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# Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Bites Newsletter

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**Message from Principal Kawahara  
December 04, 2025**

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2nd Grade Art Docent Class

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you and your family are well. We continue to work hard as the semester winds down. It is hard to believe but we are almost half way through the school year.

**Astronomy Night** - A big thank you to all the volunteers, teachers and astronomers who hosted the 3rd annual Astronomy Night. A special shout out to Mrs. Yee, one of our science teachers, and PTA for bringing this event to Sycamore Valley.

	<p><b>We're Fundraising with See's Candies!</b></p> <p>Help us earn money for our organization and make the holidays even sweeter.</p>	<p><b>See's CANDIES.</b></p>
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**See's Candy** - Orders can be placed online and shipped directly - so feel free to circulate this link with friends and family. An amazing 20% of the sales proceeds will go to the Sycamore Shark fund, in support of our school! **The online store will close 12/5/25**, so candy can be shipped for holiday delivery. Support our Shark Fund and the programs at Sycamore - [Order Link](#)



**Sister School - Coat Drive:**

Our Sister School, King Elementary (Richmond), is in need of winter coats for their students in greatest need. Let's help keep them warm this winter! We are proud to be a generous community and are very grateful for your kindness and generosity.

Please click on the signup genius link and select a student to shop for and click on the button to sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EAF72BA3FDCE9-60695360-sister>

If you do not have time to shop for coats, please consider making a donation (any amount is helpful) on [Future Fund](#) and we will shop for you.

**Donation link:** [Future Fund](#)

Please look for donation bins in front of the school or in the office to drop off the items you purchase. **ALL coats MUST BE WRAPPED AND LABELED with KING STUDENT NAME and SIZE when dropping them off at the school.** We will be collecting new coats until Monday, Dec. 15th.

**Bell Schedule: December at a Glance**  
[December At A Glance](#)

**December Read Aloud:**  
[December 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), *Little Blue Truck* (Schertle) and *Just Ask* (Sotomayor).

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

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

Thank you,  
Patricia Kawahara

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**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**

**12/05 - Family Game Night - 6:00pm - MPR - Buy your ticket now**  
**12/11 - Site Council Meeting - 4:00 - Virtual**  
**12/17 - Dippin' Dots**  
**12/22-01/05 - No School - Winter Break**  
**01/06 - School Resumes**  
**01/14 - Dippin' Dots**  
**01/19 - No School - Martin Luther King Holiday**  
**01/28 - Dippin' Dots**

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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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The PTA is gearing up to host a festive Staff Luncheon on December 11th, and we'd love your help to make it truly special. A few key items are still needed to bring everything together. If you're able to contribute, please take a look at the [sign up genius here](#) and donate your item(s) of choice. Your support always makes such a meaningful difference—thank you for helping us treat our amazing staff!

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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.

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## 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**

**Last Chance**

Delivery by Dec. 23rd

**30% OFF**

**SITE WIDE**

**+FREE Shipping\***

**SHOP NOW**

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

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

**1ST PLACE Spiritwear**

The advertisement features a blue header with 'SYCAMORE VALLEY' in white. Below it, a string of colorful Christmas lights hangs across the top. The main text 'Last Chance' is in large, bold letters, with 'Last' in black and 'Chance' in red. Below this, 'Delivery by Dec. 23rd' is written in black. A large '30% OFF' is in red, followed by 'SITE WIDE' in white on a black background and '+FREE Shipping\*' in red. A red 'SHOP NOW' button is below. At the bottom, a red banner says '\*FREE Shipping On Orders Over \$75' and 'SHOP AT: 1STPLACE.SALE/13542'. On the right, two sweatshirts are shown: a grey one with 'SHARKS' and 'SYCAMORE VALLEY' in blue and yellow, and a blue one with 'SYCAMORE VALLEY' and 'Sharks' in white and yellow. A hand icon pointing to the right is next to the '1ST PLACE Spiritwear' logo.



## 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](#)





**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](#)

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**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!



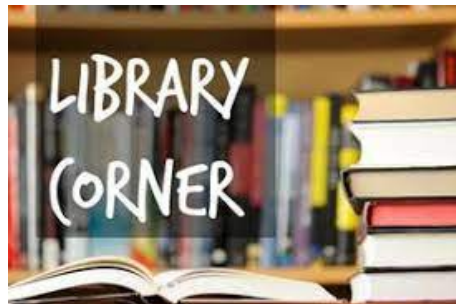
Make sure you have at least 2-3 students in a photo, preferably the same grade level.



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!!!



