

# Panda Post



Issue No. 16 | FEB. 2026

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



### Mid-Year Membership Meeting

**Tuesday, February 24th**  
**6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

Save the date for our Mid-Year Membership Meeting! We will start by sharing current Spring-Mar business and voting on the 2026-2027 Board of Directors. The last 1.5 hours will be an interactive parent education session. This is a GREAT way to complete your required parent education hours! **We highly encourage at least one adult from each family to attend.**

#### **Parent Ed Facilitator: Krista Girard M.Ed**

Krista is an early childhood specialist, advocate, speaker, and learning through play instructor. Her interactive presentation will help parents learn simple ways to support children as they build confidence and independence while learning new skills. Together we will learn more about supporting learning in everyday activities.

Finger foods and light refreshments will be provided. We ask that all those attending [RSVP HERE](#) so that we have the appropriate amount of refreshments and prepared materials for the event.

*Briana Raines*

## IMPORTANT DATES

**FEB. 16-17** NO SCHOOL  
**FEB. 24** Mid-Year Membership Mtg.  
**FEB. 25** Restaurant Fundraiser  
**FEB. 28** Pancake Breakfast  
**MAR. 9-13** Double Good Fundraiser  
**MAR. 14** Preschool Preview  
**MAR. 20** NO SCHOOL  
**MAR. 30-APR. 3** SPRING BREAK/NO SCHOOL



## Pancake Breakfast



**Saturday  
February 28th, 2026**

**9am - 11am  
@Spring-Mar Preschool**

#### **Cost: Donation**

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to grow and support our Spring-Mar community!

**Musical guests!**  
Jackie and Thomas from the Blue Grass Band Karma Creak



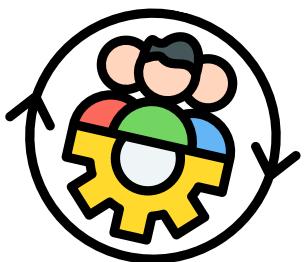
Our Kids Valentine's Art Party was a great success! Thank you to Ms. Alison and Ms. Patti for putting on such a wonderful event for our students. The kids had a blast decorating cookies, making crafts and spending a little extra time with their Spring-Mar friends.

## Join the BOARD

### POSITIONS OPEN IN THE '26-'27 SCHOOL YEAR:

- Vice President
- Property - 1 Chair
- Membership (non Board) - Backgrounds Coordinator

We are seeking members to serve on the Spring-Mar Board for the 2026-2027 school year! Serving on the board is a meaningful way to help guide school decisions, share your talents, and stay connected to our wonderful community. To learn more about open positions, please contact Briana at [president@spring-mar.org](mailto:president@spring-mar.org).



## ADULT ART NIGHT



Ms. Alison and Ms. Patti are excited to host another Adult Art Night on April 18! This creative evening was such a hit last year, and we can't wait to gather again for a fun, relaxed night of art and community. More details are coming soon — but **if you have a hidden artistic talent to share or art supplies you'd like to donate**, please reach out to [specialevents@spring-mar.org](mailto:specialevents@spring-mar.org).

# POPCORN FUNDRAISER

MARCH 9 - 13

Coming Soon!



## PRESCHOOL Preview!

Mark your calendars for **March 14!** Spring-Mar Cooperative Preschool is hosting a special Preschool Preview event for prospective families to experience what a typical day at Spring-Mar is all about.

**Please note, this event is for families who are not currently enrolled. Please help spread the word!**

at  
Spring-Mar  
Cooperative  
Preschool!

**Date:** March 14th

**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 **2026-2027 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!

## RESTAURANT NIGHT



Join us for a delicious day of giving back at **Pupatella in West Springfield** on Wednesday, **February 25!**

From 11:30am to 9pm, you can stop by for lunch, dinner, or even a happy-hour snack, and **20% of** qualifying sales will be donated to our school. Just show the flyer when dining in or use promo code **GIVEBACK** when ordering online to make your meal count!



