



SPRING-MAR COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

Panda Post

Learning Through Play



Issue No. 18 | April 2026

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thank you all for helping to make this another wonderful year at Spring-Mar. Time is flying by! Please review these quick reminders:

- **Parent Ed Hours are DUE by May 1ST!**
Each co-oping parent/adult is required by licensing to complete 4 parent education hours per year. You can check your hours on the "members only" section of our website. Please reach out to parented@spring-mar.org with questions.
- **Community Hours are DUE by May 22nd!**
If you have not completed your 8 required hours for the second semester, please reach out to your committee chairs to ensure you have a plan to complete them. Don't wait until the last minute as it is harder for us to assist you.
- **Spring Membership Meeting is April 28th** If you are returning to Spring-Mar for the 2026-27 school year, we **require** one parent per family to attend. Mark your calendars and we will see you there!

Briana Raines

IMPORTANT DATES!

- April 18** Adult Art Night
- April 21** NO SCHOOL
- April 27-May 1** Teacher Appreciation Week
- April 28** Spring Membership Meeting
- May 5** Show & Glow
- May 21** Inventors Graduation
- May 22** End of Year Celebration



Join us for our
Glow-in-the-Dark
Art Show on

Tuesday, May 5th
4:30-6pm

Join us to see the amazing artwork our little artists and teachers have been creating. This special exhibit is free to attend, with food available for purchase so you can make an evening out of it!

You won't want to miss it—
mark your calendars now!



Restaurant Nights



May 3rd
Sweet Frog
Burke Town Plaza

Treat yourself while supporting Spring-Mar! A portion of sales will be donated back to our school—just be sure to mention Spring-Mar at checkout. Bring your friends and family for a sweet way to give back

April 10-19th
South Block
West Springfield

For 9 days, South Block will donate 20% back to Spring-Mar once we hit \$300 in sales! Use code **SPRINGMAR** when ordering online (pickup or delivery), or mention it in-store to have your order counted. Go once—or go all nine days



We will be placing a group Krispy Kreme order once again in advance of the Spring Membership Meeting.

Orders are due by April 23rd and will be available for pickup at the event on April 28th. Don't miss out—[Click Here to Order Now!](#)



SPRING adult art party

Adult Art Night April 18 from 6:30-9:30pm! This fun, adults-only event will include a mixture of guided and self-exploration art activities with some light snacks, wine and non-alcoholic beverages served. [Tickets here!](#)





Teacher Appreciation Week

APRIL 27 - MAY 1



"Fill the Basket" Snack Drive

Help stock the staff lounge with treats! [Sign up](#) to donate snacks for our teachers to enjoy during their busy days. Drop-offs can be made at the fountain or lower lobby doors during pick-up on April 29 & 30.

Hospitality Lunch: April 30

Our Hospitality Team will be hosting a special lunch for staff, complete with the finest butcher paper tablecloths and handwritten messages from students. Want your child's words included? Please submit their quote using [this form](#) by April 24.

Staff Wish Lists

Looking to do a little something extra? Check out the [Teacher Wish List](#) for thoughtful ideas to show your appreciation.



LET'S MAKE THIS WEEK ONE TO REMEMBER FOR THE INCREDIBLE EDUCATORS WHO SUPPORT OUR KIDS EVERY DAY!

Special Events Fundraising Goal

As we close in on the end of the year, we are **70% of the way** towards our fundraising goal of \$15,000. Please come out and support our remaining events this school year!



DONATE



END OF YEAR WORK PARTY

Toy cleaning! Paint Scraping! Mulch leveling! Dirt scrubbing! And so much more!

June 7

2:30-5:30

Sign up today!

All Spring-Mar families are required to attend at least one Work Party each school year

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:

Elizabeth Baldwin

Elizabeth is a key member of our marketing team, playing a crucial role in executing the monthly newsletter. She excels at encouraging our entire board to submit content promptly, doing so with kindness, professionalism, and persistence. Moreover, she consistently exemplifies respect regarding follow-ups and personal communication. We truly appreciate all that you do and who you've shown up as for us, Elizabeth!

