

SPRING-MAR COOPERATIVE PRESCHOOL

Panda Post



Issue No. 21 | Nov. 2026

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

There's been so much excitement around our Dinner and a Movie event, restaurant nights, and the upcoming Online Auction—and you might be wondering: why do we fundraise?

As a nonprofit cooperative preschool, our goal has always been to keep tuition as affordable as possible while maintaining a rich, play-based learning environment and providing fair, competitive pay for our wonderful teachers and staff.

Each spring, we share our proposed operating budget with all members for approval. This budget outlines our expected income and expenses for the year — and it clearly shows how important our fundraising efforts are to making everything work.

Our tuition and fees primarily cover staff salaries and rent for our building. Everything else that makes Spring-Mar such a special place—art and classroom supplies, playground equipment, committee projects, school materials, licensing, and accreditation costs—all comes from the funds we raise together as a community.

That's why our Online Auction and spring Touch a Truck are such a big deal. They are our largest fundraisers of the year, and the funds we bring in truly keep our school running smoothly. Every family's participation makes a difference. By now, everyone should have reached out to their assigned businesses for auction—but if you can, consider contacting a few extra! When the auction goes live, help spread the word by sharing it with friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors. Every donation and every bid counts!

We're all part of what makes this community so special. The time, energy, and heart that each of you puts into Spring-Mar not only supports our children today but also helps ensure that this amazing cooperative preschool continues to thrive for many years to come.

Briana Raines

President, 2026-2027

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov. 14	Dinner & A Movie
Nov. 19.	Restaurant Fundraiser
Nov. 25-27	NO SCHOOL
Nov. 30	Scholastic Order Deadline
Dec. 2-6	Online Auction
Dec. 17-18	Class Winter Parties

SPRING-MAR AUCTION

donations wanted

Its almost auction time! Our annual online auction takes place **December 2nd-6th** and is a great chance to find unique holiday gifts.

Share with friends and family when the auction is live!

Do you have an item, experience, or service you'd like to donate? Email specialevents@spring-mar.org!



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 Award goes to:

Jenna Neckritz
and
Diego Martinez Nadramia

Jenna has been so helpful with organizing our restaurant night fundraisers, and Diego saved us when we were in a bind at our bake sale in October! Thank you so much for your kindness!

-Board of Directors

Parent Teacher Conferences

Don't forget to sign up for your fall parent-teacher conference!

Here's how to make the most of this opportunity:

- Before your meeting, review **developmental milestones** and the assessment your child's teacher sent you.
- During the meeting, share insights about your child's behavior at home and hear insights about their progress at school.
- After the meeting, implement some of the suggestions your child's teacher shared.

Your fall conference will give you a snapshot in time that will be updated with the spring assessment.

DINNER & A MOVIE

Featured Movie



November 14, 2026
Doors Open 5:00 PM | Movie Starts: 5:30 PM

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 a pasta dinner with us or bring your own picnic - your choice.

Cost: Donation
(Pay now or at the door!)
Reserve your spot!

https://tinyurl.com/Panda-Dinner-Ticket

Learning Through Play
since 1963
Spring-Mar
Cooperative Preschool

FIVE GUYS®
BURGERS and FRIES
5761 Burke Centre Parkway
November 19th
5-9pm

Mention Spring-Mar
Five Guys will
donate 20%
of sales to SM!

Orders are due by Monday, November 30, 2026

Place a Scholastic order to get gifts for your family and benefit Spring-Mar! We will be placing a group order with the goal of sending the ordered items home before winter break.

Order from Ms. Mitcho's Classroom Book Club here.

You can find copies of the flyers we've sent home, along with flyers for other ages, online at: https://clubs.scholastic.com/all-flyers/.

Thanks for supporting our school and encouraging reading!



STAFF & LIBRARY WISHLISTS

Help us create a vibrant, inspiring learning environment by supporting our staff wish lists! From books that spark curiosity to classroom items that bring lessons to life, your donations make a real difference. Every contribution helps enrich our students' educational experience and shows our teachers how much they're appreciated.

Thank you for helping us keep the joy of learning alive at Spring-Mar!