MEMBER  
**SPOTLIGHT**  
AWARD

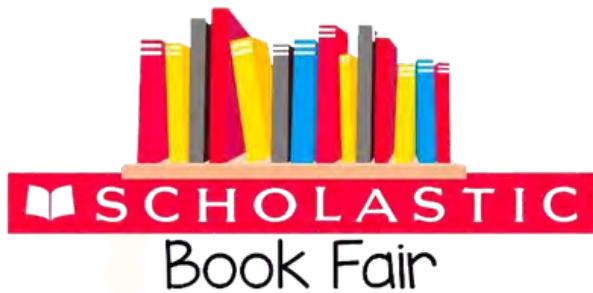


Every month, the board votes to recognize a member of our school who has gone above and beyond. This month our member spotlight is on:

## Sean Hogan

Sean came out after the snowstorm to clear ice out of the parking lot to ensure safe drop-offs when we returned to school. Without his hard work the hill to the lower lot would have remained a sheet of ice!

*Sincerely, -the Board of Directors*



Every order earns points to help us get free books and supplies for Spring-Mar!

**Order from Ms. Mitcho's  
online book club here:**

<https://orders.scholastic.com/H664Z>

Books will be sent home with your child once the order is received.

*Want more options?*

Browse all flyers by age here:

<https://clubs.scholastic.com/all-flyers/>

Thanks for supporting our school and encouraging reading!

## 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.



**Megan Brown**  
*Parent Education Coordinator*

## Resources

- [Peaceful Parent, Happy Kids: How to Stop Yelling, Treat Your Child with Respect, and Get Kids to Listen](#), by Laura Markham
- [The Yes Brain: How to Cultivate Courage, Curiosity, and Resilience in Your Child](#), by Daniel Siegel and Tina Payne Bryson



A message from your teacher...

# Sarah Abernathy

## Building Preschool Friendships



One of the wonderful things about belonging to a co-op is the personal connections and friendships that are made. Not only do the children become friends with each other, but families also build meaningful connections during co-op days, at arrival and dismissal, and while working together on committees.

As a parent in a co-op, you are in a unique position to observe your child's social interactions at school. What do they enjoy playing? Who do they often play with? For older classes, which rooms do they gravitate toward during center time? These insights, along with your connections to other families, can help support and strengthen your child's friendships outside of school.

Extending friendships beyond the classroom can be an invaluable part of your child's development and overall Spring-Mar experience. School playdates do not have to be limited to summer months. If you are looking for more opportunities for social interaction, here are a few ideas to try:

- Invite a classmate over for a playdate at your house
- Attend library story time with a classmate
- Send a group text to your class to meet up at a park, playground, or indoor play space
- Offer to take another child to the playground after co-op and enjoy a picnic lunch together
- Attend a Spring-Mar community event — our **Pancake Breakfast is February 28th**
- Considering soccer, t-ball, dance, or summer camp? Registration is happening now for many spring and summer activities. Reach out to your class to see if others would like to join.

Kids love seeing familiar friends in new environments, and having a buddy can make new experiences more comfortable and fun. Bonus: activities are even more enjoyable for grownups when familiar parents are there too!



# February

Our preschoolers celebrated Valentine's Day with crafts, smiles, and lots of love. Take a look at these sweet moments from a month full of friendship and fun.



# Inclement Weather Policy

**In case of any needed weather or emergency closings, delays, or early dismissals, an All-School Email will be sent out to inform you.**

## Fairfax County Public Schools:

- **Open two hours late:** Spring-Mar will also open two hours late at 11:15 and dismiss at 1:15 p.m. All children should bring a heartier lunch-type snack.
- **Dismiss early:** Pick up your child as soon as possible. Check your email for the most accurate information. Staff will stay with students until all parents arrive. If you cannot come before 12:15 p.m., please call the school to report your estimated arrival time.
- **Are closed:** Spring-Mar is closed.

If, at the discretion of the President and/or the Director, conditions warrant the closing of Spring-Mar, even though the Fairfax County schools have not closed, an All-School email will be sent out.

Spring-Mar follows Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) announcements for closures due to weather and emergencies. For updates, visit the FCPS website at <http://www.fcps.edu/>. In the Emergency Announcement section, find real-time closure and delay information. Sign up for email notifications to stay informed and plan accordingly.



# In the Neighborhood



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Contact us at  
[Marketing@spring-mar.org](mailto:Marketing@spring-mar.org)



# COLOR and COUNT



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_____	XOXO _____	_____