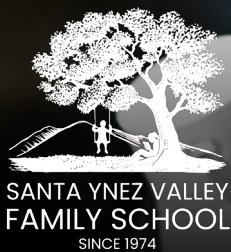


ROOTS

Newsletter

Fall 2024

For **Friends of SYV Family School**



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Introduction

Welcome Back

Welcome to the inaugural *Roots* newsletter for the SYV Family School!

We send this to you today because you are part of the family. Perhaps you attended the school, had a child attend, or currently have a student enrolled in the school. Together, we all play a part in the ongoing strengthening of the “roots” that make up the school’s history, both past and present.

This year, we celebrate our 50th anniversary, commemorating the year our school’s articles of incorporation were signed and the construction of the first building during Thanksgiving weekend in 1974.

We want to honor this significant milestone in our history by creating an ongoing conversation with you, our valued alumni, friends, and currently enrolled families.

While so much has changed over the years, so many of the foundational principles and philosophies are still alive on our campus and in our faculty today. While we look back, we are also looking ahead to the future, as we continue to educate the thought leaders and conscious citizens of tomorrow through grounded, holistic, and connected learning.

This newsletter will be a quarterly update on news and happenings around campus, including stories from you—our alumni, friends, and current family members. As the 50th anniversary year unfolds, we look forward to hearing about your favorite memories and sharing them during this momentous time.

We also hope you can join us to close out the year, on a high note, at our Bounty of the Valley Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, April 5, 2025, on our beloved campus grounds.

We are thrilled to be in touch, and we look forward to seeing you on campus!

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

The 2024/2025 school year is officially back in session! We welcomed 86 students to campus in early September, filling our four classrooms from preschool to 5th grade.

Over the summer months, we turned our attention to campus improvements in preparation for the school year and our 50th anniversary celebration on April 5, 2025. Among the improvements were a new roof on the Red Door and Music Room building, and new beautiful signs that went up at the staff parking entry, the main parking lot entry and, most notably, at the entrance to school. The signs feature our new SYVFS logo, a silhouette of a timeless family school image.

The artisanal signs were welded and hand-cut from iron and steel by the talented Pat Carson. The signs turned out beautifully and set the stage for a memorable first day of school.

Another notable improvement on campus has an alumni connection! The Purple Door deck got a total makeover in August.

The original deck was built in the late 80s with the help of Lucas (Luke) Bennett's father, when Luke was attending the school. And now, Luke's son Boden (aka Bodie) is a student in Green Door 1. The original deck lasted almost 40 years, and we hope our new deck will do the same for the generations to come. Thank you to the Bennett Family for your foundational contribution to the Purple Door building. We are so glad to have the next generation on campus this year!



JASMINE VALLADOLID
Blue Door Co-Teacher

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

If a school is only as good as its teachers, then SYV Family School is GREAT! Our teaching faculty are the lifeblood of the school who bring passion and love to the students that make learning a connected and fun experience.

This month we highlight our beloved teacher, Jasmine Valladolid. Jasmine returned this year as a Blue Door teacher after taking a leave of absence to spend quality time with her young daughter Jaslene, who is now in our Blue Door program. Jasmine chose to bring her talents to SYV Family School because, in her words, she loves just how special and unique this small, but mighty, school is!

Jasmine earned her Associates Degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences at Allan Hancock College, and her Bachelor's Degree in Family and Consumer Science in Education at Cal State Northridge. She's currently pursuing her Masters Degree in Child Development and she has over 10 years of experience working with children pre-K through 5th.

"I do what I do because I believe teachers make a great impact on a student's life. I want every child to know that they are valued, acknowledged, and loved when entering my classroom," Jasmine commented. When not in school, Jasmine likes to explore new places, go to the gym, and spend time with her daughter. When on campus her favorite place is the Big Field between Family School and Midland, as "it's a great place to take laps with the students while enjoying the beautiful mountain views", she said.

Jasmine's favorite school celebration is the annual "Día de los Muertos" festival as it's such a fun-filled day where students get to learn more about Latin culture. Her favorite books to read in Blue Door are *Baby Blue* by Judy Abbot and *I Like Me* by Nancy Carlson.

Thank you for all of the passion and love you bring to the students, Jasmine. Your smile brightens our day!



Congratulations class of 2017!

