

news & views

A PUBLICATION OF SPRINGER SCHOOL AND CENTER



Renovation Creates Exciting New Spaces

Last summer's major renovation has created opportunities for everyone to experience the Springer campus in new ways. From the colorful canopies and outdoor classroom that greet all who are entering, to the new reception area, library, lunchroom and multi-purpose room, there is a vibrancy and energy that matches the program and children we serve.

The library is now front and center, communicating an important message about the value placed on reading and research. Furnishings throughout the library, including the book stacks, are mobile, which allows the space to be reconfigured for varied student projects and after-school clubs. And when not serving the children's needs, the library is readily changed over to host parent education or professional development programs, and receptions.

Library Media Specialists Amanda Forbes and Tish Gayle have added many books to the Barbara Cassady Frey collection, and they have created numerous lessons that help students use the new library effectively when selecting books and completing research, both in the stacks and online. E-readers are also being incorporated to ensure student access to books at their interest levels.

Students are enjoying the new lower-level lunchroom, which features bright murals and round tables that encourage conversation at lunchtime. Also, on the lower level is an expanded multi-purpose space, which is used for indoor recess, artist and musician residency programs, club meetings and special programs. The multi-purpose room is separated from the lunchroom by a retractable wall, creating additional options for using the lower level spaces to meet program needs.



The relocation of the main office to the front of the building, along with the addition of outdoor canopies and furniture, has reinvented the experience for visitors to Springer. The façade of the building is enlivened by the colorful canopies stretching across the length of the building. Use of the outdoor tables and seating for classrooms, and by staff for functions and receptions, will be a welcomed addition in warmer weather.

Donors to the project have been touring the new spaces with student guides. "I so enjoyed hearing the students' perspectives on their favorite parts of the new library," said Annemarie Henkel, representing the Louise Taft Semple Foundation. "Congratulations to the staff, administration, board and parents, on making this dream a reality that will continue to have a profound impact on students for years to come."



Springer thanks these generous contributors to the renovation.

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The Maureen Wenker Artist in Residence Fund
The Ohio Valley Foundation
The Robert A. and Marian K. Kennedy Foundation
The Skyler Foundation

ALUMNI PARENT NANCY COOPER AND ALUMNI PARENT PENNY DINSMORE FROM THE BRIAN AND JILL ROWE FOUNDATION TOUR THE LIBRARY

From Our Executive Director

I wrote my first News and Views column in the summer of 1997, and now I am writing my last. Although I will be at Springer through the end of June, the next issue of News and Views will be written after I have retired.

In my first column those twenty years ago, I reflected on one of my earliest Springer experiences, which had been attending commencement in June, 1987. Only weeks before that commencement, I had been hired to be Springer's Education Director, a new role at the time, which combined the responsibilities of a principal and curriculum director. Attending commencement, before starting in my new position, proved to be an invaluable experience. That evening, as I heard the students' speeches, I gained tremendous insight into the Springer experience. I remember listening in awe as one by one students stepped to the microphone and shared deeply personal messages - what school had been like before Springer, what they had learned about their strengths and challenges, and what their hopes and dreams were for their futures.

In that 1997 column, I wrote:

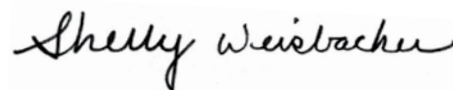
"Each June I have the same experience anew. As I watch the graduates and listen to their words, the reason Springer exists is reaffirmed. Our graduates leave understanding their learning disabilities, prepared to advocate for themselves, and ready to meet the challenges of a new school.

"Our students' successes reflect the vital partnership of the entire Springer community - the students, parents, staff and the board of trustees. How excited I am to lead an organization wherein the talents and collaboration of so many are directed to achieving the best outcome for each student. I look forward to building on this legacy with you."

Thirty years later I still experience that same sense of awe at commencement, and as I read my words from 20 years ago I know they are as true today as ever. The strength of Springer rests on the strong partnership we create with our students and their families. The strategies and technologies we employ have of course evolved over time, however, our core beliefs and values remain the same. Partnership is a value we take very much to heart. We know that achieving our mission relies on the partnership we have with all of our stakeholders - students, families, alumni, staff, trustees and the community at large.

Every day, we who are directly involved with the children feel the power of our work, and through center outreach efforts we know we are improving outcomes for children by helping parents and professionals grow in their understanding and abilities to address learning disabilities. The work will never be finished. There will always be more children who are struggling and more people who need to be educated about learning disabilities.

It has been an honor and a privilege to lead Springer and to build on the legacy I was handed in 1997 by my predecessor, Dr. Norita Aplin. Under the leadership of Springer's next Executive Director, Brett Marcoux, I am confident Springer's legacy will continue to grow as our students develop the skills, strategies and self-confidence needed to flourish in school and in life.



