

# Sycamore Valley Elementary SHARK BITES



## Message from Patricia Kawahara - Principal April 18, 2024

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Dear Sycamore Families:

I hope you and your family are well.

A big thank you to Dana Claffey for coordinating and leading the Abilities Awareness activity today and to all the volunteers who ensured that the stations ran smoothly! Students made their way through different station activities to develop an understanding of different abilities. For example, students learned some sign language and braille and information about dyslexia. There is a reminder about CAASPP testing. Teachers will communicate the testing dates for their classes.

This is a very busy time of year. Please be sure to check the dates to remember and mark your calendar.

Keep reading for a reminder about state testing and SRVUSD department updates.

**April Read Aloud - Updated - [April Read Alouds-Final](#)**

### **Dates to Remember:**

04/15-04/19 - Exceptional Abilities Week

04/22 - SLAM Science Fair

04/22-04/26 - Staff Appreciation Week

04/23-04/26 - Book Fair - see information below

05/01 - Variety Show Dress Rehearsal - 1:00pm in MPR

05/02 - Variety Show - 6:00pm in MPR

05/16 - Open House

### **CAASPP Testing Reminder:**

Starting later this month, students in grades 3-5 will begin taking the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). Fifth graders will also be participating in the CAST (California Science Test).

Your child's teacher will be communicating specific testing days, times, and information for your child's class.

However, please note the following CAASPP Testing Date windows for each grade level:

Third Grade: Weeks of 4/22 and 4/29

Fourth Grade: Weeks of 4/29 and 5/6

Fifth Grade: Weeks of 4/29, 5/6, and 5/13

For more information about CAASPP, please visit [CAASPP Parent/Guardian Resources](#) or contact Patricia Kawahara at [pkawahara@srvusd.net](mailto:pkawahara@srvusd.net) or Tiffany Goh at [tgoh@srvusd.net](mailto:tgoh@srvusd.net).

## **Department Updates**

### **Street Smarts Bike Rodeo:**

Street Smarts is excited to host another Community Bike Rodeo! Helmets are required, and there are no e-scooters, e-bikes or skateboards allowed at this event.

When: Saturday, May 11, 2024, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Reservations required)

Where: Charlotte Wood Middle School Blacktop (600 El Capitan Dr, Danville)

Visit [Street Smarts Bike Rodeo and Festival](#) for more information. Space is LIMITED - [Registration](#) now open! Click this link for more information ([flyer](#))

### **Missing the Last Ten Days of 2023-24 or the First Three Days of 2024-25:**

Attending school is very important to the academic success of each student. Here is information regarding missing the last ten days of the 23-24 school year or the first three days of the 24-25 school year in your weekly newsletters.

[Missing the Last Ten Days of 203-24 or the First Three Days of 2024-25](#)

## **MAY RESOLUTIONS:**

### **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month - May**

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. California is home to over 600,000 students of Asian and Pacific Islander descent and they reflect the great diversity of culture and heritage of their many countries. SRVUSD's Board of Education recognizes the need for all students to develop pride in their own identity and heritage as well as understand, respect, and accept the identity and heritage of others.

### **Day of the Teacher - May 8, 2024**

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes May 8, 2024 as Day of the Teacher. SRVUSD's Board of Education encourages appropriate activities that celebrate our teachers and the teaching profession. The quality of all students' educational experiences depends significantly upon the quality and effectiveness of their teachers. SRVUSD administrators and school communities have the utmost respect and admiration for the district's teachers as they are individuals who have dedicated their lives and their talents to the education of our children.

### **Classified School Employee Week - May 19-25, 2024**

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the week of May 19-25, 2024 as Classified School Employee Week. Classified employees serve a vital role in creating strong, effective schools and district offices. Classified employees support students in the classroom, perform vital clerical, office, and technology functions, prepare and serve student meals, perform custodial, maintenance, and grounds services, serve as bus drivers and crossing guards, and administer other essential services that ensure that our students, campuses, and offices run smoothly and effectively. The SRVUSD Board of Education supports the celebration of Classified School Employee Week and recognizes the outstanding contributions provided by the district's classified employees.

