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Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Bites Newsletter

**Message from Principal Kawahara
April 30, 2026**



5th Grade: American Gothic

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you and your family are well. This is a unique time of year with a lot going on. 3rd through 5th graders continue to work on the state tests while first graders are prepping for special events and various grade levels are working on performances. We may not have much time left in the school year but we are packing the schedule!

2nd Grade Hero Speeches this week - The students did a tremendous job with their speeches and looked great in their costumes depicting the "Hero" they were representing. Well done 2nd Graders!

Lost and Found:

With the change of weather our lost and found is growing and overflowing!!

Take a look at the Rack and the Yellow Bin and the trash bags as well in front of the MPR. You may be surprised and find a sweatshirt / jacket / or sweater that you did not know was left behind.

All lost and found that is not claimed, will be donated to locate charities on June 8th.

Teen Esteem:

We will host a Teen Esteem Assembly at Sycamore for grades 1st - 5th on May 13, 2026 during the school day.

Bell Schedule: May at a Glance

[May At A Glance](#)

May Read Aloud:

[May Read Aloud Schedule](#)

2025-2026 Read Aloud Titles (December - May):

[25-26 Sycamore Valley Read-Alouds](#)

May Character Traits and Read Alouds

The character trait for May is Responsible. We explore that that concept with *Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth* (Jeffers), *I Promise* (James) and *It Wasn't My Fault* (Lester).

District Update:

Culture of Responsiveness Survey-

Help us Improve! Kindly take a few minutes to complete the [Culture of Responsiveness survey](#). We value your input and want to hear your perspective and experience as a parent/caretaker in SRVUSD.

Keep reading for some PTA dates to note and information on special events and happenings with the PTA and Shark Fund.

Thank you,
Patricia Kawahara



Important Dates to Remember

TK/K - Enrollment Open for New Students Grades TK - 5th.

- 05/04 - Spring Concert - Instrumental Music - MPR - 5:30pm**
 - 05/06 - PTA Meeting - 8:05am - Room #1**
 - 05/06 - Sharky Cinema**
 - 05/13 - Dippin' Dots**
 - 05/13 - Fishing Derby - 4:00 - 6:30pm - San Ramon**
 - 05/14 - Open House - 6:00 - 7:00pm - Campus Wide**
 - 05/16-05/17 - Cal High Meat Sale - 10:00am - 4:00pm**
 - 05/20 - Shark Fund Meeting - 6:30 - Virtual**
 - 05/22 - No School - School Recess**
 - 05/24 - No School - Memorial Day**
 - 05/27 - Spirit Day - Cowboy Theme**
 - 05/27 - Dippin' Dots**
 - 06/02 - Senior Clap it Out - 1:30pm - MPR**
 - 06/04 - Last Day of School - Min. Day Schedule**
-

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).



**1st Grade - 5th Grade enrollment for new students
for the
2026/2027 school year is now open!**

[Enrollment](#)

**TK and Kindergarten enrollment
for the 2026/2027 school year is still open.**
Children who turn 4 (TK) or 5 (Kinder) by September 1, 2026
are eligible to attend.



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](#)



PTA Updates

PTA Bylaws

PTA Bylaw Updates:

The PTA is required to review and update its bylaws periodically to remain in compliance with governing regulations. As part of this process, we have outlined our proposed updates below for your review.

Changed our membership options from a single membership to either a single membership for \$25 (1 voting member), family membership for \$40 (two voting members), and a teacher/staff membership (1 voting member).

2. In addition to the executive vice president, there are 6 other VPs who oversee all areas of PTA: Health and Wellness, Ways and Means, Programs, Volunteers, Legislative Advocacy and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). This is a change from our previous 5 additional VPs.

We will be voting to adopt our new bylaws at our May 6 Association meeting at 8:05am in Room 1 — the last one of the year, so please join us!

