



Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Bites Newsletter

Message from Principal Kawahara February 05, 2026



Owl Art - 1st Grade - Mrs. O'Malley's class

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you and your family are well. There is, as always, a lot going on here at Sycamore Valley. Both first and second grades are thinking about Heroes. I had to smile when reading the Hero Ribbons in Mrs. Gilroy's class - from big sisters to grandparents to coaches and even the dentist - students are reflecting on the people in their lives that make a difference for them.

Morning Drop Off Reminder:

As a reminder, safety while dropping off your child in the morning is extremely important. We often see cars pass up the line and cut in front of the cars along the curb then pull into the curb at the front of the line. Not only is this disrespectful to the cars that are waiting their turn in line, it is also not safe. This week a car cut off another car as they were pulling away from the curb and nearly hit that car. Thank you for helping us keep our community safe.

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

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

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

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

March Character Trait and Read Alouds:
The character trait of the month is Creative. We will read the following titles:
Because by Willems, Art & Max by Wiesner and I'm Not Just a Scribble by Alber.

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

02/02-02/06 - Words Matter Week

02/11 - Melos Giveback - 20% to Sycamore

02/16 - No School - President's Day

02/17 - No School - Furlough Day

02/18 - Dippin' Dots

02/25 - Dippin' Dots

02/27 - Deadline to submit Variety Show Act

03/04 - 5th Grade Math Placement exam for entering Middle School

03/04 - Dippin' Dots

03/11 - Sharky Cinema

03/16 - 03/22 - Silent Auction - Online

03/18 - Dippin' Dots

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 - 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).

Words Matter

Words are powerful—let's use them for good during...



**WORDS
MATTER
WEEK**

FEB 2–6

Thoughtful words today help build kinder communities tomorrow

Conversation Starters

What's one kind thing you said today? 	What could you say if a friend won't play your game? 
How do words help us be good friends? 	What's the difference between being honest and being hurtful? 

We invite families to continue the conversation at home.

Student Enrollment



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!

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

Sycamore Valley Live Auction tickets go on sale soon! The event will be on the evening of 3/21/26 @ Blackhawk Country Club! Come travel back in time for the Roaring 20's Theme!

We need Volunteers to help with the event prep and set up: please email Douglas.Merian@gmail.com

Have something to donate or want to be a sponsor? Please reach out to Kathryn.Montilla@gmail.com

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)

SPIRITWEAR

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

Save up to 25% off when you buy more with code SPIRIT766, score \$19.99 tees, and enjoy FREE shipping on \$85+. Show your Sycamore Valley pride. <https://1stplace.sale/13542>
[Shop Now!](#)

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

SYCAMORE VALLEY
OFFICIAL SPIRIT WEAR STORE

BUNDLE UP AND SAVE BIG!

4+ items → **25% OFF**
3 items → **20% OFF**
2 items → **15% OFF**

[BUILD YOUR BUNDLE](#)

[SHOP NOW](#)

USE CODE: **SPIRIT766**

FREE Shipping on orders over \$85
SHOP AT: **1STPLACE.SALE/13542**





[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.

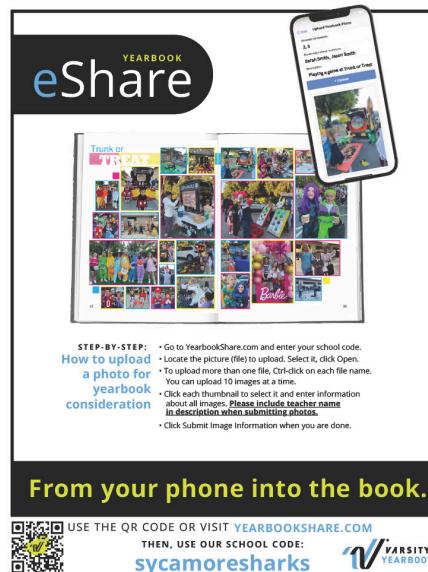
Clarification regarding volunteer drivers. As of June 2025, all volunteers who wish to drive on a field trip will need to complete the DMV report through their Be A Mentor account. There is a \$2.00 fee for this process. Be sure to upload your Driver's License information as well.

There are 3 requirements that are necessary every year.

- 1) DMV report
- 2) Annual Training (2)
- 3) Car Insurance Declaration Page updated

[Volunteer Handbook](#)





Yearbook eShare Flyer

Attention parents...We are now collecting photos for the yearbook!

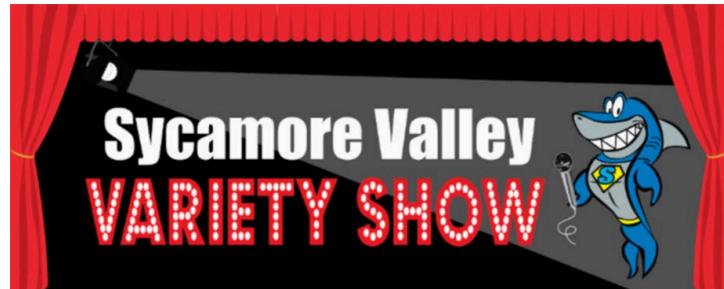
- First day of school
- 5th grade arcade
- Halloween parade & class parties
- Trunk or treat
- Fun Run
- Around the World Festival
- 5th grade outdoor ed
- Field trips
- Art docent
- Many more!