The SYV Family School class of 2017 are now Freshmen in college. Where are they now?

Alex Grenier
Princeton

Aria Gill-Daugherty
Harvard

Darien Gelles
Cal Poly Pomona

Hialei Colgate
Orange Coast College

London Cookenour
Waiting for reply

Orin Grant
University of California,
Santa Cruz

Kira Brady (Teacher)
Duke School
(North Carolina)





UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Fund Week

October 28 - November 1, 2024

Día de los Muertos

Friday, November 1, 2024

9:00-12:00 am

On Campus Celebration

Turkey Trot and Thanksgiving Sharing

Friday, November 22, 2024

9:30-12:00

On Campus Celebration

Families and Alumni are encouraged to attend the trot and share gratitude at Thanksgiving Sharing.

Alumni Family Trivia Night

Sunday, December 29, 2024

St. Mark's in-the-Valley

Bounty of the Valley

50th Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser

Saturday, April 5, 2025

5:00-10:00

On Campus Celebration

Graduation Ceremony

Honoring our 2025 Graduates

Wednesday, June 4, 2025

12:00-1:30

On Campus Celebration

Pictured above: Lilli Valencia, Class of 2021 at the 2023 Thanksgiving Sharing

Annual Fund

Our Annual Fund drive begins this month, and serves as a key metric for the overall health of our school. As an independent school, the tuition we collect covers 80% of our operational budget, leaving an essential 20% gathered through fundraising efforts such as the Annual Fund.

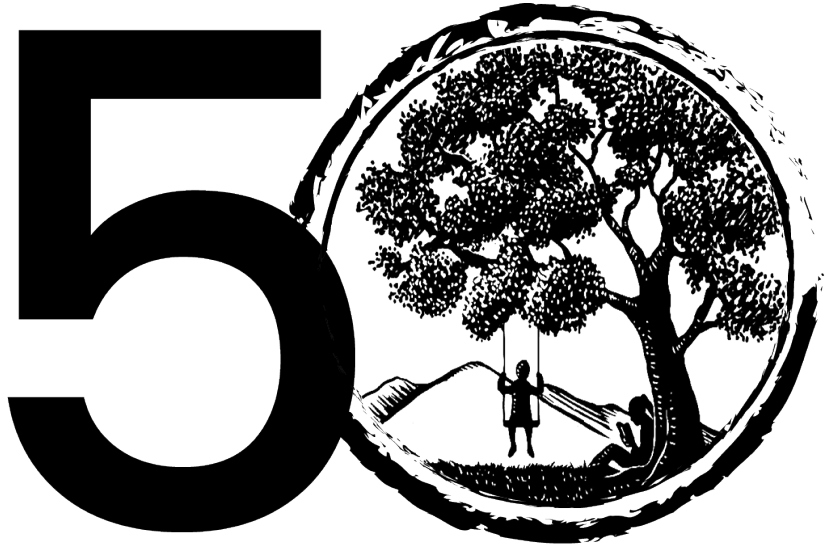
Tuition and fundraising dollars go towards two primary purposes, one being the necessities of a dynamic and nurturing educational environment, and the other being our Reserve Account that allows us to address unplanned facilities repairs, insurance increases due to fire, and increase investments towards an endowment.

Here's how the Annual Fund impacts our community:

- **Enhancing Student Experiences** through extended curriculum
- **Supporting Faculty Development** with training and supplies
- **Ensuring Financial Accessibility** to more than 48% of our students
- **Enhancing Our Campus** with improvements and new resources
- **Fueling Innovation** through new opportunities that support the school

Contributions to SYV Family School Annual Fund is not just a gift, it's an investment in our current students, and a continued legacy for generations to come.

SYV Family School



Celebrating 50 years!



48%

% of Families Receiving
Tuition Assistance



13,104

Number of Volunteer
Program Hours per Year



86

of Students
Currently Served



19,364

Number of Specialty
Program Hours per Year

Bounty OF THE VALLEY

SYVFS' ANNUAL FUNDRAISER



OUR BIGGEST FAMILY REUNION YET

Join us on Saturday, April 5th, 2025 to celebrate our 50th anniversary at our premiere fundraising gala.

◆ **SYV Family School Welcomes All** ◆

Learn more and buy tickets at:
SYVFamilySchool.org