No other changes are being made at this time, but if you have questions about our bylaws or want to get involved in PTA, please reach out to our Parliamentarian, Erin Meyer, at parliamentarian@sycamorevalleypta.org



PTA Leadership Roles

Join PTA Leadership for the 2026-2027 school year!

Dear Sycamore Families,

As we look ahead to the 2026–2027 school year, we are hoping to fill two key leadership roles in the coming weeks so we can begin planning for another successful year at Sycamore.

A brief overview of our open leadership roles is below:

1st Vice President – Health & Wellness

Leads a dynamic group of programs focused on student well-being and healthy habits. This role oversees committees including Emergency Preparedness, Red Ribbon Week, Vision and Hearing Screening, Sharky Fit Club, and our growing STEAM program—bringing engaging and meaningful enrichment opportunities to our students.

6th Vice President – Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

Supports programs that celebrate and uplift the diverse voices within our school community. This role oversees initiatives such as Festival Around the World, Words Matter Week, the Abilities Awareness Workshop, the Exceptional Education Liaison program, and the African American History Showcase.

In addition to these leadership roles, there are several committee and program positions available as well. If you're interested in getting involved or would like to learn more about opportunities that match your interests and availability, please reach out to our Parliamentarian, Erin Meyer, at parliamentarian@sycamorevalleypta.org.

We are so grateful for the incredible parent community at Sycamore and look forward to welcoming even more volunteers to the team.

Thank you for helping us continue to build such a vibrant and supportive school community for our students!

Warmly,
Your Sycamore Valley PTA

Truck Time

Truck Time San Ramon — Family Festival Filled with Trucks & Other Vehicles -

It's almost time for one of San Ramon's favorite family events ! **Truck Time San Ramon 2026** rolls into **Bishop Ranch on Saturday, May 16, 2026, 9 AM to 1 PM.**

Kids (and adults!) can climb aboard fire trucks, school buses, and specialty vehicles, as well as enjoy live demonstrations and hands-on fun for all ages. New this year: a MONSTER TRUCK experience!

Purchase your tickets online — current pricing is \$13 each or Family 4-Packs for \$40. Visit TruckTimeSanRamon.org for more event information and to purchase tickets. Tickets are also available at the door for \$15 each/ Family 4-pack \$50.

Truck Time is also a community fundraiser. Event sponsorships directly benefit the [San Ramon Valley Education Foundation](#) and the [Contra Costa & Solano](#)

[County Food Bank](#). The event is hosted by the Rotary Club of Dougherty Valley/San Ramon.

INTERACTIVE FAMILY FESTIVAL THAT ENCOURAGES KIDS TO EXPLORE TRUCKS AND OTHER VEHICLES.

JOIN US




**TRUCK TIME
SAN RAMON**

**SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026
9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.
TRUCKTIMESANRAMON.ORG**

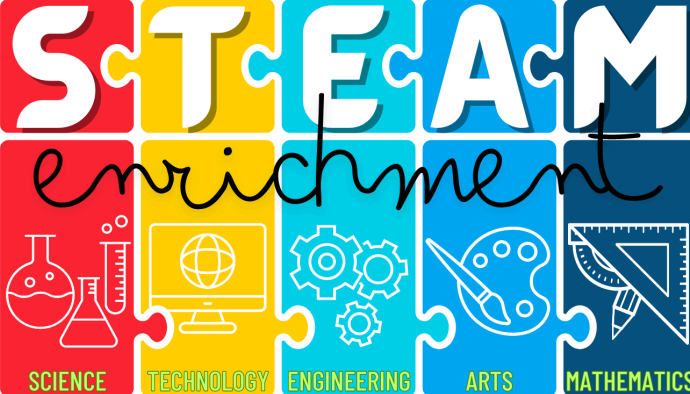
HOSTED BY



EVENT BENEFICIARIES
DUSR FOUNDATION AND




STEAM
enrichment



SCIENCE **TECHNOLOGY** **ENGINEERING** **ARTS** **MATHEMATICS**

Battle of the Books

The Battle of the Books competition will be held at the library after school on Wednesday, May 20th. Those who haven't completed reading at least 9 books, please finish them as soon as possible and send the list of completed books to Deepa (battleofthebooks@sycamorevalleypta.org) to be eligible for the competition.