Fund Honors Shelly Weisbacher

When Russ Wilson, a former board president learned of Shelly Weisbacher's plan to retire, he immediately thought to reach out to the other past board presidents during Shelly's tenure: Matt Blickensder, Rick Blum, Randy Cooper, Tony Hobson, Tom Leugers, Sean McGrory, Elizabeth Schar, Paul Wenker, and current president Casey Boland to form a plan for honoring her. It turns out he was not alone in thinking this, and soon thereafter the

presidents met and decided to create a professional development fund in Shelly's honor. During the late summer and fall, they reached out to others in Springer's community who had worked with Shelly, focusing primarily on former trustees.

In mid-November, following a Board of Trustees meeting, Shelly was surprised with a reception in her honor where the fund was unveiled. Current Springer trustees were joined by past presidents for this reception. Several of the presidents spoke about the creation of the Shelly Weisbacher Professional Development Fund and then presented a \$36,300 check, which represented contributions received by that evening. Since then, the fund has grown to nearly \$50,000.

"I am deeply touched and honored by the board presidents choosing to recognize my commitment to Springer in this way, and by all who have contributed," said Shelly. "Professional development for everyone at Springer has always been very important to me and is critical to achieving our mission."

The Shelly Weisbacher Fund will support ongoing multicultural and equity professional development for Springer staff members. If you are interested in contributing in Shelly's honor to the fund, please contact Springer's Development Office at 513 871-6080 ext. 213.



TONY HOBSON, PAUL WENKER, SEAN MCGRORY, TOM LEUGERS, RICK BLUM, RUSS WILSON, SHELLY WEISBACHER, MATT BLICKENSDERFER AND CASEY BOLAND

Brett Marcoux Named Next Executive Director

Following a national search, Springer's Board of Trustees has named Brett T. Marcoux, MBA, as Springer's next Executive Director beginning on July 1, 2018.

Brett is currently the Founding Principal and CEO of Provident Charter School in Pittsburgh, which serves elementary-grade students with learning disabilities.

Prior to this, Brett served as Human Resources Manager for Pittsburgh Public Schools, and as Assistant Head of School and Director of Admissions for the Campus School, a preK-8 independent school on the Carlow University campus in Pittsburgh.

Brett's experience with learning disabilities extends to 2001, when he taught algebra for students with LD at the Gow School in New York, where he also served as Director of the Summer Program from 2003 to 2005. Rounding out Brett's experience is his employment at Carlow, where between 2007 and 2013 he served in the roles of Financial Aid Coordinator, Director of Student

Retention and Assistant Head of School and Director of Admissions.

"I am thrilled to be joining the community at Springer School and Center this July," said Brett. "The opportunity to lead an organization of this caliber only surfaces once in a lifetime. The success that the organization has had under Shelly Weisbacher's leadership is significant, and it is a lot to live up to. I look forward to working with the Board of Trustees, Ms. Weisbacher, the current administration, the staff and the Springer families over the coming months in helping make this transition smooth for everybody."

"The opportunity to lead an organization of this caliber only surfaces once in a lifetime."

— BRETT MARCOUX

The Board of Trustees assembled an Executive Director Search Committee in May. Chaired by Randy Cooper, the committee included Trustees Casey Boland, Ryan Brown, Matt Gockerman, Ann Munson Steines and Patty Wolff. An advisory committee including staff members Tony Barone, Barbara Hunter, Phil Jensen, Terri Moorhead, Jason Mott, Carol Shumrick and Nikki Sullivan, and parents or grandparents Tim Ford, Chau Huffman, Charlie Sutkamp and Jenni Ward also met with the finalists.

"When meeting Brett, it was clear that he would be great for the future of Springer School and Center," said Board of Trustees President Casey Boland. "Brett is a champion of faculty, encouraging them to be the best teachers they can be, and he is an outstanding, experienced educator who has proven to be an engaging leader."



INCOMING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRETT MARCOUX AND HIS WIFE JULIE

"Take Flight" at This Year's Celebration

Guests at *A Springer Celebration! 2018* will "Take Flight" for an exciting evening with an aviation theme. On Thursday, May 3, Springer will commandeer an airplane hangar at Lunken Airport, and transform it into a venue for high-flying fun.

A variety of food trucks will provide dinner options, and cocktails will be available, as well as silent and live auctions, a raffle and opportunities for interactive fun! Springer Board of Trustees Vice President Kim Vincent and Trustee Ryan Brown will co-chair the event, and chairing the auction is Springer parent Jenni Ward.

"The Springer Celebration is known for changing themes, locations, food and auction items every year," said Ryan. "We are really excited about this year's unique venue at Lunken, and as always there will be a few surprises that we think everyone will enjoy."

