

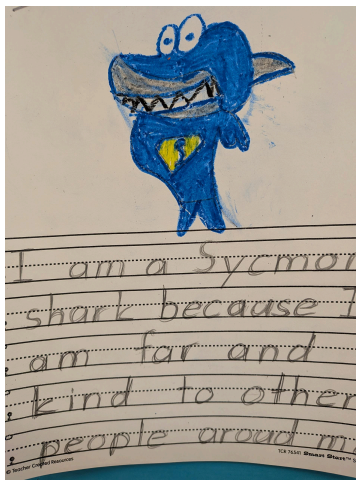
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NOTE: Gmail users, please be sure to click "View Entire Message" at the bottom of this email to avoid missing all important updates. A new window will open displaying the full newsletter!!

Sycamore Valley Elementary Shark Bites Newsletter

**Message from Principal Kawahara
May 21, 2026**



1st Grade Sharky Writing

Dear Sycamore Valley Families:

I hope you and your family are doing well and have a chance to enjoy this beautiful weather over the long weekend. We are moving into the last two weeks of school next week and things are popping here at Sycamore! We have 5th and 3rd doing plays over the next week, classes are getting together for final buddy events and end of year reflections and parties will happen soon. It is an exciting time of year!

Site Council - Reminder

For our 26/27 Site Council we will need 1 new Parent Representative and 2 Alternate Representatives to serve for a 2 year term. Site Council reviews progress to goals, provides input on the development of new goals for the School Plan for Student Achievement and the Comprehensive School Safety Plan. 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) no later than Wednesday, May 27th.

Attendance -

Please join me in congratulating our schools with the highest (in-person) attendance for last week (week of 5/3/26):

Windemere Ranch MS	97.41%
Bollinger Canyon	97.37%
Neil Armstrong	97.23%
Golden View	96.89%
Pine Valley MS	96.74%
Hidden Hills	96.62%
Sycamore	96.48%

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 concept with *Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth* (Jeffers), *I Promise* (James) and *It Wasn't My Fault* (Lester).

District Updates -

June:

[Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer \(LGBTQ+\) Pride Month](#)

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Month. SRVUSD models, advocates and actively supports the inclusive and respectful treatment of all students, employees, family members, and community members. Lack of awareness and understanding of issues facing LGBTQ+ youth has contributed to high rates of school dropout, academic failure, school disengagement, and self-harm. June is a time to celebrate our dynamic LGBTQ+ community, raise awareness of services, and foster dialogue to promote healthy, safe, and fulfilling school climates for all. Flying the progress pride flag at the District office and all District sites during the month of June symbolizes the celebration of diversity and support for the LGBTQ+ community.

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.

- 05/22 - No School - School Recess**
- 05/25 - 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**
 - TK/K 8:00 - 10:30**
 - 1st - 5th Grades - 8:00 - 12:00**
- 06/08 - Lost & Found Will Be Donated**
- 08/11 - New Family Orientation/Tour 5:30pm**
- 08/12 - Classroom/Teacher Assignments posted in Parent Portal - 12:00pm**
- 08/12 - TK/K Ice Cream Social - 1:00pm - TK/K playground**
- 08/12 - TK/K Back to School Night - 5:30pm - Parents Only**
- 08/13 - First Day of School for 26/27 School Year**

08/13 - 1st - 5th Grade Back to School Night - Parents Only

4th - 5th - 5:30pm - 6:15pm in the classroom for the teacher presentation

All Grades - 6:20pm - 6:40pm in the MPR for Principal Kawahara's presentation

1st - 3rd - 6:45pm - 7:30pm in the classroom for the teacher presentation

08/26 - School Photos

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

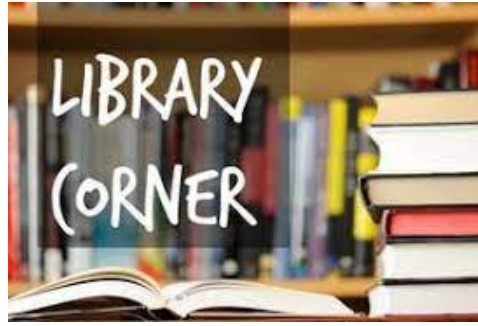
**Please call or email the attendance line to report
your child's absence:**

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).