### **Mental Health Awareness Month - May**

San Ramon Valley Unified School District recognizes the month of May as Mental Health Awareness

Month. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that 13-20% of youth ages 13-18 have a diagnosed mental health disorder in the United States. With the rise in stress, fear, uncertainty, and suicidal thoughts, addressing the mental health needs of children, youth, and families is critical. The Board of Education commits that SRVUSD will intentionally commit to: Increasing awareness and understanding of mental health for our entire educational community; helping our children, youth and adults be aware of the steps they can take to protect their mental health; and providing appropriate and accessible services for all people, especially children and youth with mental health conditions.

**Events Calendar, Shark Fund and PTA information below - keep scrolling!!**

Thank you,  
Patricia Kawahara

**GO SHARKS!**

## **IMPORTANT DATES**



**Incoming New TK & K Students Enrollment - Now Open**  
**Incoming New 1st - 5th Grade Students Enrollment - Now Open**

**04/15-04/19 - Exceptional Abilities Awareness Week**  
**04/22-04/26 - Staff Appreciation Week - (Sign ups below)**  
**04/22 - Staff Appreciation Breakfast**  
**04/22 - SLAM Science Fair.**  
**04/23-04/26 - Book Fair - see information below**  
**04/25 - Staff Appreciation Luncheon**  
**05/01 - Variety Show Dress Rehearsal 1:00 PM in MPR**  
**05/02 - Variety Show 6:00 PM in MPR**  
**05/08 - Dippin' Dots**  
**05/16 - Open House**  
**05/22 - Dippin' Dots**  
**05/23 - Spring Concert**  
**05/24 - No School - School Recess**  
**05/27 - No School - Memorial Day Holiday**  
**06/05 - Last Day of School - Minimum Day Schedule**



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**Staff Appreciation Week is coming up April 22- April 26!**  
Please sign up below to help!  
Watch for emails from Room Parents  
for additional volunteer opportunities.

**Staff Appreciation Breakfast - Sign Up:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0944AAAD2BA1FC1-48986912-staff?useFullSite=true#/>

**Sycamore Staff - Door Poster - Sign Up:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0944AAAD2BA1FC1-48977762-staff?useFullSite=true#/>

**Staff Appreciation Luncheon - Sign Up:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090A4EA9AD28A7FB6-48402460-staff>

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If you have not done so already, you are welcome to order school photos.  
Here is the link.

<https://www.ciphotoca.com/sycamorevalley>

You will need to know your child's student number. This can be found in your parent portal.

Did you forget to order school portraits?



It's not too late...  
*Order today!*

925-485-6025  
www.ciphotoca.com

Select your favorite background



## Attendance Line



**Please call the attendance line  
to report an absence:  
925-855-2898**

**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).**

Reminder:

- If your child will be absent from school, please call the attendance line (925) 855-2898. State your name and relationship, your child's name, grade and teacher name along with the reason for absence. If your child is ill, please let us know what symptoms your child is experiencing.
- If your child has COVID-19, please notify the school office.
- If you choose not to leave illness details, you will receive a call from the attendance office asking for more information.

It is our responsibility to maintain the health and safety of our school community and we ask for your cooperation. Your student's private health information will not be shared beyond administrative or nursing staff.

Note: Even if you have notified your child's teacher, please call the attendance line to record the absence!

**Thank you.**

**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



Sign Up genius links:

General Lunch Recess Helpers, General Morning Recess Helpers.

**Lunch Recess General Volunteers:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DAFA72DAAFAC25-44467019-lunch>

**Sycamore General Recess Volunteers:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DAFA72DAAFAC25-44466238-sycamore>

Click here for the [Spiritwear Sale](#)

\$10 OFF All Shorts!