Book Club 1st-2nd

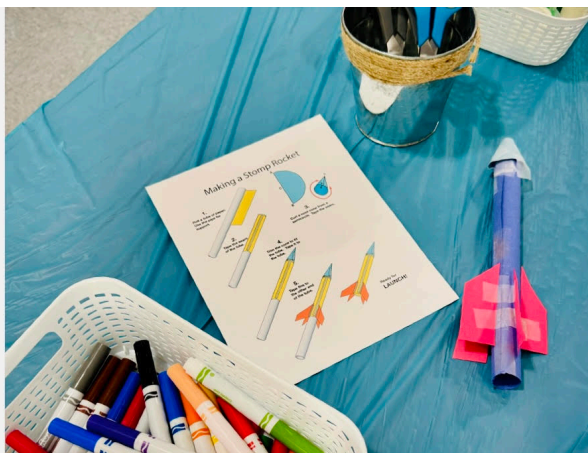
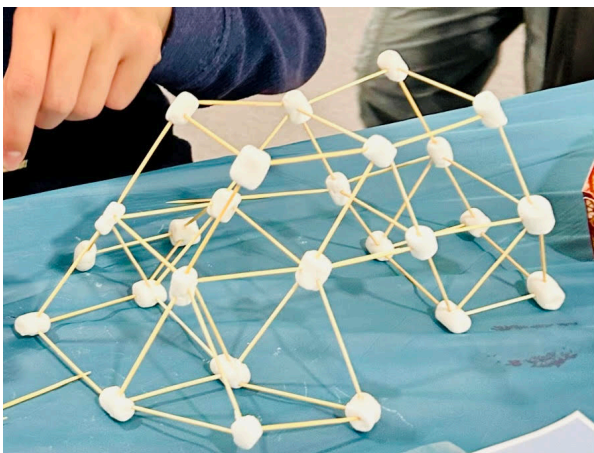
The last book club meeting for 1st and 2nd graders will be held **Wednesday, May 20th, after school in the Science Room.** Please [sign up here](#) to attend (for both student participation and to be a parent helper). For any questions, please contact Sukhdeep (1_2bookclub@sycamorevalleypta.org).

Book Club 3rd-5th

This book club has concluded for the year. Thank you to all those that participated!

Family STEAM Enrichment Night

Thank you to everyone who attended Sycamore PTA's Annual Family STEAM Enrichment Night! We hope everyone had a blast exploring and learning together. We loved seeing the students' creativity and enthusiasm! A special shout-out to all the volunteers who made the event possible, including committee members, parent volunteers, and especially our middle school and high school alumni volunteers.



Math Madness

This year's program has ended, and we will resume Math Madness interest signups next school year.

Math Olympiad

We have completed all 5 contests for this year. Congratulations to all the participants and the top 3 scorers for this year: **Abhinav M. (5th), Jaden G. (5th), and Anirudh J. (4th)**. Medals and certificates for all participants will be distributed in May.

Science Fair

Thank you to all those students that participated in last week's Science Fair! It was really neat to see all of the science projects that everyone conducted. Many congratulations to the following students for winning awards in:

Most Unexpected Results - **Damon C.** (1st grade) & **Yash K.** (4th Grade)

Creativity - **Ciella M.** (2nd grade, Bottle Rocket Blast Off!) & **Theodore M.** (3rd grade, A Taste of the Wild)

Presentation - **Aarya D.** (2nd grade) & **Hrihaan L.** (3rd grade), **Parth C.** (4th grade, Lemon Battery).

For any questions, please contact Mariam (sciencechair@sycamorevalleypta.org).