Big congrats to all our amazing readers who successfully finished and participated in the Battle of the Books! We had a fun day with great competition (and awesome prizes)! I'm already working on the list for next year!

We are at the home stretch for turning in ALL library books. Unfortunately, we are still missing **WAY** too many books for this time of year. Please know the fines will stay on your student's account all the way through high school, and will affect their ability to check out books next year. Please help them be responsible and turn in those missing books!

Missing total to date:

177 books = \$2,173.00

5th grade: 52 books = \$592

4th grade: 44 books = \$560

3rd grade: 25 books = \$297

2nd grade: 25 books = \$276

1st grade: 15 books = \$186

Kindergarten: 16 books = \$262

Any questions - contact Mrs. Prindiville - 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)

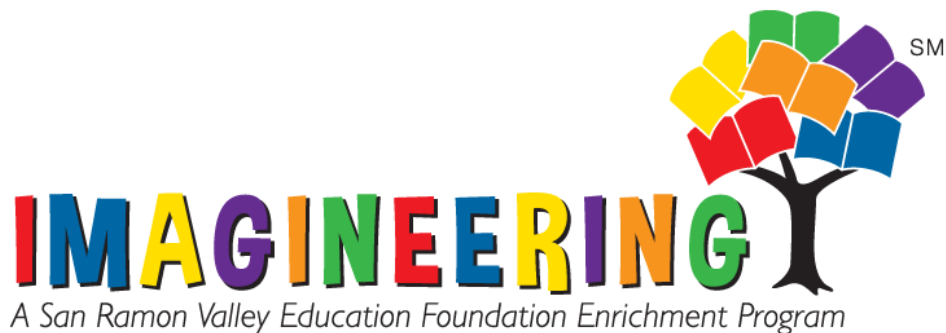
Supports programs that celebrate and uplift the diverse voices within our school community. This role oversees initiatives such as Festival Around the World, Words Matter Week, the Abilities Awareness Workshop, the Exceptional Education Liaison program, and the African American History Showcase.

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.

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.

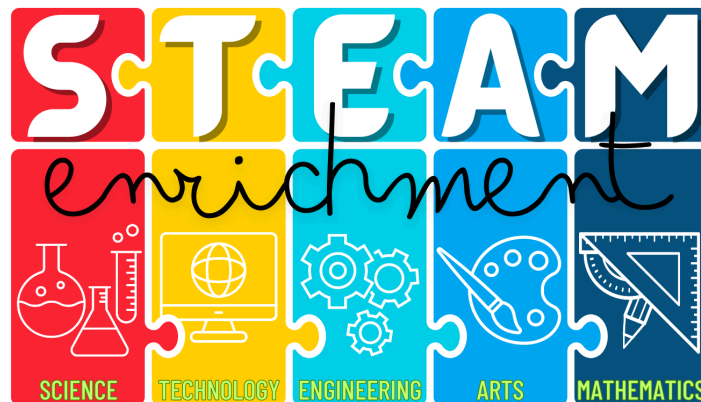
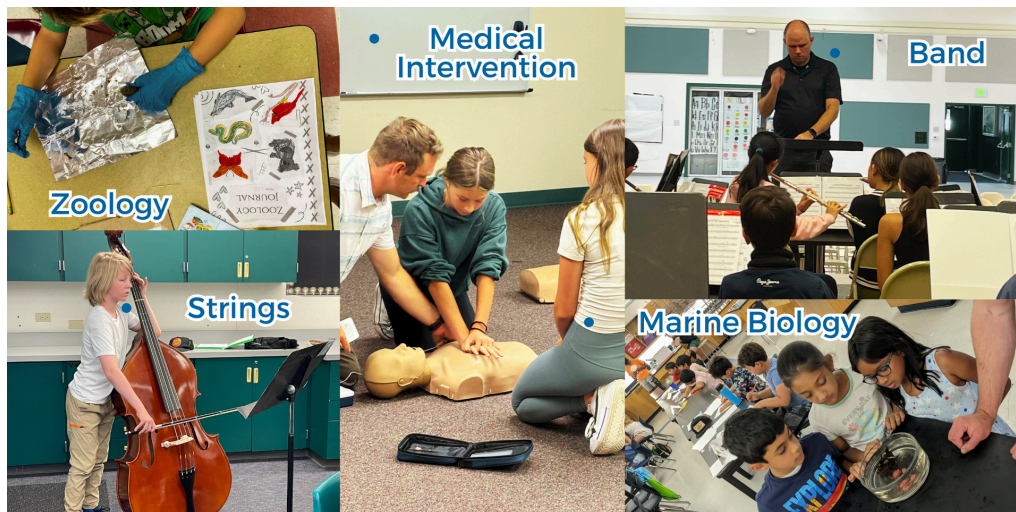
Interested in technology and computer science? Classes for grades 3-5 include **Coding with Spheros robots**, **Stop Motion Animation**, and **Blast Off! Rocketry**. Grades 6-12 can learn **Creative Coding with Python** and release their inner engineer with **Robotics**. Young makers (Grades 3-5) will 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

