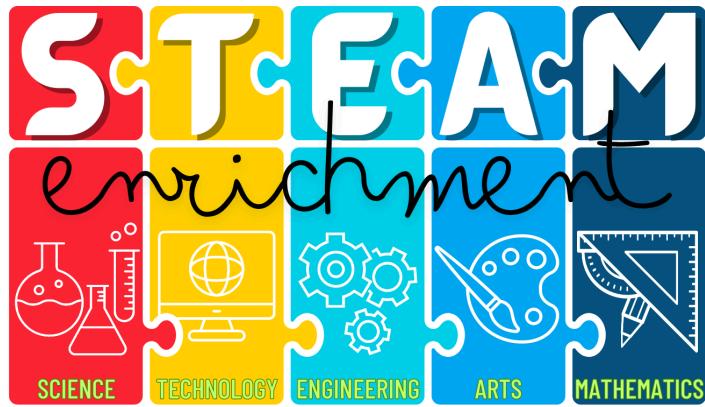


KEHRIG
— REAL ESTATE TEAM —



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) 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, February 25th, 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 Sukhdeep (1_2bookclub@sycamorevalleypta.org).

Book Club 3rd-5th:

The next book club meeting for 3rd-5th graders will be held on **Wednesday, February 11th, 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).

Math Olympiad:

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

Research Projects:

Stay tuned for the next research topic! For any questions, please contact Raj (researchprojects@sycamorevalleypta.org).

Science Builder's Challenge:

The Science Builder's Challenge has been canceled this year due to low interest. For any questions, please contact steam.enrichment@sycamorevalleypta.org.

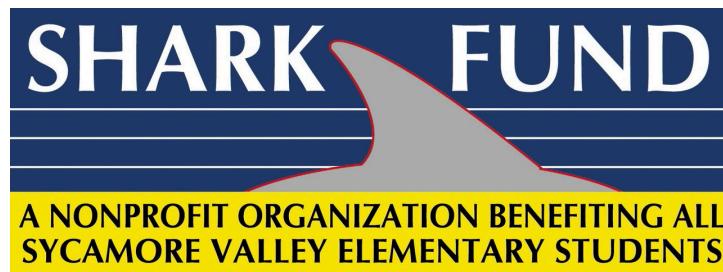
Science Fair:

Stay tuned for details to come about the spring Science Fair. For any questions, please contact Mariam (sciencechair@sycamorevalleypta.org).

WordMasters Challenge:

The 2nd Round WordMasters Challenge has been released and the Challenge 2 Test Submission is due by **February 10th**. For any questions, please contact Rachel (wordmasters@sycamorevalleypta.org).

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



Shark Fund Updates



Melos Giveback - February 11th!! Dine at the Melos in Danville on 2/11 and tell them you're with Sycamore - they will donate 20% of proceeds to our school!

Shark Fund Monthly Meetings:

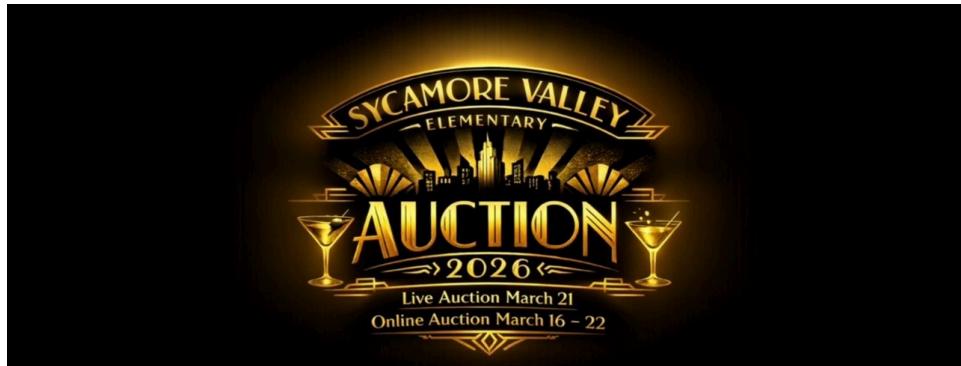
Our monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm and open to all! Feel free to join our next monthly meeting Wednesday 2/18 at 6:30pm. <https://meet.google.com/ttd-tnzn-mks>



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#/>



Auction!

Auction!!! This is a LIVE and ONLINE auction year, so mark your calendars to join in the fun!! All auction updates will be on our schools auction website: sycamore2026.ourschool.auction

Save the date! You're Invited to the 2026 Auction - Roaring 20's

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Location: Blackhawk Country Club

Tickets coming soon!

ONLINE auction will run **March 16 - 22**

We need YOUR help for the auction to be a success! As a reminder, 100% of proceeds raised at the auction stay here at Sycamore to benefit all children.

- **Gather:** Help us gather donations from local businesses and the parent community. Email us at sycamorevalley.edfund@srvef.org to be added to the team - we will provide you a short list of businesses to reach out to, that have donated at previous auctions!

- **Host**: host a social! Our social events, paid for and organized by the parent community, make up a huge amount of the auction proceeds! Check out the "host a social" tab on the website, under "donate" or [use this form if you want to host](#).
- **Donate**: donate an item or experience to the auction! sycamore2026.ourschool.auction then select "donate"
- **Live event**: help us with the live event!
Email sycamorevalley.edfund@srvef.org

Sycamorevalley.edfund@srvef.org (Doug - President)
Sycamorevalley.edfundvp@srvef.org (Adele - VP)



Dippin' Dot Calendar:

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 big thank you to our students for working hard on their African American History museum projects. We can't wait to showcase them next month, more details coming soon!



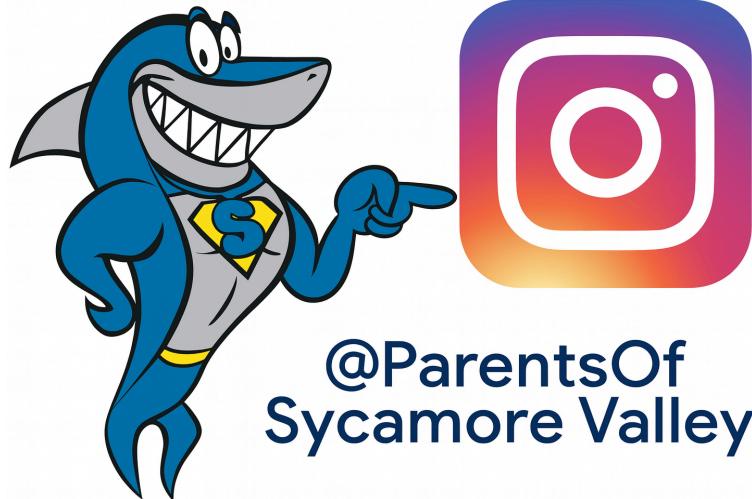
School Site Council Update

Next Meeting TBD



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](#)

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Follow and Like Us!



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Sycamore Valley Elementary

2200 Holbrook Dr., Danville, CA 94506

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

[Opt Out](#)

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