Research Projects

This program has concluded for the year. Thank you to everyone that participated throughout the year! We hope you learned something in the process. For any questions, please contact Raj (researchprojects@sycamorevalleypta.org).

WordMasters Challenge

For any questions, please contact Rachel (wordmasters@sycamorevalleypta.org).

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

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



Shark Fund Updates

Join the Shark Fund Board!!

We are currently working to fill our board and other necessary positions for next school year - please consider joining the fun and volunteering. The Shark Fund is 100% parent volunteer run! Please reach out to Doug Merian with interest or questions: douglas.merian@gmail.com

Thank you for your Auction Support!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the auction and to everyone who attended! **It was a great event and we raised \$104,000!!**

All items that were won will show up in your auctria portal under "account." Socials and other sycamore event items do not need to be picked up!

If you have an item to pick up you can schedule a pickup time with Tab Morrison tabs.morrison@gmail.com, or items will be delivered to the office.

Shark Fund Monthly Meetings:

Last Shark Fund Meeting of the Year 5/20 at 6:30pm: Our monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm and open to all! Feel free to join our LAST monthly meeting of the school year is Wednesday 5/20 at

6:30pm. <https://meet.google.com/ttd-tnzn-mks> We will be VOTING on board positions for 26-27, so please consider joining the board!



Sharky Cinema Tickets on Sale TONIGHT for May 6th!!

Join us after school on a Wacky Wednesday to watch a kid-friendly movie with theater snacks in the MPR! This month's movie is HOPPERS.

Sharky Cinema Wednesday 5/6 - Tickets sales close Tuesday 5/5 at 6pm

Date: Wednesday, May 6th

Place: Sycamore MPR

Time: 12:50-2:30

<https://sycamorevalley.futurefund.com/store/campaigns/65212-may-sharky-cinema-hoppers>

Sharky Cinema -

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!

Volunteer sign up:

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



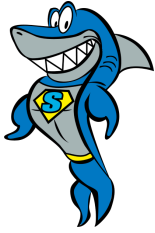
Dippin' Dot Calendar:

Dippin Dots - 5/13

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

Dippin Dots - 5/27

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



Sharky Shout Out:

Thank you to everyone who attended Sycamore PTA's Annual Family STEAM Enrichment Night. We hope everyone had a blast exploring and learning together. We loved seeing the students' creativity and enthusiasm! A special shout-out to all the volunteers who made the event possible, including committee members, parent volunteers, and especially our middle school and high school alumni volunteers.



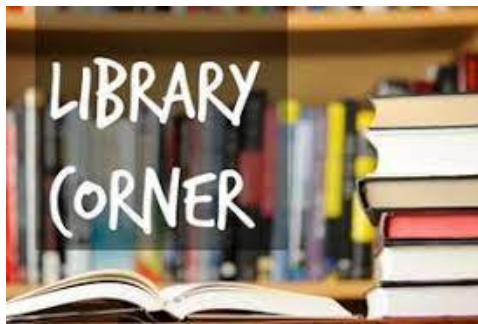
School Site Council Update

Next Meeting Fall of 2026

New Members Needed:

Would you like to be a member of our Site Council?

Bios will be collected next month and a ballot will be sent to our families to vote for our new members. Member hold the position for 2 years.



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!!!



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 katerinitsa@aol.com



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



SPIRITWEAR

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

This week you can save up to 40% off all Badger brand items on our Sycamore Valley spirit wear store! Use code BADGER26 for our biggest savings ever! Order Today! <https://1stplace.sale/13542>
[Shop Now!](#)

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

SYCAMORE VALLEY
OFFICIAL SPIRIT WEAR STORE

BADGER BUNDLE

4+ Items 40% OFF
3 Items 30% OFF
2 Items 20% OFF

PICK YOUR SAVINGS!

SHOP NOW

USE CODE: BADGER26

FREE Shipping on orders over \$100
SHOP AT: 1STPLACE.SALE/13542

1ST PLACE Spiritwear



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 and overflowing!!

