



Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Bites Newsletter

**Message from Principal Kawahara
February 26, 2026**



Mrs. Matejka's - 2nd Grade Class

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you and your family are well. We are enjoying the burst of sunshine between storms! February has been a very busy month with multiple special events - Inclusive School Week Workshop, Words Matter Week recess activities, the amazing Ramadan teacher luncheon and the upcoming African American Showcase. All of these events require multiple volunteers putting in a lot of time. We appreciate the community that is created and the learning that takes place at each of these events. A giant thank you to everyone who jumped in to help put them together!

Spring Conferences: Spring conferences are scheduled March 18th through March 20th. Your child's teacher will reach out to schedule a conference with you if one is needed. Should you have any questions you are welcome to contact your child's teacher. Please note, March 13th is a non-student day (it is a teacher work day) and Wednesday, the 18th, Thursday the 19th and Friday the 20th are all minimum days. **Students are dismissed at:**

ALL TK and Kinder
8:00-10:30 am

ALL 1st-5th Grades
8:00-12:00

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

March Read Aloud:
[March Read Aloud Schedule](#)

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

Character Traits and Read Alouds:

In March we will be exploring creativity as the trait of the month. We will read *Because* (Willems), *Art & Max* (Wiesner) and *I'm Not Just a Scribble* (Alber). In April we will consider gratefulness as the trait of the month. We will read *Spiffiest Giant in Town* (Donaldson), *Those Shoes* (Boelts) and *Where Happiness Lives* (Timms).

District Updates:

March Board Resolutions:

[Women's History Month](#)

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of March as Women's History Month. Women of every race and ethnic background have contributed to our country's triumphs and accomplishments in countless ways and continue to play critical roles in the economic, cultural, and social spheres of our nation. Women of diverse backgrounds have served as leaders at the forefront of every major progressive social change movement and although their efforts have been overlooked or undervalued in the past, they hold an important place in the body of American and world history.

[Arts Education Month](#)

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of March as Arts Education Month. Education in the arts is an indispensable part of basic education for all students to enhance their understanding of the world and to develop to their full potential. Instruction in the arts helps children foster creativity, self-expression, and discipline. The arts are also important repositories of culture and experience. SRVUSD is proud to focus on the value of arts education, especially during the month of March.

[Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month](#)

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of March as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month. Prescription medications such as stimulants, sedatives, and opioids hold powerful medical benefits however can have serious consequences and additive risks. Overdoses are on the rise in our community, county and nation. SRVUSD participates in the CA Department of Health Services' Naloxone Distribution Project and district schools have a stock of the opioid overdose rescue medication Naloxone. SRVUSD encourages drug abuse awareness, education, and prevention of all citizens.

[We're Hiring! Join the SRVUSD Team:](#)

HIRING EVENT

San Ramon Valley Unified School District

Nutrition & Food Service Team



Date: Thursday March 5

Location: 3280 Crow Canyon San Ramon Ca

Time: 3pm - 6pm



- No nights or weekends
- Paid holidays, summers off
- Paid training
- Growth opportunities

Must bring a list of at least three references (professional & volunteer). Assistance completing applications and interviews.

**HOURLY RATES
\$18-\$24.64
PLUS
GREAT BENEFITS**

**Visit SRVUSD.net -
Departments -Child Nutrition**

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 for New Students

02/01 - 1st - 5th Grade Enrollment Opens for New Students

- 02/27 - African American Showcase - 2:30pm - MPR
- 02/27 - Deadline to submit Variety Show Act
- 03/04 - 5th Grade Math Placement exam for entering Middle School
- 03/04 - Dippin' Dots
- 03/05 - Hiring Event - See Flyer
- 03/11 - Sharky Cinema
- 03/13 - No School - Teacher Work Day
- 03/16 - 03/22 - Silent Auction - Online
- 03/18 - Dippin' Dots
- 03/18-03/20 - Conference Days - Min. Day Schedule
- 03/18 - Shark Fund Meeting = Virtual - 6:30pm
- 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
- 04/23 - Science Fair - 2:30pm - MPR
- 04/23 - PTA Family STEAM Night: 6:30-8:00pm - MPR
- 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).