Spiritwear

Free Shipping \$75+



**DEAL OF THE WEEK**

ADD TO CART



**ALL SHORTS**

**\$10 OFF**

1ST PLACE   
Spiritwear

HURRY! OFFER ENDS  
APRIL 22ND

**SHOP AT 1STPLACE.SALE/13542**

**SYCAMORE VALLEY**



**Ballots for Measures E & F were delivered the Week of April 8th.**

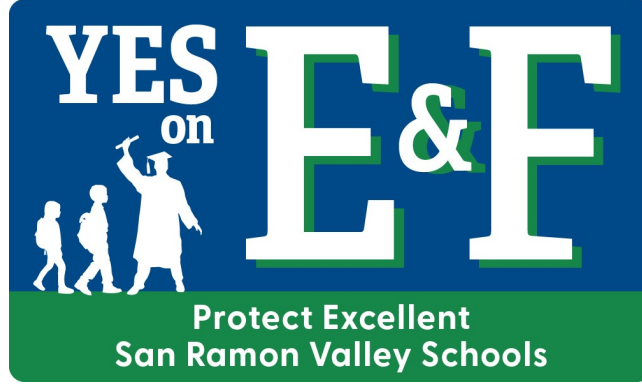
Have you completed and returned your ballot yet? If not, please do so right away! If you have, THANK YOU!

*If you are a registered voter and haven't received your ballot yet, please email the County Elections Office or call 925-335-7836 to ask about it.*

*Measures E and F will provide stable, locally controlled funding that is needed to protect the high-quality education our community expects and our students deserve.*

*If you would like to display a yard sign in support of the measures, at your home, go to:*

[SRVCitizensforQualitySchools.com/volunteer](http://SRVCitizensforQualitySchools.com/volunteer) to request one.



## Truck Time 2024 – Tickets on Sale Now!

Turn imagination into real life! This fun, interactive, outdoor family festival encourages children (and their adults) to explore the trucks and vehicles they see around them all the time, and maybe some they've never seen before.

**Saturday, May 4th, 9:00 am to 1:00pm**

Parking lot of 2700 Camino Ramon, San Ramon

Visit [TruckTimeSanRamon.org](https://TruckTimeSanRamon.org) for additional details and to pre-purchase tickets. Tickets are \$7 per person (age 1 and over) if purchased before April 29, or \$10 at the door on the event day.

This event is presented by the Rotary Club of Dougherty Valley/San Ramon. It benefits the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation, the San Ramon Historic Foundation, the Dougherty Valley/San Ramon Rotary Club, and its Foundation.



## San Ramon Childrens' Makers Market

Vidhra, in collaboration with the City of San Ramon, is thrilled to announce the San Ramon Children's Makers Market taking place on May 4th, 2024, 10AM to 2PM at the Dougherty Station Community Arts Center in San Ramon. This unique one-day marketplace empowers children (ages 7 to 17) to explore their entrepreneurial ideas, receiving valuable feedback from genuine customers in a real-world setting. It serves as an excellent platform for young minds to grasp the intricacies of building a business marketplace. For more information, interested children can contact [thevidhra@gmail.com](mailto:thevidhra@gmail.com). Act quickly, as applications will be closing soon.

## The Measures E & F ballots are arriving in mailboxes the week of April 8th.

If you are a registered voter, please keep an eye out for your ballot. Once it arrives, please open it and complete and return it right away. Measures E and F will provide stable, locally controlled funding that is needed to protect the high-quality education our community expects and our students deserve.

If you have questions about these measures, you're welcome to check out the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the [YesonMeasuresEF.com](https://YesonMeasuresEF.com) website.





**San Ramon Children's Makers Market**  
One day marketplace for children to create, plan and launch a business  
**Dougherty Station Community Arts Center, San Ramon**  
**Saturday, May 04, 2024**  
**10am - 2pm**

Apply today

Calling all youth creators, dreamers, artists...

Do you always dream of being an entrepreneur?

Are you between 7 years and 17 years old? Then, this is for you!



**Event Sponsors:**



For further details, contact: [TheVidhra@gmail.com](mailto:TheVidhra@gmail.com)



**Extracurricular Extension Programs for Grades 1 - 5 in the subjects of Science, Language, Arts, Math and Research!**

## Battle of the Books:

The book list for the 2023/2024 school year is [here](#). A minimum of **9 books** must be read in order to compete in the Battle of the Books tournament being held on **Wednesday, May 8th**, in the library after school.

