

# Panda Post



Issue No. 2 | October 2024

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy Fall, everyone! As the weather begins to change, we welcome some of our favorite Spring-Mar traditions. From baking apple pies, jumping in the hay during Fall Festival, and decorating pumpkins, to seeing all of the adorable costumes during our costume parade, this season is always full of fun for our Spring-Mar families.

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 do need them.
- Be sure to LABEL all of your child's layers/accessories!

There are many community and school events ahead. My advice to all of our families is to GET INVOLVED! I am certainly more nostalgic this year as my youngest finishes her time at Spring-Mar, and I can say without a doubt that these years fly by. Take advantage of all of the moments you have to build community and create memories. You get as much out of this experience as you give and there is certainly so much to gain. I hope to see you around this Fall!

*Chelsi Shafiq*

## Social Media



[Spring-Mar Cooperative Preschool](#)



[springmarcooperative](#)



[springmarcoop](#)



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## Important Dates

- **Oct. 18:** Dinner and a Movie
- **Oct 21-23:** Class coffees
- **Oct 30-31:** Costume Parade
- **Nov. 1-5:** No school
- **Nov. 11:** No school
- **Nov. 27-29:** No school
- **Dec. 4-8:** Fall auction
- **Dec. 9-20:** Priority Registration for 2025-2026
- **Dec. 19-20:** Class Winter Parties
- **Dec. 23-Jan. 3:** Winter break

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT AWARD

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

This month we are recognizing **Laura Collins** for her dedication and going above and beyond as an amazing room parent! Thank you, Laura, for all you do to help make our school great!

**Board of Directors**



## 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.

**Gina Park**  
Parent Education Coordinator

### Articles

- Parents who raise kids who are mentally stronger than most do these 6 things
- How to Resolve Sibling Conflict Creatively

## Play School

Have you heard about our Playschool?

You may notice our tiniest future pandas around the building on Mondays. Help us welcome our Playschool group by giving them a wave or a hello! This parent-child class meets **once per week on Mondays** and is led by the amazing Ms. Sarah!

Interested in joining? Have a friend with a young child? Playschool is **now enrolling** for children ages 12 - 24 months! Email [playschool@spring-mar.org](mailto:playschool@spring-mar.org) for more information or to get enrolled today!





# Class Coffees



## Mark your calendar for your class coffee!

This is a unique opportunity for families to meet as a group with their children's teacher during the school day for 30 minutes to hear updates and receive useful tips, information about the class, and more!

The staff has worked hard to make these coffees happen during school so you can have some time with your child's teacher, and **families are strongly encouraged to attend.** Participants will receive 30 minutes of parent education credit!

**Monday, October 21**  
Navigators A: 9:30 - 10:00 am  
Navigators B: 10:00 - 10:30 am

**Tuesday, October 22**  
Explorers A: 9:20 - 9:50 am  
Pioneers: 10:00 - 10:30 am  
Inventors: 12:15 - 12:45 pm

**Wednesday, October 23**  
Explorers B: 9:20 - 9:50 am

# FUND RAISER

## Eat Pizza and Raise \$\$ for Spring-Mar Preschool



Old Dominion Pizza will donate 15% of proceeds from all orders on **10/28** from **4:00pm-8:00pm** using promo code: **SM1028**

Delivery / Dine-In / Pick-Up  
3950 University Dr., #102  
[olddominionpizza.com](http://olddominionpizza.com)

**571-407-5218**



Mondays are rough, let dinner be easy! Let's enjoy some pizza, wings, mozz sticks and more while we raise money for our school!

Better yet, head to their site now to place your advance order for pick up or delivery on **10/28**; pat yourself on the back and enjoy being ahead of the game! (You make this look easy.)

To earn \$\$ for Spring-Mar on dine-in, delivery, or carry-out orders, use promo code **SM1028** at checkout or present the printed or digital flyer to the cashier in person.

Friends, family, neighbors, and teammates are welcome to join the fun, so share the love! Looking forward to a ghoulishly good time!



# 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!



**Wednesday, October 30, 9:30-10:00 am**  
**Explorers B, Navigators A, Navigators B**

**Thursday, October 31, 9:30-10:00 am**  
**Explorers A, Pioneers, Inventors**



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

SPRING-MAR PRESENTS

## DINNER & A MOVIE

**FRIDAY**  
**OCTOBER 18TH**  
**DINNER- 5PM**  
**MOVIE- 5:30PM**



**COME ENJOY A PASTA DINNER OR**  
**FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN**  
**PICNIC DINNER!**

This event will be held in the sanctuary - feel free to bring your own yoga mat or blanket to enjoy the movie.