Sincerely, - the Board of Directors

WE'D LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK!



If Spring-Mar Cooperative Preschool has been a special part of your family's journey, please take a moment to leave us a review!

Your stories and support help other families discover our warm, nurturing community.

[Leave a Google Review](#)
[Leave a Yelp Review](#)

Thank you for being part of the Spring-Mar family!

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.

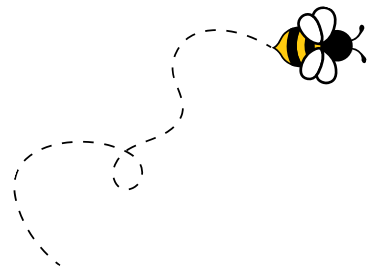


Megan Brown

Parent Education Coordinator

Resources

- [The Emotional Life of the Toddler, by Alicia Lieberman](#)
- [Raising Good Humans, by Dr. Aliza Pressman](#)



Celebrating 20 years at Spring-Mar with Patti and 35 years of music and joy with Linda!

THANK YOU SO MUCH





A message from your teacher...

Kindergarten Readiness: How to help your child prepare for a successful transition



By Claire Read



As the end of the school year approaches, we look forward to celebrating your children's accomplishments. As parents, you may have questions, concerns, and wonder if your child is ready for the next step (whether that is kindergarten or another year of preschool). Rest assured, your student has already started to form and strengthen the foundation to be a successful life-long learner.

At Spring-Mar your child has been exposed to a classroom setting, daily schedules, and following rules. But more importantly, they have learned independence and resilience, developed strong peer relationships, and have begun to problem solve. The social-emotional skills they have acquired will help them navigate the larger classroom and longer day in kindergarten or adjust to a new teacher or learning environment.

Here are some ideas for parents and caregivers to continue the preparation over the summer:

Establish a routine: This is especially important in the few weeks leading up to the first day of school. For example, set a regular wake up time followed by breakfast, brushing teeth, and getting dressed.

Foster independence: When your routine allows it, let your child put on their own shoes, zipper their jackets, and serve themselves at meals.

Spend time reading and strengthening fine motor skills: Using playdough, doodling with crayons, and stringing beads are great ways to get kids ready to hold a pencil.

Go on playdates and visit their school: These times will give kids the chance to grow their social skills, make connections, and foster a sense of belonging.

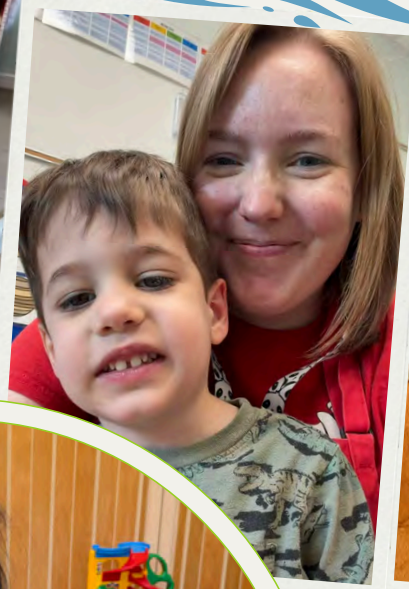
Lastly, to help ease the school transition, strive to stay positive and informed. Here is a link to Fairfax County Public School's kindergarten readiness guide:
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/school-readiness/stepping-into-kindergarten>.

Enjoy your summer and remember there is always time for play!



A P R I L

April has brought warmer weather and lots of smiles to our classroom! Our students have been enjoying time outdoors, exploring signs of spring, and celebrating the excitement of Easter with fun activities and crafts. Take a look at some of our favorite moments this month. We have been busy learning, laughing, and growing together!



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- NEWBORN
- FAMILY
- SENIOR
- WEDDING

Owned by a former Spring-Mar parent & our school portrait photographer!

www.lovestruckimages.com



Contact us at
Marketing@spring-mar.org



Name: _____

Date: _____

