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# Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Bites Newsletter

**Message from Principal Kawahara  
May 14, 2026**



**Kindergarten Flower Art**

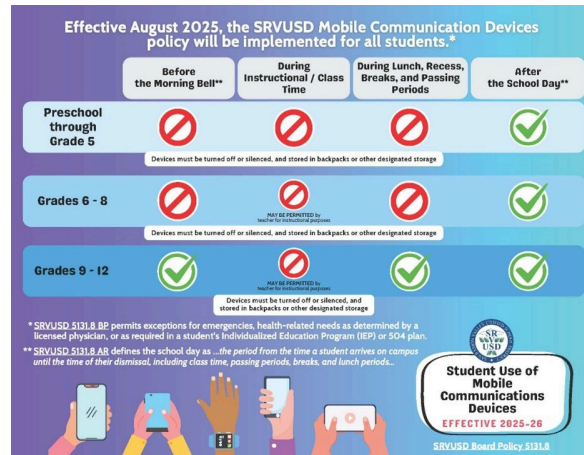
Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you and your family are well. We are looking forward to seeing you this evening for Open House! The students and teachers have worked so hard this year and are excited to show you all of their projects. We will see you at 6:00pm. Remember to take a look at the Lost & Found items that are on display in our main quad. There are many sweaters, jackets and sweatshirts that would like to be found by their owner!!

**Smart Watches and Smart Phones - FRIENDLY REMINDER**  
**Mobile Communication Device Policy Reminder** - Effective August 2025: SRVUSD's new district-wide policy regarding [student use of cell phones and other mobile communication devices](#) (MCDs) during the school day. Mobile Communication Devices (MCDs) include, but are not limited to:

- **Smartphones**
- **Smart watches**
- **Any wearable communication device**

**Policy Overview by School Level - Elementary (Preschool-grade 5)**  
 Students may not use or have MCDs, including smart watches, visible at any time during the school day. Devices must be turned off or silenced and stored in backpacks or designated storage areas from arrival through dismissal. This includes time on campus before the morning bell, class time, recess, and lunch.



**Attendance -**

Please join me in congratulating our school with the highest (in-person) attendance for last week (week of 4/26/26):  
 Sycamore = 97.17%

**Medicine -**

With allergy season upon us I want to remind everyone that all medicine, including cough drops and over the counter medications, need to be given to the office along with instructions from the doctor. If you are unable to get a doctor's note, you are welcome to come to school to administer the medicine. Students may not bring medicine to school in their backpacks

**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).

Keep reading for some 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.**

05/14 - Open House - 6:00pm - 7:00pm - Campus Wide  
 05/16 - Truck Time - 9:00 - 1:00 - San Ramon  
 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  
 06/02 - Senior Clap it Out - 1:30pm - MPR  
 06/04 - Last Day of School - Min. Day Schedule  
 08/13 - First Day of School for 26/27 School Year

**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**

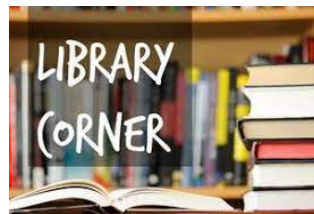


**Attendance Line**

**Please call or email the attendance line to report  
 your child's absence:  
 925-855-2898  
[sy-attendance@srvusd.net](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).*



Thank you all for your support of our book fair! With your support, we raised a good amount of money for purchasing new library books for the next school year.

Next week will be our last week of library visits for the year. ALL library books are due at that time. By the end of the school year, all library materials need to be returned. A fine will live on your student's account until they graduate from the district, so these materials need to either be returned, paid for or replaced.

Any questions - contact Mrs. Prindiville - [jprindiville@srvusd.net](mailto:jprindiville@srvusd.net)



**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 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)**

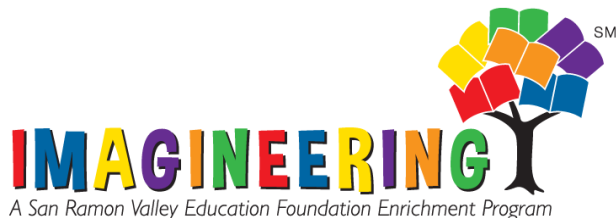
Supports programs that celebrate and uplift the diverse voices within our school community. This role oversees initiatives such as Festival Around the World, Words Matter Week, the Abilities Awareness Workshop, the Exceptional Education Liaison program, and the African American History Showcase.

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](mailto: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



### SRVEF's Summer Imagineering has something for everyone!

Interested in biology? Check out our **Zoology Explorers** class (Grades 1-3) incorporating art, engineering, science and technology, students will bring the study of animals to life in their own hands. Learn about our oceans and the creatures that live there in our **Intro to Marine Biology** (Grades 3-5) and **Marine Bio - A Deeper Dive** (Grades 6-8). These courses will spark curiosity and excitement about science by incorporating hands-on labs, inquiry-based learning, art, and engineering projects.