**1st Grade - 5th Grade enrollment for new students
 for the**

2026/27 school year is now open!**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.

**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 - tickets are purchased on our website!

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

****Tickets on sale NOW****

Date: Saturday, March 21, 2026

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Blackhawk Country Club

We have an in-person Gala & Auction to support the school every other year, this is one you don't want to miss! There will be live auction items that are ONLY available when you attend the event in person! As you know, every class is preparing a basket that will only be available to bid on at the event, not to mention tons of other amazing items! Just buying at ticket is a sign of support, so buy your ticket today!

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)

SPIRITWEAR

Click here for the [Spiritwear Sale](#)

Shark Spirit Sale

GET FREE shipping on orders \$85+. <https://1stplace.sale/13542>

Don't miss your chance to stock up on Sycamore Valley spirit wear before winter wraps up. Save \$25 on orders of \$100+ or \$15 on orders of \$75+. Shop now for hoodies, tees, hats, and more for the entire family while these savings last! **Use code SPIRIT308** at checkout.

[Shop Now!](#)

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



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, Cut-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**

VARSAITY YEARBOOK

[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.



PTA Updates

African American History Museum Showcase:

Sycamore's 6th Annual African American History Showcase
Presents...

THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

*Featuring Inspirational Writers,
Musicians, Artists, and Photographers*

SYCAMORE MPR

A Celebration of Dreams

Join us for Sycamore's 6th Annual African American History Showcase celebrating Black History Month! EVERY student will have work on display, along with interactive projects, a bingo activity, and plenty of opportunities to learn and engage.

Friday, 2/27
2:30-3:30pm

[Sign Up To Volunteer](#)

Mark your calendars!

Sycamore's **6th Annual African American History Showcase** is coming up, and this year we're celebrating **The Harlem Renaissance**—a powerful era of creativity, culture, and expression.

Join us for an afternoon featuring student work inspired by writers, musicians, artists, and photographers, plus interactive projects and fun ways to learn together. **Every student will have work on display**, and we can't wait for our families to experience it all.

17 Friday, 2/27

2:30-3:30pm

MPR

Parents & families—save the date and come celebrate Black History Month with us!

We still need volunteers to make this showcase a success! [Please sign up to volunteer here!](#) Email dei@sycamorevalleypta.org with any questions.



SYCAMORE NEEDS YOU!

Become a 2025/2026 Sponsor Today!

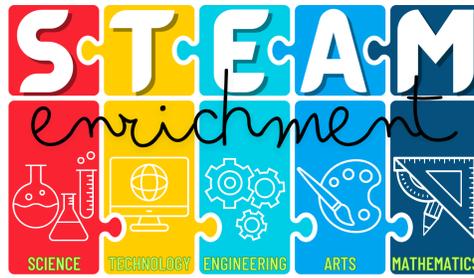
Would you like to get your business noticed at school events, bring sycamore supporters into your business, get a write-off, and get us to our fundraising goal? **Become a corporate sponsor today!**

See the attached flyer for all the details.

[Sponsorship Flyer](#)

Questions? Contact Jeannine Pickering jeannine.pickering@gmail.com and Katerina McCormack katerinitsa@aol.com





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, March 18th, 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 **Wednesday, March 11th, after school in the Science Room.** The book that will be discussed is *Pax* by Sarah Pennypacker. 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:

The research project topic for February will be aligned with the upcoming 6th Annual African American History Showcase in honor of Black History Month, which will be held on **tomorrow Friday, February 27th from 2:30pm - 3:30pm in Sycamore's MPR.** The theme for this year is *The Harlem Renaissance: A Celebration of Dreams*, which will highlight the creativity and voices of the Harlem Renaissance through student work inspired by influential writers, musicians, artists, and photographers.