## PTA Updates

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***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](mailto:dei@sycamorevalleypta.org)



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**Sponsor!**

# **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**



**KEHRIG**  
— REAL ESTATE TEAM —



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



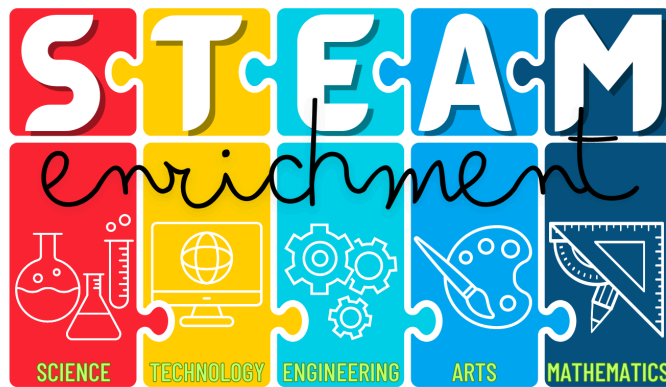
**FLOURISH**  
*airway*  
**COLLECTIVE**



**RK Dentistry**

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





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

Thank you to all those who participated in yesterday's club meeting! 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)).

### **Research Projects:**

Thank you to students **Artemis Kahirdeh** (1st grade, Subject: Dwarf Planets), **Harper Wong** (1st grade, Subject: Saturn) **Charlotte Wong** (3rd grade, Subject: Jupiter) for presenting a trifold at Astronomy Night. All participating students did an excellent job on their presentations. If you have any questions, please contact Raj ([researchprojects@sycamorevalleypta.org](mailto:researchprojects@sycamorevalleypta.org)).





### Olympiad:

The team is formed and meets every Friday morning @ 7:15 am for practices. For any questions, please contact Deepa ([mathchair@sycamorevalleypta.org](mailto:mathchair@sycamorevalleypta.org)).

### Book Club 1st-2nd:

Thank you to all those who participated in our first book club meeting! The next book club meeting for 1st and 2nd graders will be held on **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)).

### 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](#).

### Math Madness:

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

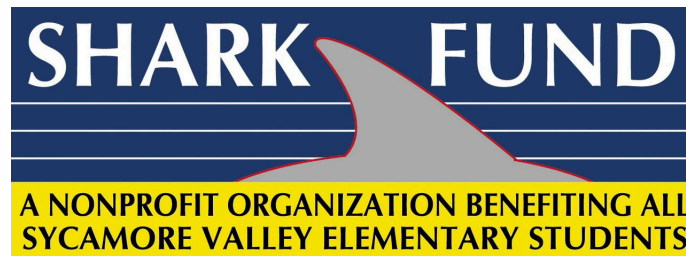
**Science Fair:**

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.



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## Shark Fund Updates

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	<p><b>We're Fundraising with See's Candies!</b></p> <p>Help us earn money for our organization and make the holidays even sweeter.</p>	
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### See's Candy - Online Store now open!

Our See's Candy fundraiser is back this year and better than ever! Orders can be placed online and shipped directly - so feel free to circulate this link with friends and family. An amazing 20% of the sales proceeds will go to the Sycamore Shark fund, in support of our school!

**The online store will close 12/5, so candy can be shipped for holiday delivery.**

<https://www.yumraising.com/store/winter-2025-sycamore-valley-elementary-shark-fund-holiday-2025-b264/TabMor31311>

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## **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/10C0D4EAF82DA5FDC61-58993180-sharky#/>

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## **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)

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## 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

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

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

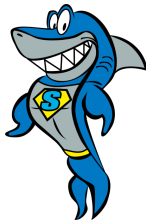
Prepay for 5 Dippin' Dots, get one free

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 huge thank you to our wonderful astronomers and teacher volunteers who made Astronomy Night a success on Monday night! The cold and clear skies made a perfect canvas for many galactic viewings and it was great to see so many families having a blast over some warm cups of hot cocoa.

Thank you to all who attended!



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## School Site Council Update

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## School Site Council Meeting

**December 11, 2025 @ 4:00pm Virtual Meeting**

### [Join with Google Meet](#)

[meet.google.com/nct-uffw-nqt](https://meet.google.com/nct-uffw-nqt)

Meeting ID

[meet.google.com/nct-uffw-nqt](https://meet.google.com/nct-uffw-nqt)

Phone Numbers

(US)+1 929-324-1812

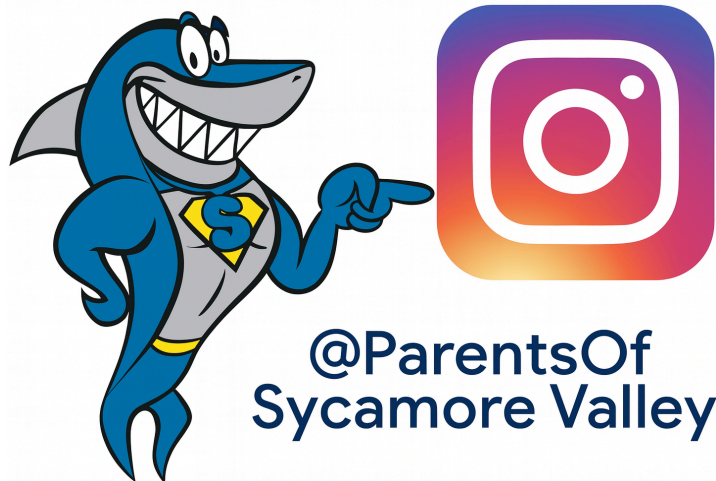
PIN: 190 272 462#

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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.  
Lost and Found is OVER FLOWING!!**

**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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