



Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Bites Newsletter

**Message from Principal Kawahara
March 19, 2026**



Kindergarten Rainbow Art

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you and your family are well. I am appreciating this burst of summer weather and have been very glad that the hottest days are hitting on minimum days so our kiddos avoid the worst of the heat.

Yesterday afternoon I attended the SRVUSD Classified Employee of the Year celebration. Please join me in congratulating Sycamore Valley's Classified Employee of the Year, Kim Eves the Intervention Instructional Assistant.

Lost and Found is overflowing.

Check the rack and yellow bin for coats, sweatshirts, etc. You might be surprised to find an article of clothing that belongs to your child.

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

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

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

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

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

District Updates:

New Milk Options for Students: Plant-Based and Lactose Free:

Students can now choose plant-based beverages or lactose-free milk as part of their school meals. Parents and caregivers can request these options by completing a simple online form - **no medical provider note is required.** Once submitted, school nutrition staff will be notified, and students can select their option at breakfast or lunch. For Spring 2026, soy milk and lactose-free milk are available (options may vary).

Access the form here: [Online Request for Plant-Based or Lactose-Free Milk](#)

NEW MILK OPTIONS
AVAILABLE FOR ALL STUDENTS
Plant-Based & Lactose-Free
Choices Now Offered

PARENTS & CAREGIVERS CAN NOW REQUEST:

- Plant-Based Beverages (Soy Milk - Spring 2026)
- Lactose-Free Milk

HOW IT WORKS...

- Submit the Online Request Form
Parents/caregivers complete the short form.
- School Staff Are Notified
Child Nutrition staff at your student's school receive the request.
- Student Picks Their Option
At breakfast or lunch, students simply let staff know their selection.

NEW No doctor's note required!

NCAPDA Event March 31:
RSVP link: srvusdlinks.net/CelebrateAndProtect

Celebrating & Protecting Our Youth

Learn from local youth studying the impacts of **commonly abused medications** and celebrate their accomplishments as they present their National Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse Capstone projects.

Topics Include:
Commonly abused medications:

- Fentanyl
- Teen Party Drugs
- Opioids
- Stimulants/Sedatives

Event Details

March 31
5:30 - 7:30 pm
SRVUSD Boardrooms
699 Old Orchard Drive, Danville

Receive Overdose Rescue Training & free Naloxone Kits!

Register: srvusdlinks.net/CelebrateAndProtect

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

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 Grades TK - 5th.

03/18-03/20 - Conference Days - Min. Day Schedule

ALL TK and Kinder
8:00-10:30 am
ALL 1st-5th Grades
8:00-12:00

- 03/19-03/22 - Online Auction Open - [Place your bid](#)
- 03/21 - Live Auction - Blackhawk Country Club
- 03/25 - Spirit Day - Theme: Sports Day
- 03/31 - Preschool Virtual Information Night
- 03/31 - Celebrating and Protecting Our Youth Seminar
- 04/01 - Dippin' Dots
- 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
- 04/15 - Run for Education Logo Contest due
- 04/15 - Dippin' Dots
- 04/15 - Shark Fund Meeting = Virtual - 6:30pm
- 04/23 - Science Fair - 2:30pm - MPR
- 04/23 - PTA Family STEAM Night: 6:30-8:00pm - MPR
- 04/24 - Spring Concert - Instrumental Music - MPR - 5:30pm
- 04/29 - Dippin' Dots
- 04/29 - Spirit Day - Theme: Backwards Day
- 05/06 - Sharky Cinema
- 05/13 - Dippin' Dots
- 05/14 - Open House
- 05/22 - No School - School Recess
- 05/24 - No School - Memorial Day
- 05/27 - Dippin' Dots

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 Placement Information Form:

As we look toward next year it is time for us to start working on class placements. We work hard to build classes that are balanced from every angle. This form is not required, however if you believe your child has specific needs and/or excels in a particular type of classroom environment that the staff should consider when placing him/her, you are welcome to complete and return the attached form. Please do not request specific teachers. Letters that state a

specific teacher's name or that try to describe a specific teacher will not be considered. **Due by April 1st.**

[2026-2027 Student Class Placement form](#)

Parents you are welcome to complete the attached form if you believe your child has specific needs. This form is due to the school office no later than April 01, 2026. After spring break, teachers will meet with Principal Kawahara to begin building balanced classes for the 26/27 school year.

