

SPRING-MAR COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

Learning Through Play

# Panda Post



Issue No. 17 | March 2026

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Spring is here, and we have lots of great events planned. It's a wonderful time to **get involved at Spring-Mar!** As a cooperative, we all work together to create a supportive, dynamic environment for our kids.

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.

We are trying to get to full enrollment next year and have numerous spaces left in our Explorers classes; sharing our posts or telling your neighbors or friends what you love about Spring-Mar can help tremendously!

**Your involvement not only strengthens our community but also enhances your child's preschool experience.**

We have some open positions for the 2026-2027 school year and would love to have you join us! We have one board position open for Property Co-Chair. Non-board roles that are essential are also available, including a Webmaster to help maintain our website, and a Background Checks Coordinator to assist our Membership Chairs. These roles are a fantastic opportunity to contribute your skills and ideas to make our preschool even better.

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

*Briana Raines*

## IMPORTANT DATES

- March 20** NO SCHOOL
- March 16** Around the World Week
- March 27** Chuck E. Cheese Fundraiser
- March 30-April 3** SPRING BREAK/NO SCHOOL
- April 11-18** South Block Fundraiser
- April 12** Spring Bake Sale
- April 14 & 15** Spring Photos
- April 18** Adult Art Night
- April 21** NO SCHOOL

## Around The WORLD

Around the World is the week of **March 16th!** We invite families to share knowledge about a country or region to which you have a personal connection or familiarity. *Contact your teacher if you are interested in sharing!*





# Restaurant Nights



**Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Chuck E. Cheese - Fairfax**  
**3-9pm**

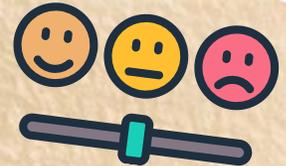
Stop in any time, play, eat and have fun! Mention Spring-Mar when you purchase your play points or food and Chuck E. Cheese will **donate 20%** to Spring-Mar.

**April 11-18<sup>th</sup>**  
**South Block**  
**West Springfield**

Support our school while treating yourself! This amazing event runs all week, so you have plenty of chances to stop by for your açaí bowl or smoothie fix.



## *please take these* **SURVEYS**



### COMMITTEE SURVEY

If you're returning next year, now's your chance to indicate your committee preference for the 2026-2027 school year! Please take a few minutes to complete the survey by **March 27th**.

### PARENT SURVEY

We'd love to hear your feedback for the 2025-2026 school year! Please take a few minutes to complete an anonymous online survey by **March 27th**. Your voice matters!

### NOVA MAGAZINE BEST PRESCHOOLS SURVEY

NorthernVirginia  
MAGAZINE

**Love Spring Mar? Make your voice heard!** Vote in Northern Virginia Magazine's Best Preschools survey to spread the word about Spring Mar Preschool Cooperative. **Polling Closes Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

# Spring Photo Day



Get those smiles ready for our Spring Photo Day!

☺ April 14th - Explorers A, Pioneers, Inventors A&B

☺ April 15th - Explorers B, Navigators A&B



Spring-Mar

**BAKE SALE**



**Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>  
from 2-5pm at  
Huntsman Giant**

## SPRING adult art party

**Ms. Alison and Ms. Liza 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!**



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:

# Jenna Neckritz and Diego Martinez Nadramia

Jenna and Diego worked hard to make our pancake breakfast a success! Diego was pumping out rounds of bacon while Jenna ran the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of registrations. On top of that, Jenna has worked behind the scenes to set up our upcoming Chuck E Cheese fundraiser. They deserve a round of applause for their commitment to making our special events a success!

*Sincerely, - the Board of Directors*



## Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation coming soon. We will have a stock the basket snack drive and hospitality will be putting on a lunch for the teachers. The dates this year will be **April 27- May 1**. More info to follow.



## 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.

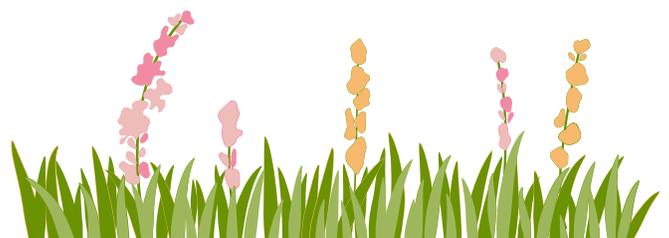


**Megan Brown**

*Parent Education Coordinator*

## Resources

- [Good Inside with Dr. Becky](#)
- [Raising Parents with Emily Oster](#)





A message from your teacher...

## Don't Wait... Evaluate! How Early Intervention might benefit you.

Alison Heald-Webb  
and Sarah Abernathy



**Are you concerned about your child's social skills, mental health, picky eating, clumsiness, epic meltdowns, or other challenges?** Early intervention—getting outside help to support you and your child through difficulties while they are still at a young age—can help when parenting seems harder than it should be.

**There are many benefits to a child receiving early intervention:** taking advantage of neuroplasticity, preserving positive self image, getting caught up on skills to prepare for school, and more. But we often forget about the benefits to the parents and family.

**Builds confidence in your own abilities.** Early intervention provides families with tools to practice new skills during regular activities without adding extra “homework” to their busy lives.

**Offers peace of “knowing.”** Many families spend months or even years hoping their child will “outgrow” a problem but by seeking an evaluation early, families gain the knowledge they need to act. If there is no developmental issue, nothing is lost and if there is, they can start getting help.

**Supports family preferences and decisions.** Early intervention services follow the lead of the family. No particular goal or treatment program is forced on any family.

**Makes life at home easier.** Early intervention services are usually provided in a child's home or school. Families can identify their biggest challenges, such as mealtime or morning routine, and problem-solve these situations with providers to create more positive interactions.

**Cuts through clutter of information.** There is so much information available out there, but not all of it is reliable, accurate, or personalized to your child. Early intervention provides expert information that applies directly to your child's needs and your family's priorities and concerns.

**In Fairfax County, Child Find provides free screening for children ages 20 months through 5 years** through the FCPS Early Childhood Identification and Services (ECID&S) program. Call 571-423-4121 to find out more about scheduling a screening.

[Why Early Intervention - ASHA](#)

[Don't Wait, Evaluate - Expressions Pediatric Therapy](#)



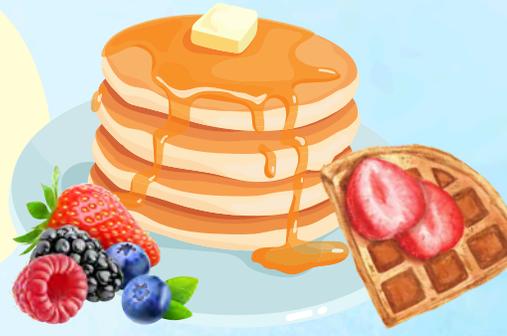
# March

The snow has finally melted, and the flowers are blooming! Our students are soaking up the sunshine and having fun with friends!



# Pancake Breakfast

Our Pancake Breakfast was a morning of delicious food, fun activities, and dancing! Kids enjoyed a pancake robot Photo Booth with Pickles the Panda, and a dance party with Karma Creak, a local bluegrass band.



# In the Neighborhood



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



**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

For more