Battle of the Books has concluded for the year. Thank you to all those who participated!

Book Club 1st-2nd

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

Book Club 3rd-5th

This book club has concluded for the year. Thank you to all those who 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 are being distributed this month.

Science Fair

Thank you to all those students who 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 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), and **Presentation - Aarya D.** (2nd grade) & **Hrihaan L.** (3rd grade), **Parth C.** (4th grade, Lemon Battery).

Research Projects

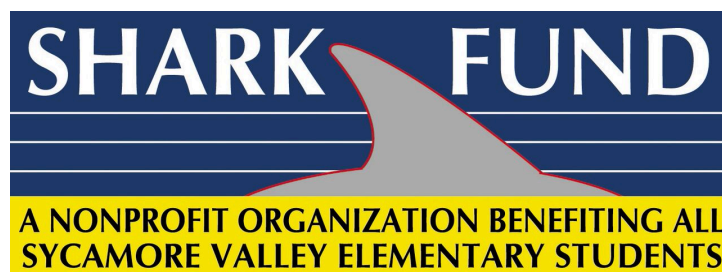
This program has concluded for the year. Thank you to everyone who participated throughout the year! We hope you learned something in the process.

WordMasters Challenge

Challenge 3 is complete, and what an amazing finish to this year's WordMasters journey! A huge WELL DONE to the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders for tackling some tough vocabulary in the final challenge! And a heartfelt thank you to the parents for your continued support and encouragement throughout the year. We're thrilled to celebrate our top scorers for Challenge 3:

Gold - Jaden G. (19/20), **Silver - Devin J. (15/20)**, **Bronze - Derek W. (14/20)**. Way to go, vocabulary rockstars! *WordMasters certificates are available for pickup in the front office.* Thank you again for a fantastic WordMasters season. We hope the students walk away feeling proud and inspired, with even stronger vocabulary skills in their toolkit.

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

Shark Fund Monthly Meetings:

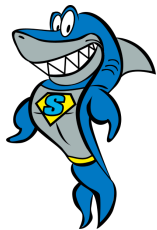
Our monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm and open to all!



Dippin' Dot Calendar:

Dippin Dots - Will return in the fall !!

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



Sharky Shout Out:

A huge shoutout and thank you to all of our amazing STEAM volunteers who have dedicated so much time and energy to running our incredible enrichment programs all year long! Thank you for creating meaningful opportunities for our students to explore, create, and expand their learning in exciting ways.



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) 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
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

The Sycamore Valley Elementary School Year-End Spirit Wear Sale has been extended and now the savings are even bigger!!! Use code **BADGER26** at **checkout** and save up to 30% off already slashed prices sitewide! This won't last long, order today! <https://1stplace.sale/13542>

Sycamore Valley Elementary School Year-End Sale Details:

- Sale Extended through May 26th
- Use Code BADGER26 at checkout
- Pick Your Savings:
 - Buy 2 items, save 10% off
 - Buy 3 items, save 20% off
 - Buy 4 items, save 30% off

[Shop Now!](#)

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

SYCAMORE VALLEY
OFFICIAL SPIRIT WEAR STORE

SALE EXTENDED

**BUY MORE.
SAVE MORE.**

4+ Items 30% OFF

3 Items 20% OFF

2 Items 10% OFF

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.



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](#)

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Follow and Like Us!



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