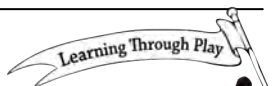


# Panda Post



Issue No. 7 | March 2025

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Spring Into Action*  
**GET INVOLVED!**

Spring is here, and it's the perfect time to get involved in the exciting things happening at Spring-Mar! As we welcome warmer days, we encourage all families to participate and help create an even more vibrant, supportive environment for our children.

We have open board positions for the 2025-2026 school year in both **Marketing** and **Special Events**, and we'd love to have you join us! These roles are a fantastic opportunity to contribute your skills and ideas to make our preschool even better.

Whether it's volunteering for upcoming events, lending a hand in the school, or joining the board, there are many ways to make a difference. Your involvement not only strengthens our community but also enhances your child's preschool experience.

Let's make this spring one to remember by **connecting, contributing, and growing together!**

*Chelsi Shafiq*

## IMPORTANT DATES



- **March 17-21:** Around the World week (Nav/Inv classes)
- **March 22:** FUNDrive for Donations
- **March 31-April 1:** No School
- **April 5:** Pre-K for a Day
- **April 14-18:** No School (Spring Break)
- **April 22-23:** Spring Photo Days
- **April 28-May 2:** Teacher Appreciation Week
- **May 1:** Spring Membership Meeting

### Around the World

The week of **March 17th**, our **Navigators and Inventors** classes will celebrate "Around the World"!



Older students are encouraged to share something special about their culture, a place they've lived or visited, or a family tradition.

Be sure to check your **teacher's email** for more details and contact them to make arrangements!



# SPRING-MAR FUNDRIVE

Clean out your closets and **donate** clothes, household goods, and books to **support** our young learners. Every contribution helps us create a vibrant, engaging space for children to explore and grow!

**March 22, 10 AM - 4 PM**

**Location:** Spring-Mar Preschool



### We're collecting:

- Clothes (men's, women's, & children's)
- Household Textiles (bedding, towels, curtains, etc.)
- Small Household Goods (kitchenware, home decor, small electronics)
- Books & Media (no encyclopedias or textbooks)

**Help us reach our \$1000 goal!**

Pack your donations in bags/boxes and drop them off. Together, we make a difference!



# SPRING adult art party

Saturday, March 15th

6:30pm—9:30pm

@Spring-Mar Preschool

Join us for an evening of **creativity and community!** **Watercolor painting, mindfulness coloring, and an assortment of spring-themed decoupage projects to choose from!**



Scan to purchase

**\$30 per person**





# PRE-K for a Day at Spring-Mar Cooperative Preschool!

**Mark your calendars for April 5th!** Spring-Mar Cooperative Preschool is hosting a **Pre-K for a Day** event where parents and children can explore what a typical day at Spring-Mar is all about.

**Date:** April 5th

**Time:** TBD

**Parents Must Stay** – This is not a drop-off event. Join in the fun!

**Your child will experience:** Classroom time, art, movement, and more!

**PLUS:** Our friendly **Membership team** will be on hand to help with enrollment for the **2025-2026 school year!**

**Best part? It's FREE!**



Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to see why **Spring-Mar** is the perfect place for your child's early education. We can't wait to meet you!

We could use help from current members for this event too! A sign up link and more information will be sent out soon.



# Spring Photo Day



Get those smiles ready for our Spring Photo Day!

Tuesday, April 22:  
Explorers A, Pioneers,  
Inventors

Wednesday, April 23:  
Explorers B, Navigators A & B

Teachers will provide more details in future.



**We love seeing all the adorable moments in our class Google photo albums! It's such a joy to glimpse our kids' smiles, creativity, and adventures.**

**When uploading, please keep your app or window open to ensure photos upload in high resolution.**



**And don't forget to save and download your favorite photos —albums will close at some point after school ends.**





# BAKE SALE

Treat  
YOURSELF

Spring-Mar is holding a Bake Sale!

**April 5, 11am-2pm**



**Location:** Outside Giant at 7501 Huntsman Blvd., Springfield, VA

Come stock up on **delicious treats** and support our preschool! Bring your friends and family!

Members can help out by **contributing baked goods**, selling at our table, or setting up/tearing down. **A sign-up form will be sent out soon!**

## PANDA CLUB

**Is your child in one of the Navigators classes? Try Panda Club!**

Panda Club is an after school program that runs on select Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:15 pm until 1:15 p.m. and allows our older students to stay after school with a teacher or teachers, eat a packed lunch with their friends, and participate in a special enrichment activity. The students end their time with outside play (weather permitting)! As of now, Panda Club is only open to our Navigators students, and is \$15 per session.

Panda Club might include things like:

- Flying homemade kites made from recycled plastic bags
- Having a picnic on the playground
- Watching chemical reactions when mixing baking soda and vinegar
- Puppet storytime
- Parachute games

Ask our students – Panda Club rocks!