Take a look at the Rack and the Yellow Bin and the trash bags as well.

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.



Cal High Meat Sale

Cal High Football Program's Meat Sale - May 16-17

The community is invited to support the California High School Football program's Meat Sale fundraiser May 16-17, 10AM to 4PM at Cal High.



Cal High Football

Meat & Seafood

Sale



Grab some of the BEST meat & seafood in the Bay Area and stock up for Memorial Day Weekend!

- Premium quality USDA inspected choice or better BULK cuts of beef
- FDA inspected seafood
- Professional butcher onsite
- Comparable to warehouse prices without the lines or membership fees
- Debit/Credit/Apple Pay accepted

10AM - 4PM

CALIFORNIA HIGH SCHOOL

**9870 BROADMOOR DRIVE
SAN RAMON**

Choose from...

**filet mignon - new york - rib eye - brisket - tri-tip - ball tip - ground beef
chicken breast - bacon - hot & mild links - leg of lamb - salmon - scallops - shrimp**

~30% of each sale directly benefits the Cal High Football program, which requires \$200,000 annually to operate.

Thank you for supporting your local Grizzly Football Teams!

Fishing Derby

Scouting America welcomes you to the "Hooked on Scouting" Fishing Derby!

Wednesday May 13, 2026
4:00pm to 6:30pm

Lake Annabel at the Roundhouse
2600 Camino Ramon, San Ramon, CA 94583

You are invited to come with your children to have fun and learn about Cub Scouting. We will introduce you to a Cub Pack in the San Ramon Valley area that meets near where you live or attend school. Scouting welcomes boys and girls. The event is free! RSVPs at <https://forms.gle/95MA2AMuoNTEfByB8>.

HOOKED ON SCOUTING FISHING DERBY


Please RSVP AN EXCITING OUTDOOR
ADVENTURE FOR FAMILIES!



JOIN US FOR A DAY OF
FISHING & FAMILY FUN!

****FOR KIDS IN KINDERGARTEN - 5th GRADE!****

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13TH, 2026
FROM 4:00PM TO 6:30PM**

 **LOCATION: 2600 CAMINO RAMON,
SAN RAMON, CA 94583**

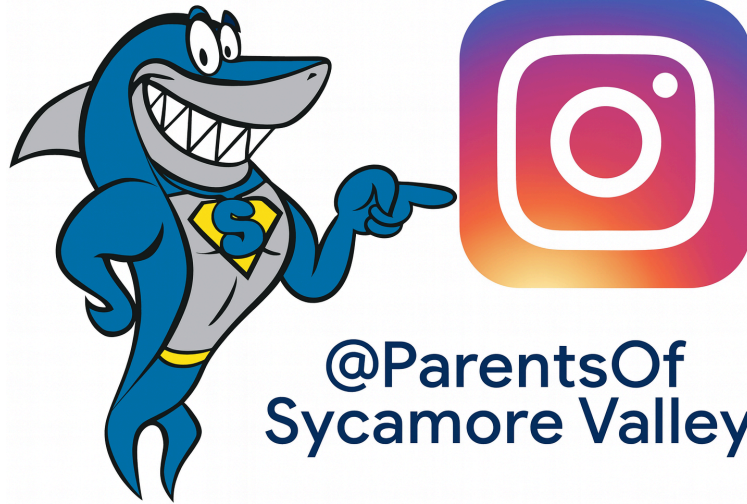
**TRY FISHING | LEARN NEW SKILLS |
MEET LOCAL SCOUTS | CATCH YOUR FIRST FISH!**
All families welcome to explore Scouting!

INVITING NEW FAMILIES - CHECK US OUT & JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

**MORE INFO CONTACT:
commissioner@meridianscouting.org**

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

Instagram:



Read Our Announcements

[VIEW ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

Keep in Touch with Us!

Follow and Like Us!



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