Parents and students will be notified of teacher and classroom placement on August 12th, 2026. Careful consideration is given to the class placement of each student.



**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.



ONLINE Auction is LIVE and CLOSING SUNDAY at 7pm!!

There are so many great items you can bid on - bidding is going on now and closes Sunday 3/22/26 at 7:00pm. Keep checking the site **NEW ITEMS** are being added!!!

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.

<http://sycamore2026.ourschool.auction/>

Volunteers Needed for Auction Events!!!

The Gala & Auction is this Saturday 3/21/26. We need a few volunteers to help set up and clean up after! We also need a couple of people to be our "spotters" during the live auction!

Help us at the auction this Saturday 3/21 at the Blackhawk Country Club:

- Check in guests
- Spotters during the live auction
- Clean up after the event**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B4FAAAA22A7FF2-63001165-volunteer#/>

Did the Amazing Race sell out before you could get a ticket? Consider being a Volunteer!

We need volunteers for both **Amazing Race and Camp Shark on Friday April 24th from 5pm-8pm**. Volunteers for this event will get a discounted children's ticket to the event, so don't delay! (Links to the volunteer tickets will be sent out after sign ups are complete).

Amazing Race Volunteers (2nd - 5th Grade)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0C44ABAB2AABFA7-62997686-amazing?useFullSite=true#/>

Camp Shark Volunteers (TK - 1st Grade)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EAFA82DA5FDC61-63008910-camp>

<http://sycamore2026.ourschool.auction/>

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

SPIRITWEAR

Click here for the [Spiritwear Sale](#)

Shark Spirit Sale

Save up to 30% sitewide on all Sycamore Valley spirit wear and get free shipping on orders over \$85. Shop now before it's gone: <https://1stplace.sale/13542>
[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](#)



PTA Updates



PTA Leadership Roles

Join PTA Leadership for the 2026-2027 school year!

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our PTA Job Fair this morning! It was wonderful to connect with some new faces and begin to fill several important roles that help make our school community so special.

As we look ahead to the 2026–2027 school year, we are hoping to fill three key leadership roles in the coming weeks so we can begin planning for another successful year at Sycamore. A brief overview of these opportunities is below:

Executive Vice President (EVP)

A collaborative leadership role that works closely with the PTA President and school administration. The EVP helps keep our community connected by managing PTA communications, including the website, parent social media channels, and school-wide email updates. This EVP also participates in weekly meetings with the principal and helps support the overall coordination of PTA initiatives.

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—helping to bring 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 with any of the roles mentioned above 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!



Staff Appreciation Week is coming up April 13-17!
 Your room parents will reach out this week with all the fun ways you can get involved to thank our lovely crew of teachers and support staff.



Imagineering Hackathon

Registration is now open for SRVEF's Imagineering Hackathon!

SRVEF is excited to announce an [Imagineering Hackathon](#) open to all SRVUSD students interested in coding - grades 6th through 12th of all skill levels, beginner through advanced. This is a high-energy, collaborative competition where students work in teams of 2-4 to build, code, and design creative, real-world tech solutions—such as apps or websites—based on a theme. It emphasizes innovation, teamwork, and skill-building, allowing students to develop projects for their portfolios and compete for prizes. This is a BYOD event - students must bring their own laptop. Breakfast, lunch and snacks provided.

When: Saturday, April 25, 2026 8:30am-4:00pm

Where: California High School Library
 9870 Broadmoor Drive, San Ramon

[Registration](#) is now open.