Contact [pandaclub@spring-mar.org](mailto:pandaclub@spring-mar.org) for more information.





# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Every month, the board votes to recognize a member of our school who has gone above and beyond.

This month we are recognizing **Adam King** for his willingness to jump in and help both as a co-oper and as a member of the Spring-Mar community. His positive attitude and enthusiasm have had a positive impact on the school. Thank you, Adam, for all you do to help make our school great!

**Board of Directors**



## PARENT ED CONNECTION

As a reminder, ALL CO-OPING ADULTS are REQUIRED to complete **4 hours** of parent education each year. Each month, you will find some highlighted resources right here in the Panda Post! These will address specific topics our school wants to emphasize and are a great way to complete this requirement.

**Gina Park**  
**Parent Education Coordinator**  
**Resources**

No Bad Kids: Toddler Discipline Without Shame

Real Food Kids Will Love

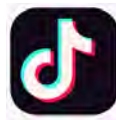
## Social Media



Spring-Mar Cooperative  
Preschool



springmarcooperative



springmarcoop

We'd love to connect with you, especially on our FB and Instagram pages! Check out upcoming events and more!

**FOLLOW US**





# A message from your teacher...

By Patti Barber



## What is process art?

Process art is when children make their own unique art with no set expectations or guidelines. It is about exploration, experimentation, and self expression.

### DO'S

### Dos & Don'ts of Process Art

### DON'TS

- Do try to offer self-serve supplies. Keep it age appropriate and washable!
- Do consider having a designated space for art time. This can help contain mess while still allowing independence.
- Do provide novel art materials. Check your recycling bin, your yard, and your pantry: cardboard boxes, old packaging, foil, sticks, leaves, paper plates or straws, pasta!
- Do try to be generous with supplies. More glue, more stickers, more paint, more tape! It may feel wasteful at times, but they are learning and building their skills!
- Do ask open-ended questions: "Will you tell me about your painting?" "What's your plan?"
- Do make objective comments: "Look at all the yellow dots you painted" "You are cutting the paper into tiny pieces"
- Do say YES to children's ideas. The trees can be pink! The sky can be green!
- Do encourage children to experiment. Experimentation and failure are how we learn!

- Don't offer a sample, or specific outcome. Remember process art is about exploring the materials, not following steps to get to a completed project.
- Don't stop your child to correct them, or offer input. Instead pause, take a deep breath, and give your child room to keep making.
- Don't doubt the process. Sometimes it all just looks like mess, but try to trust the process. Ask your child to tell you more about their ideas and usually you'll be able to see what they're experimenting with.
- Don't look for perfection. Instead of finding fault with crooked lines, or gloppy glue drips, look for evidence of your child's imagination, ideas, and curiosities.

### But the biggest DO of all is:

- Do be playful and joyful in the art-making process. Process art is just another form of play! And play is important for humans of ALL ages - so get in there with them and have fun!

Here's some more information about process art, and how to facilitate it at home.

[Message in a backpack](#)

[Process Art Activities](#)

[Guide to process art for kids](#)

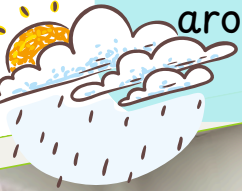
[Favorite Art Supplies to encourage creativity](#)



# MARCH



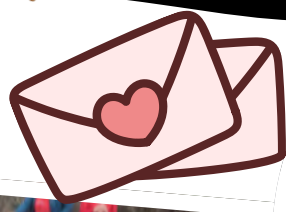
Our students are having a great time playing indoors and outdoors this March. With spring just around the corner we won't let the unpredictable weather ruin our fun!



# Valentine's Party

L O V E

The Kid's Valentine Art Party was a huge success! Everyone had a fantastic time making crafts, decorating cookies, and celebrating with friends, new and old. Thank you to Ms. Alison, Ms. Barber, and all who joined for a fun and festive event!





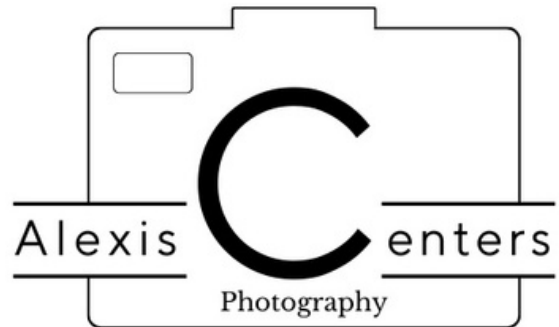
# In the Neighborhood



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# SPRING




**DIRECTIONS:** Spring is in the air! Look at all the animals and insects outside. Can you find everything in the scene?




 5 flowers

 A bird with a twig

 4 pinecones

 2 butterflies

 A duck

 5 ants

 3 apples

