

SPRING-MAR COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

Panda Post



Issue No. 20 | Oct. 2026

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Goodbye summer and hello fall!

As the season changes, we're excited for our upcoming autumn traditions. Our Fall Festival is always a favorite, with decorating pumpkins and jumping in the hay. Spring-Mar families look forward to our Costume Parade, with festive songs and adorable costumes.

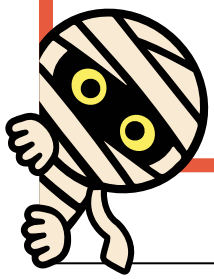
A couple of cooler-weather reminders:

- Dress your child in layers (it is often much cooler during the morning than it is when classes go outside).
- Pack cold-weather accessories (gloves, hats, etc.). Even if it isn't that cold now, keeping these in your child's bag will ensure they have them when they need them.
- Be sure to LABEL all of your child's layers/accessories!

There are many community and school events ahead for everyone to enjoy. Time will fly by, so enjoy this chance to take part in all of our fun activities, get to know other families, and create wonderful memories with your kids. I look forward to seeing you and getting to know your families more!

Briana Raines

President, 2026-2027



IMPORTANT DATES



Oct. 20-21 - Fall Photos
Oct. 26 (week) - Class Coffees
Oct. 29-30 - Costume Parades
Nov. 2-3 - NO SCHOOL
Nov. 14 - Dinner and a Movie
Nov. 19 - Restaurant Fundraiser
Nov. 25-27 - NO SCHOOL

STAFF WISHLIST

Help us create a vibrant learning environment by checking out our staff wish list and considering a donation of new or gently used items.

Your support can make a meaningful difference in our students' educational experience - every contribution counts!

CLICK HERE



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

Carolin Rieger

Carolin has been an essential member of the Marketing team and also hand painted the adorable Spring-Mar sign you may have seen at Family Fun Day this year. We look forward to using it for many years ahead, thank you!

-Board of Directors

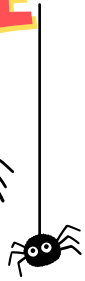


COSTUME PARADE



Come one, come all to the Spring-Mar kids' costume parade!





Our kids will be parading in the sanctuary upstairs with song and dance. Feel free to bring the whole family to watch!



Thursday, October 29, 9:30-10:00 am (Inventors A, Inventors B, Pioneers)

Friday, October 30, 9:30-10:00 am (Navigators A, Navigators B, Explorers)

Check your email from the President for more details. Don't forget your kiddo's costume!







SPRING-MAR AUCTION

donations wanted

Our **December auction** may feel far away, but now is the perfect time to start collecting donations!

Do you have an **item, experience, or service** you'd like to donate?

We'd love to hear from you! Reach out to us at **specialevents@spring-mar.org** to get involved and support Spring-Mar.





DINNER & A MOVIE



Doors open at 5:00 PM, and the movie fun begins at 5:30 PM in the sanctuary.

Bring your blankets, pillows, or anything cozy to create your own floor picnic spot and settle in for a movie night perfect for the whole family! Enjoy dinner with us or bring your own picnic – your choice.



MORE INFO COMING SOON!

Learning Through Play

since 1963

Spring-Mar Cooperative Preschool

FIVE GUYS®

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5761 Burke Centre Parkway

November 19th 5-9pm

Mention Spring-Mar

Five Guys will donate 20% of sales to SM!

PARENT ED CONNECTION

As a reminder, ALL CO-OPING ADULTS are REQUIRED to complete **4 hours** of parent education each year.

As a member of the Virginia Cooperative Preschool Council, our members are invited to a Free Webinar, Attend and you also earn Parent Ed hours!

Megan Brown
Parent Education Coordinator

Free Upcoming Webinar

Getting to Know Your Child

Presented by Sally Neuberger, LCSW

October 21, 2026 at 7:00 pm

Click to register!





Fall Photo Day





Get those smiles ready for our fall photo day!

Tuesday, October 20
(Pioneers, Inventors A, Inventors B)

Wednesday, October 21
(Explorers, Navigators A, Navigators B)



Play School



Have you heard about our Playschool?

Do you or someone you know have a 12-30 month old child?

Are you looking for a way to introduce your child to school with you alongside them?

Spring-Mar's playschool is a parent and child class that meets for an hour and a half on Monday mornings. Participants experience a shortened Spring-Mar day full of activities and fun.

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year is open now for our 9:30am-11:00am class!

For more information or to get on our email list about registration, please email playschool@spring-mar.org.





A message from your teacher...

Claire Read

the Spectrum of Play in an Early Childhood Classroom



At Spring-Mar we strive to create an environment where individuals learn to be resilient, independent, critical thinkers who can form meaningful social and emotional connections. To meet this goal, we have fostered a Learning Through Play philosophy. **But what does a play-based curriculum really look like?**

In her blog, Melissa McCall talks about a spectrum of play (click here to read). **By embracing all types of play, educators (and parents at home) have the ability to form substantial experiences for their students and set the foundation for future learning.**

On one side of the spectrum is free play where there is very little/no adult direction. Spring-Mar's Center Time and Outdoor Time are examples of free play at school.