Interested in technology and computer science? Classes for grades 3-5 include **Coding with Spheros robots**, **Stop Motion Animation**, and **Blast Off!**

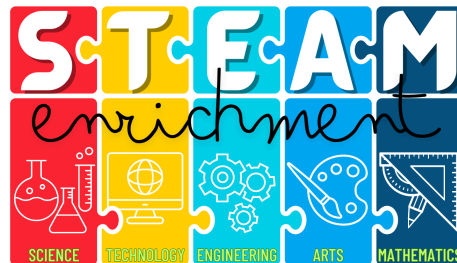
**Rocketry.** Grades 6-12 can learn **Creative Coding with Python** and release their inner engineer with **Robotics**. Young makers (Grades 3-5) will experiment with recycled materials to build art, inventions, games, and more in **The Recycle Lab**.

For students in grades 6+, there are opportunities to learn skills equipping them with tools that extend far beyond the classroom including critical thinking and debate in **Pop Culture Philosophy**, financial literacy in **Level Up Your Money Game**, and improving their confidence in **Public Speaking**.

Learn real life skills in **Sweet Science Lab** and **Let's Get Cooking** classes for grades 3-5 and grades 6-8. For students in grades 6+, **Medical Intervention** will empower them to make a difference in their communities through the learning of life saving skills.

**New this year,** Summer Imagineering is offering **Beginning Band** and **Beginning Strings** for students with little to no experience with instrumental music but a desire to learn and **Advanced Band** and **Advanced Strings** for students who already have some experience with their instruments. This class is dedicated to preparing 5th and 6th graders for middle school concert band.

Check out our [class descriptions](#) and [register](#) today!



#### **Battle of the Books**

The **Battle of the Books** competition will be held at the library after school next **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](mailto: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 **next 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](mailto: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 Mummaneni (5th)**, **Jaden Galamay (5th)**, and **Anirudh Jayaraman (4th)**. Medals and certificates for all participants will be distributed in May.

#### **Science Fair**

Thank you to all those students that participated in the 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 Chow** (1st grade) & **Yash Kulathumani** (4th grade), **Creativity - Ciella Moore** (2nd grade, Bottle Rocket Blast Off!) & **Theodore Mesic** (3rd grade, A Taste of the Wild), and **Presentation - Aarya Dinesh Bhat** (2nd grade) & **Hrihaan Limbachiya** (3rd grade), **Parth Contractor** (4th grade, Lemon Battery). For any questions, please contact Mariam ([sciencechair@sycamorevalleypta.org](mailto: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](mailto:researchprojects@sycamorevalleypta.org)).

#### **WordMasters Challenge**

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.



## Shark Fund Updates

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### **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](mailto:douglas.merian@gmail.com)

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### **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-tzn-mks> We will be VOTING on board positions for 26-27, so please consider joining the board!

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### **Dippin' Dot Calendar:**

**Dippin Dots - Will return in the fall !!**  
TK/Kinder 11:30am, 1st-5th 12:50pm

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## Sharky Shout Out:

A big thank you to our teachers and students for all their hard work preparing for Open House tonight!



## School Site Council Update

### Next Meeting Fall of 2026

#### New Members Needed:

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

For our 26/27 Site Council we will need 1 new Parent Representative and 2 new Alternate Representatives to serve for a 2 year term.

The Site Council typically meets five times throughout the school year.

If you are interested in being a Site Council Member, please submit your Bio with details as to who you are and why you would like to be a Site Council Member.

Bios should be emailed to Barbara in the school office ([BJones1@srvusd.net](mailto:BJones1@srvusd.net)) no later than Wednesday, May 27th.

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



### 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](mailto:jeannine.pickering@gmail.com) and Katerina McCormack [katerinitsa@aol.com](mailto:katerinitsa@aol.com)



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



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## SPIRITWEAR

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

This is the last week to save during the Sycamore Valley Year-End Spirit Wear Sale! Save up to 20% off already slashed prices sitewide! Use code BADGER26 to save now! Order today! <https://1stplace.sale/13542>  
[Shop Now!](#)

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

**SYCAMORE VALLEY**  
OFFICIAL SPIRIT WEAR STORE

# LOAD UP and SAVE!

**BUY MORE. SAVE MORE.**

- 4+ Items **20% OFF**
- 3 Items **15% OFF**
- 2 Items **10% OFF**

**SHOP NOW**  
USE CODE: **BADGER26**

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



### 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.



### 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](http://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**  
Rotary  
Dougherty Valley/San Ramon

**EVENT BENEFICIARIES**  
PVSR FOUNDATION AND



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## **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!**

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**

### Read Our Announcements

[VIEW ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS](#)

## Keep in Touch with Us!

Follow and Like Us!



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