**REGISTER**  
**HERE TO SAVE**  
**YOUR SPOT!!**

**COST: DONATION**



**FEATURED FILM:**







# A message from your teacher...

By Claire Read



## Learning Through Play (and how to continue the play at home)

Happy Fall, Spring-Mar! Through the years, one of the main reasons families have chosen our school is for our learning through play philosophy and child-focused experience. In fact, play-based learning is not only for the young, we can all benefit from more play! Our staff strives to provide opportunities for your kids to explore, be creative, and frequently ask "What if?" You can easily extend and recreate these lessons in your home.

Recently during Open Centers, we set up a process art area which I like to call "Paint with anything but a paintbrush." We used natural materials (flowers and leaves), recyclable materials (toilet paper rolls and plastic bottles), and things you probably have around the house (cotton balls and sponges).

If you aren't quite ready to embrace the mess, take your art and play outside. Set up a mud kitchen in your backyard with old pots and utensils. Use chalk and a spray bottle to turn a driveway or sidewalk into an area for games and sensory play. Spray bottles are also great for increasing fine motor skills! Here's an idea that incorporates natural materials: <https://tinyurl.com/pba9tv43>

But most importantly, be an active participant in your child's play. Jump in puddles with them, paint your hands, go on nature walks, and have fun as a family! For more information on the importance of play at all ages and at home click on: <https://tinyurl.com/4sbwm8xz>





# FAMILY FUN DAY AND PICNIC



On September 28th we hosted a very successful Family Fun Day! The kiddos had a blast having their faces painted, getting temporary tattoos, running around an obstacle course and decorating delicious sugar cookies! Pizza and snow cones were enjoyed by all! A special thank you to all of the parents who volunteered their time. We couldn't have had such a great day without all of your help!





# 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.**



If 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 arrive before 12:15 p.m., call the school with your estimated arrival time.
- Are closed: Spring-Mar is closed.

If at the discretion of the President and/or Director, conditions warrant the closing of Spring-Mar, even though the Fairfax County Public 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.





# OCTOBER



As the leaves start to change and the weather turns cooler, Spring-Mar students bundle up in their favorite sweaters and venture outside, excited to explore the vibrant colors of autumn. Rain or shine - no one can stop these kids from having fun!





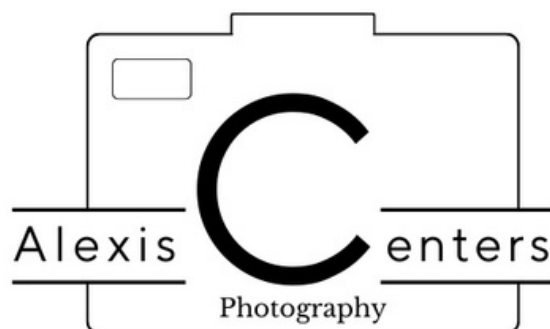
# In the Neighborhood



Cleanart Services, your trusted family owned cleaning company! Our friendly professionals provide top-notch cleaning services to businesses in the area and homes in our neighborhood. Supporting local matters! Choose us for a sparkling clean home and support our commitment to community.

Book now and experience the difference!

(571) 210-0097 or  
[jorgef@cleanartservices.com](mailto:jorgef@cleanartservices.com)  
[www.cleanartservices.com](http://www.cleanartservices.com)



[AlexisCentersPhotography.com](http://AlexisCentersPhotography.com)



@AlexisCentersPhotography

Don't let these moments pass too quickly! Book your next family photo session with Alexis, today!

Keep an eye out for seasonal Mini Sessions!

[www.AlexisCentersPhotography.com](http://www.AlexisCentersPhotography.com)

LOVESTRUCK *images* **Now Booking!**



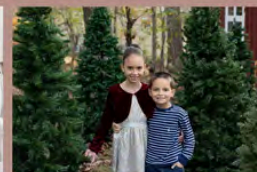
Fall Minis



Holiday Minis



Santa



Tree Farm

[www.lovestruckimages.com](http://www.lovestruckimages.com)

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

## October 19th 2024

Fall Mini Sessions with  
Alexis Centers Photography



Morning: Occoquan Regional Park (9751 Ox Rd. Lorton, VA 22079)  
Afternoon: Burke Lake Park (7315 Ox Rd, Fairfax Station VA 22039)

**Want to advertise with us?**

**Contact us today at: [Newsletter@spring-mar.org](mailto:Newsletter@spring-mar.org)!**

# Shadow Matching

Draw a line between each Halloween element and its shadow.