Staff Wishlist

Library Wishlist

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 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...

Emily Chitnis

the heart of a cooperative preschool.

A+ TEACHER!

You have chosen a cooperative preschool, and we are so glad you're here.

But what exactly is a co-op, and what does it offer that a traditional preschool does not? Simply put, families and teachers partner to enrich children's education and development. In a co-op, you are not just dropping your child off at the door. You are stepping into your child's world. Time in the classroom gives you a firsthand look at how your child explores, plays, makes friends, and learns new skills, and you may discover sides of your child that you rarely see at home.

Through class coffees, conferences, and everyday conversations, parents and teachers share insights, celebrate progress, and support each child. Parent education opportunities provide information about child development, positive guidance, and age-appropriate expectations.

A co-op is also a community. Children build friendships with classmates and trusted adults, while parents trade ideas, share laughs, and form a network of support.

Of course, these benefits cannot happen without the hard work, support, and involvement of our families. Parents are integral to the functioning of the school. Families complete volunteer hours in roles such as serving on the board, chairing a committee, fundraising, and planning events, and everyone pitches in to keep the school clean. Because we run the school together, it truly belongs to all of us.

During your time at Spring-Mar, take full advantage of all a co-op has to offer. Lean on the teachers and other parents, who have a wealth of experience, and join community events when you can. When families and teachers work together, children are surrounded by adults who know them, care about them, and love watching them grow.







NOVEMBER



November at Spring-Mar is full of cozy fall fun, from crunchy leaf crafts to sweet moments of learning what it means to be thankful. Our little learners have been busy exploring the season through playful activities, warm colors, and lots of smiles!

















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

BANNER BABE STUDIO
@bannerbabe_studio

Custom hand-painted banners for any occasion



@BANNERBABE_STUDIO
TheBannerBabeStudio@gmail.com

Little moments, forever memories.



www.AlexisCentersPhotography.com

LOVESTRUCK *images*



- NEWBORN
- FAMILY
- SENIOR
- WEDDING

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

www.lovestruckimages.com

Want to advertise in our Newsletter?

Contact us at Marketing@spring-mar.org

Learning Through Play

since 1963

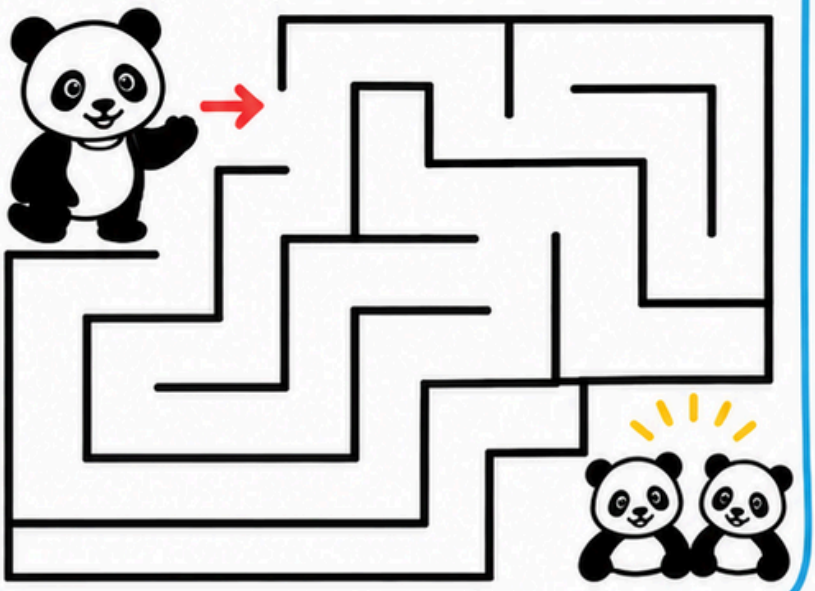
Spring-Mar Cooperative Preschool

Let's Play!

Have fun with these activities!

Panda Maze

Help the panda find his friends!



Color the Panda

Use your favorite colors!



Count and Circle

Count each row and circle the correct number.



1 2 3



2 3 4



1 2 3

Match the Shapes

Draw a line to match each shape to the same shape.