Students can pick any topic for their research presentation that is related to this year's theme. **Please encourage student(s) to pick a different topic than the ones their grade levels will be focusing on.** Presentations can be a trifold and/or poster board. **Blank trifolds for projects are available in the front office.** For this research topic we will not be accepting slideshow (ppt), audio or video presentations as all research presentations will be displayed in the MPR at this year's African American History Showcase. Students may work individually or in pairs.

If students have not already dropped off their presentations, please bring it to the front office tomorrow morning, or directly to the MPR after school! Please have student(s) drop their presentations in the front office and put their *Name, Teacher and Grade Level* on the back of their presentation. Student(s) can pick up their presentations from the front office on **Monday, March 3rd.**

If your student would like to participate, please fill out the [Sign Up](#) genius under the "African American History Showcase" Section. 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 steamenrichment@sycamorevalleypta.org.

Science Fair:

Mark your calendars for the Science Fair happening on **Thursday, April 23rd**, after school in the MPR! If your student (grades 1-5) would like to participate, please [sign up here](#). The deadline to sign up has been extended until March 31st. **Blank trifolds for projects are available in the front office.** For any questions, please contact Mariam (sciencechair@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.

Science Fair 2026

(see attached pdf)

Sycamore Valley Elementary's

2026

SCIENCE FAIR

Open to all 1st - 5th grade students!

**Entries are Due in the MPR
on Thursday, April 23rd after school**

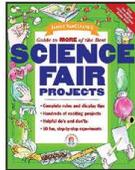
Projects will be judged, awarded, and then displayed at Family STEAM Night. **PRIZES** will be awarded for **Creativity, Presentation,** and **Most Unexpected Results** for grades 1st-2nd and 3rd-5th!

If you are interested in participating in the 2026 Science Fair, then please sign up by March 31st:



NEED IDEAS?

These books with project ideas and tips are available for check out at the Sycamore library!

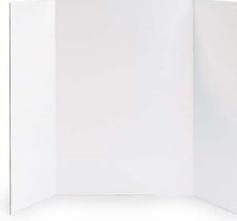


Questions can be emailed to Mariam at sciencechair@sycamorevalleypta.org.

THE DISPLAY:

This will be a tri-fold poster board presentation and will include:

1. Testable Question - the question you are seeking to answer
2. Hypothesis - what you think will happen
3. Experiment - must include the materials (what you used) and the procedure (what you did)
4. Data / Results - may include charts, graphs, photos
5. Conclusion - what did you learn? what questions do you still have?



THE REPORT:

1. Title Page
2. Table of Contents
3. Testable Question - the question you are seeking to answer
4. Hypothesis - what you think will happen
5. Experiment - must include the materials (what you used) and the procedure (what you did)
6. Data / Results - may include charts, graphs, photos
7. Conclusion - what did you learn? what questions do you still have?
8. Acknowledgments

See an example of a student presentation from a previous science fair:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJFruJ17W08>

Sycamore PTA presents

Family

STEAM
enrichment

SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | ARTS | MATHEMATICS

Night

FAMILY EVENT | THU, APR 23 | 6:30-8:00PM | SYCAMORE MPR

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for a fun-filled night of hands-on STEAM activities at Sycamore's Family STEAM Night.



Shark Fund Updates

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 3/18/26 at 6:30pm.

<https://meet.google.com/ttd-tnzn-mks>



Giveback at Hazy BBQ - Wednesday March 11th - mark your calendars!



Sharky Cinema -

Volunteers Needed for March 2026

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#/>



Dippin' Dot Calendar:

Dippin Dots - 3/04

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

Dippin Dots - 3/18

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:

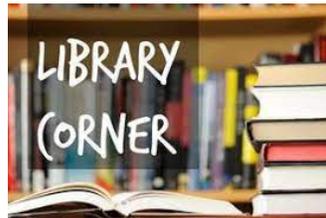
A huge thank you to our incredible 5th grade finale volunteers, Lori Wodehouse and Rica Santo, for spending the time, energy, and love it takes to teach our 5th graders an amazing dance for the upcoming Variety Show!



School Site Council Update

Next Meeting Thursday,

March - Date to be Determined



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!!!



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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