Run for Education Art Contest

SRVEF 43rd Annual Run for Education Logo Art Contest

Unleash your creativity and be the designer of the next Run for Education logo! The winning design will be featured on t-shirts and advertising, and the winning student will receive 6 tickets to the Oakland Ballers.
 Submission deadline: Wednesday, April 15, 2026.
 View the flyer below for more information and details on how to submit.



Calling All SRVUSD Student Artists! 43rd Annual Run for Education Logo Art Contest

Got an idea for this year's Run for Education logo? Submit your design to the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation by April 15th. The winning design will be featured on Run t-shirts and advertising. The winner will also receive 6 tickets to the Oakland Ballers and a Run entry.

Criteria:

- Logo must include the SRVEF tree in the design
- Design must include the words "43rd Annual Run for Education"
- Logo must be colorful and easy to see from a distance
- Design must reflect your original art (no clip art, stock, copyrighted or AI-generated images)
- Artist must be a student of SRVUSD
- Please submit a PDF file and include student name, grade, and school with entry

Submission:



Email entries to info@srvef.org
Use the subject line:
"Run for Education Logo Contest"
by **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**
All entries become the property of SRVEF and may be modified

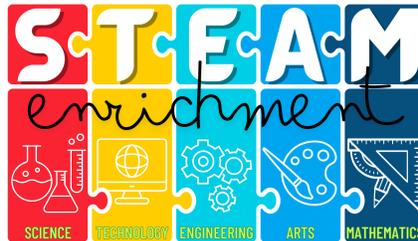


Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for the 43rd Annual Run for Education. Join us on Sunday, October 11, 2026! Registration is open at www.srvef.org/the-run

www.srvef.org

info@srvef.org



Battle of the Books:
Students MUST read 9 out of 10 books from the shared booklist to participate in the May competition. Please share the number of books your child has completed reading, along with the book titles, to Deepa (battleofthebooks@sycamorevalleypta.org) to be eligible for the competition.

Book Club 1st-2nd:
The next book club meeting for 1st and 2nd graders will be held **on Wednesday, April 29th, 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:
The last book club meeting for 3rd-5th graders will be held **on Wednesday, April 15th, 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 Juliana (3_5bookclub@sycamorevalleypta.org).

Math Madness:
This year's program has ended, and we will resume Math Madness interest sign-ups 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:

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**

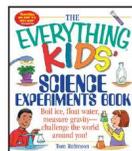
Projects will be judged, awarded, and then displayed at Family STEAM Night. **PRIZES** will be awarded for **Creativity, Presentation,** and **Most Unexpected Results** for grades 1st-2nd and 3rd-5th!

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!

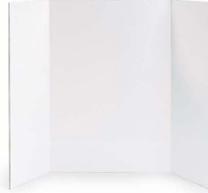


Questions can be emailed to Mariam at sciencechair@sycamorevalleypta.org.

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 4/15/26 at 6:30pm. <https://meet.google.com/ttd-fnzn-mks> We will be presenting the SLATE for board positions for 26-27, so please consider joining the board!



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/10C0D4EAF82DA5FDC61-58993180-sharky#!>



Dippin' Dot Calendar:

- Dippin Dots - 4/01**
TK/Kinder 11:30am, 1st-5th 12:50pm
 - Dippin Dots - 4/15**
TK/Kinder 11:30am, 1st-5th 12:50pm
 - Dippin Dots - 4/29**
TK/Kinder 11:30am, 1st-5th 12:50pm
 - 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:

A big thank you to our teachers for spending all the extra time, care, and energy required for Conference Week!



School Site Council Update

Next Meeting Thursday, March 26, 2026

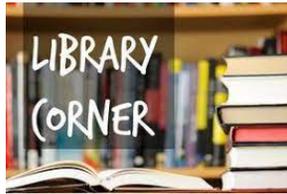
Meeting code

meet.google.com/edi-zhvc-rha

Phone Numbers

(US)+1 252-843-1163

PIN: 421 724 651#



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**



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](#)

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