In guided play, teachers set up environments and situations where there is an intentional purpose or goal. They may ask questions to participants but they do not direct the play. When we set up the Discovery Room as a restaurant or farmer's market, we are facilitating guided play. Children are exposed to new vocabulary, math concepts, and social activities.

Games are also a form of play. They may include simple board games to reinforce counting and can be a whole or small group activity.

Toward the other end of the spectrum is playful instruction. This differs from guided play and games in that there are more defined educational goals and teacher involvement. An example might be a sink or float testing activity. The activity is age appropriate and fun but has more adult support.

Play can take many forms and at Spring-Mar we recognize the importance of each of them. We hope the adventures we encourage and curate in our classrooms are the beginning of a lifetime of play!







OCTOBER

From jumping in leaves to checking on our growing tadpoles, every day was full of discovery and laughter! Our kids are settling into the school routine, making new friends, and having fun exploring!

















FAMILY FUN DAY

On October 3rd we hosted a very successful Family Fun Day! The kids had a blast having their faces painted, getting temporary tattoos, running around an obstacle course and decorating yummy cookies. Pizza and popsicles were enjoyed by all! A special thank you to all of the parents who volunteered their time. We couldn't have done it without you!















In the Neighborhood

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

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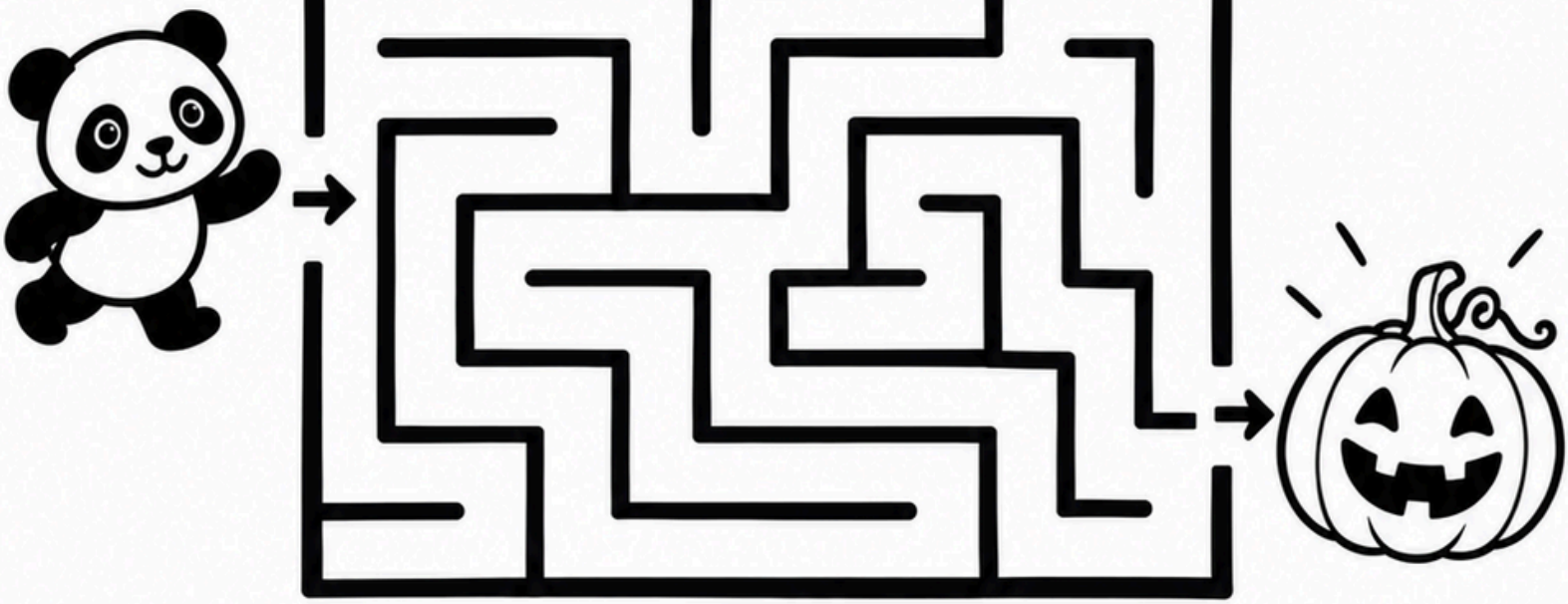
Want to advertise in our Newsletter?

Contact us at Marketing@spring-mar.org

SPRING-MAR PRESCHOOL

HALLOWEEN FUN!

Help the panda find its way to the pumpkin!



Draw a silly face on the pumpkin!