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



OUR VARIETY SHOW IS BACK FOR 2026!

Does your child love to perform on stage?
 Would they like to present an entertaining act of their choice in front of an audience?
 Solo or in a group, we would love to see your rising star showcased in this year's Sycamore Valley Variety Show!

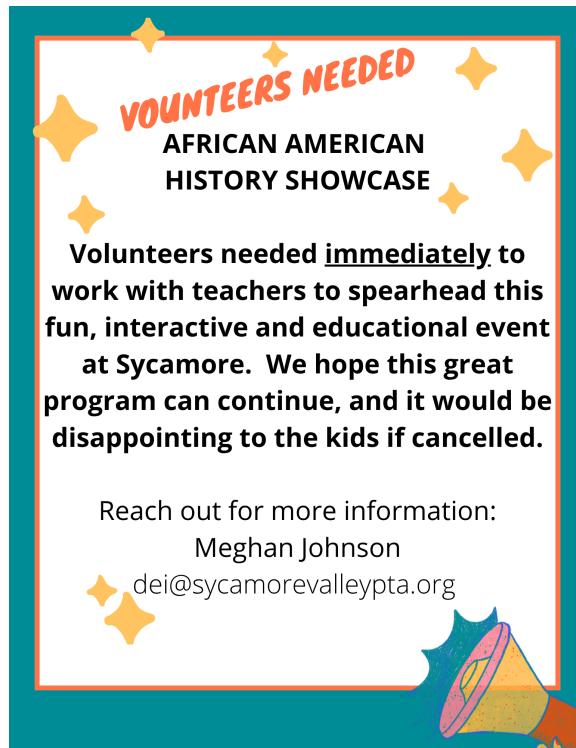
IMPORTANT 2026 VARIETY SHOW DATES:

Deadline to submit Registration and Music: Friday, February 27th
 Variety Show **Dress Rehearsal**: Wednesday, April 1st at 1:00 PM in MPR
 Variety Show: Thursday, April 2nd at 6:00 PM in MPR

Please read the attached [**“2026 VARIETY SHOW Info”**](#) document for all information pertaining to this year's show and how to get your act signed up in time!
 If you have any questions, please contact Variety Show Directors Marisa Montierth and Kali Fama (marisamontierth@gmail.com, kalifama@hotmail.com).

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

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

African American History Museum:**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 katerinita@aol.com



Little Genius
academy

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



KEHRIG
— REAL ESTATE TEAM —



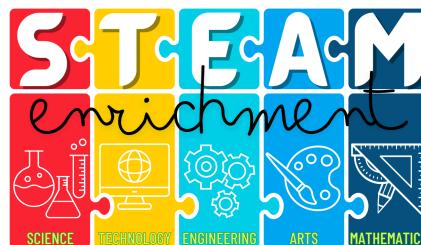
ARRIVE
REAL ESTATE GROUP
JENNIFER LARSON
OWNER | TEAM LEAD | BROKER



FLOURISH
airway
COLLECTIVE



Dr. Richard J. Koettl, D.D.S. *Committed to Healthy Smiles*



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**. The book that will be discussed is *Roger Takes a Chance* by Cynthia Lord. 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 **next 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:

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 **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.

Students should drop off their presentations in the front office on Wednesday, 2/25 or Thursday, 2/26. 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 3**. 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](#). ***Blank trifolds for projects are available in the front office.*** For any questions, please contact Mariam (altafsmariam@gmail.com).

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 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

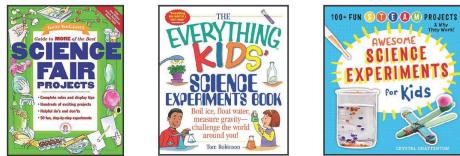
Projects will be judged, awarded, and then displayed at Family STEAM Night.
PRIZES will be awarded for Creativity, Presentation,
and Most Unexpected Results for grades 1st-2nd and 3rd-5th!

If you are interested
in participating in
the 2026 Science Fair,
then please sign up
by February 27th:



NEED IDEAS?

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

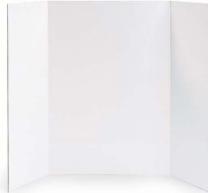


Questions can be emailed to Mariam at sciencechair@sycamorevalleypta.org.

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=vJFruJI7W08>



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 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 - 2/18
 TK/Kinder 11:30am, 1st-5th 12:50pm
Dippin Dots - 2/25
 TK/Kinder 11:30am, 1st-5th 12:50pm
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



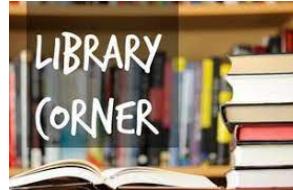
Sharky Shout Out:

A big thank you to our DEI Chair, Megan Johnson, for her incredible work on Words Matter Week and our upcoming African American History Showcase. Her dedication to promoting kindness, inclusiveness, and belonging helps ensure our students are learning values that truly matter.



School Site Council Update

Next Meeting TBD



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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