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## Science Fair:

Mark your calendars for the SLAM Science Fair on **Monday, April 22nd!** Open to all 1st-5th graders, students will answer scientific questions using The Scientific Method and present their experiment and findings in a tri-fold poster board presentation.

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## Science Builder's Challenge:

The Science Builder's Challenge was this past Tuesday, April 16th. The project goal of this year's challenge was to design, build, and launch a bean bag using a trebuchet/catapult at a target 20 feet away. The kids had a great time testing their trebuchets! Congratulations to **Matthew Deneys** who won 1st place and **Emerson Schebella** who won 2nd place! A huge shout out to all the kids who spent time building and launching their trebuchets: *Abhinav Mummaneni, Xander Chu, Arshan Maharaj, Emerson Schebella, Matthew Deneys, Nachiketh Iyengar, Saanvi Lakhota.*



## Math Olympiad:

Great job to our Math Olympiad team! Our team scored in the top 25% of all elementary schools around the world that participated in Math Olympiad. We had 2 kids that scored in the top 2%!! Great job **Kyle Zamanakos** and **Levi Schmidt!**

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## SRV Passport:

The deadline to submit the completed SRV Passport is **Monday, April**

**29th.** Please submit completed SRV Passports to the front office SLAM bin with your child's name on it, OR email a scanned copy to [nuq101@gmail.com](mailto:nuq101@gmail.com).

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### Research:

The final research topic for this year is the **SOLAR SYSTEM**. Students can pick any item related to the Solar System (e.g. Stars, Planets, Asteroids, Comets, Galaxies, etc). Presentations should be trifold and/or poster board only. Students may work individually or in pairs. Presentations are due **Friday, April 26th**. Students should submit presentations to the front office to be displayed in the library. Please email [rajiedeol@gmail.com](mailto:rajiedeol@gmail.com) to get SLAM credit.

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### STEAM Art & Play:

The next class is **Tuesday, April 23rd**, at 2:30pm in the MPR. Your child(ren) may only attend if they are signed up via the signup genius. Classes are FULL, so if your child(ren) cannot attend, please delete their signup so that their spot may be offered to someone on the waitlist.

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### SuperSTEM:

Thank you to those students who turned in work for the February issue. Credit will be given and work returned. The answer key to this issue may be found [here](#). The March/April issue of SuperSTEM is due **Tuesday, April 30th**. Please [download](#), complete, and hand in the skills worksheets at the front office SLAM bin. Please complete the following sections of the current issue in order to receive full credit:

- Recap: Mini STEM Reads
  - Collision Course
  - What's the Main Idea?
  - Expressions: Seaweed Growth
  - How Do Clouds Form?
  - Line Plot: Rainfall Amounts
  - Make a Bar Graph
  - Design a Sidewalk Light
- 

Any questions about SLAM?

Please email : [goscymoreslam@gmail.com](mailto:goscymoreslam@gmail.com)



# Join Our Shark Fund Graphics Team and Dive into Creativity!

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Join Our Shark Fund Graphics Team and Dive into Creativity!



Attention talented graphic designers!



**Are you a wizard with Adobe Illustrator?** We're on the lookout for a creative mind to join our dynamic graphics team for Shark Fund. Your skills will play a crucial role in updating and creating eye-catching flyers and social media graphics for our exciting fundraising events, including Sharky Cinema, Dine-To-Donate, and the Live Auction extravaganzas.

To dive into this fantastic opportunity, please reach out to Christine Hoffman at [christy1a@aol.com](mailto:christy1a@aol.com). Your artistic talents will make a difference, and we truly

appreciate your support in shaping the future of our school community!



#SharkFund #GraphicDesignOpportunity #JoinTheTeam



## Dippin' Dot Calendar: 5/08, 5/22

### Dippin Dot Pre-pay Punch Cards are Back!

Punch cards can be purchased for **\$25.00** at all Dippin Dot Wednesday events with cash or check made payable to "Sycamore Shark Fund"

- 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

**Shark Fund would like to Thank You for your support with our  
Wednesday Dippin' Dot Wednesday Fundraiser.**

Dippin dots has sold **over \$8,000!!!!!!**

Kindergarten Sales @ 11:30 am near the Kinder playground  
1st-5th Grade Sales @ 12:50-1:10pm near the back MPR/blacktop entrance  
Lost Punch Cards or any other Dippin Dot questions please contact

Dippin' Dot Dana Claffey

925-407-7178 [Dana.claffey@gmail.com](mailto:Dana.claffey@gmail.com)

**Dippin' Dots**

**\$5 each**

**cotton candy**

**rainbow**

**cookies 'n cream**

**cookie dough**

**Shark Fund is proud to offer Dippin' Dots**

**Double the impact of your school donations with Corporate Match!**  
 Follow these simple steps: <https://srvef.org/matching-gifts/>

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QUESTIONS? CONTACT TODD STRACKE AT  
 TODD.STRACKE@CLOROX.COM OR (510) 219-8589

Sycamore Valley Shark Fund is an affiliate of the San Ramon Valley Education Foundation  
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THANK YOU TO SYCAMORE'S 23-24  
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## Library Corner

Our Spring Book Fair is **NEXT** week! Students can shop during their regular library class time and avoid the long lines after school. Cash, cards, Apple Pay or \***Literati Gift Cards** are accepted.

**Additional after school hours:**

**Tuesday 2:30 - 3:30**

**(Wednesday 11:30-12:30 - TK / Kindergarten ONLY)**

**Thursday 2:30 - 3:30**

**Friday 2:30 - 3:30**

\*The **BEST** way to ensure independent shopping (and avoid long after school lines!) is to purchase a gift card (book fair credit) for your student(s). No cash is needed!

**Purchase here:** <https://literati.com/store/gift-cards/>

(P.S. These are great year-end gifts for teachers as well! They don't expire and can be used anytime online!)

You can also start shopping our online companion fair right now:

<https://literati.com/store/gift-cards/>

Also be sure to check out Literati's monthly book club - low cost & curated to your child's interests!

<https://literati.com/>

Thank you for supporting our library fundraiser!

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**Other important dates:**

Battle of the Books: May 8 1:00-2:00 in the library

Last week of library checkouts: May 6th

ALL BOOKS DUE: May 17th

The Lost Books fines are due before the last day of school!

Please help your reader find their missing library books, or replace the book/pay the fine and let me know via email at:

[jprindiville@srvusd.net](mailto:jprindiville@srvusd.net).

Take Care,  
Jen Prindiville  
Library Media Coordinator  
Sycamore Valley Elementary

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## Sharky Shout Out:

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**Thank you to Dana Claffey for coordinating and leading the Abilities Awareness activities this week.**

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**Mark your calendar:**

**Date to Be Determined @ 4:00pm**

**The meeting will be virtual.**

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More information about Site Council is available at:

<https://syes.srvusd.net/Families/Site-Council/Site-Council/index.html>



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The Lost & Found rack is located at the front of school near the MPR.

**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 in their clothing.

Smaller Lost & Found items are in the Office.

Water Bottles and Lunch Boxes are on the shelf in the MPR.



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### **Black Dragon Chess - Spring 2024**

Chess classes will be offered Thursday afternoons 2:35pm - 3:35pm.

Chess class will be held in our school library.

Mar. 14th - May 30th

No class during winter break.

See attached flyer to sign up.

**[Chess Enrichment Class](#)**



### **Brick Techniques: STEM Basics with Lego - Spring 2024**

**CANCELLED**

**Grades 3 - 5th**

April 8 - May 20, 2024

2:30pm - 4:00pm Science Room

See attached flyer to sign up

**[Prime Robotics with Lego](#)**



### **Brick Techniques: STEM with Lego - Spring 2024**

**Grades K - 2nd**



Jan. 29 - Mar. 25, 2024  
2:30pm - 4:00pm School Library  
See attached flyer to sign up

## [STEM with Lego](#)

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## Child Nutrition

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### Meals Provided @ Sycamore

**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>

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Sycamore Valley Elementary | 2200 Holbrook Road, Danville, CA 94506

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