"Our Celebration is so important to our scholarship program," Kim noted. "This year Ryan and I are excited to co-chair the Cele-

bration in an airplane hangar! Come check out the venue and the fun things we have in store! See you there!"

Proceeds from *A Springer Celebration! 2018* will support financial aid and school and outreach programs.



CELEBRATION CO-CHAIRS RYAN BROWN AND KIM VINCENT



PRINCIPAL ELDRICH CARR, BILL GALE, GRADY VOSS, AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JASON MOTT // STUDENTS AND STAFF ON THE 2016 OGWA TRIP

Students to Tour Washington, D.C., in May

Springer seventh and eighth graders will travel to Washington, D.C., in May to participate in the Oliver Gale Washington Academy (OGWA). The Academy was established in 2008 by alumni grandparents Bill and Margy Gale in memory of Bill's father. The program brings together Oliver Gale's passion for Springer, and for Washington, where he served the Eisenhower Administration in the 1950s. This year is the 6th OGWA; the trip is offered every other year.

During the students' four-day trip, they will visit many of the memorials and monuments in the city, and other sites such as Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery and the Smithso-

nian Museums. Throughout the school year students have been engaged in activities to prepare them for the trip, including a project in which they researched Washington memorials.

Bill Gale visited Springer in December and met with Middle School students to explain the program and the reason for its establishment. He was accompanied by his grandson, Grady Voss, who graduated from Springer in 2011 and is currently studying at the University of Mississippi.

The Oliver Gale Washington Academy is funded by the William M. Gale Family Foundation and provides the trip at no cost to students..

Springer Students Donate Four Honor Flights

Doing odd jobs for families, neighbors and friends, Middle School students raised enough money to send four U.S. veterans to Washington D.C. through Honor Flight Tri-State. The fundraising project was part of preparations students are making for the Oliver Gale Washington Academy trip to Washington, D.C., in May.

During a November 9 assembly at the school, students presented Honor Flight Tri-State representatives Tim Cassady and John Mock with a check for \$2,067. Four veterans attended the program, as well as several members of the local Honor Flight organization. The veterans, Aviation Machinist Mate 3rd Class, U.S. Navy, Kim Brockhoff, and Private First Class Suzanne Naro, Sergeant Douglas Gresham, and Corporal Luke Lawson of the Ohio Military Reserve, shared with students their experiences in the military and answered questions.

Using photos from past Honor Flights, Cassady and Mock described to the students a typical flight – the memorials visited and the honor and appreciation bestowed on the veterans. Headquartered in Cincinnati, Honor Flight Tri-State has made five flights to Washington in 2017, and one "Flightless Honor Flight," in which vets who are unable to travel are honored locally. Honor Flight Tri-State offers flights to veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam who are at least 65 years old. A typical flight honors 72 veterans, each traveling with a personal Guardian.

Eighth-grader Conner Dute' was part of a color guard that presented the American flag to begin the program. "It was important to me to put on my uniform and give these veterans full respect," said Dute', who is a Cadet Senior Airman with the Civil Air Patrol, Lunken Cadet Squadron 078. "They have served their country, and they may have had friends who made the ultimate sacrifice." Other members of the color guard included Girl Scout Anna Burger, Boy Scouts Ryan Brensike and Isaiah Kallmeyer, and Army Veteran teacher Kristina Ernst.

Honor Flight Tri-State member Tim Cassady and his wife Kathy have a special connection with Springer. "I'm pleased to be back at Springer, where my late sister Barbara Cassady Frey established Springer's library in the mid-1980s," said Tim, "and I'm proud of the United States of America and of our Honor Flight program." The Cassadys' son and two nephews are Springer alumni, and Springer's original library was renovated by the Cassady and Frey families in 1997, in memory of Barbara Cassady Frey.



HONOR FLIGHT MEMBERS JOHN MOCK AND TIM CASSADY HOLD CHECK WITH STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS TILLIE KRAUS AND KHAI BROCK, AS OTHER HONOR FLIGHT MEMBERS AND VETERANS LOOK ON.



ACTION TEAM MEMBERS JASON MOTT, CAROLE BARNHART, KIRSTIN EISMIN, JENNI WALLEN AND ANNE LEEMAN WITH VISIONS FACILITATORS RICK PINDERHUGHES AND SARAH WERKMAN (BACK ROW, RIGHT)

Taking Action on Multicultural Work

Preparing students for the diverse world in which we live is an important goal at Springer. This effort is led by Springer's ACTION Team (Advancing Community Through Inclusive Opportunities and iNformation), who have facilitated a number of staff meetings focused on multiculturalism and equity. In addition, this past November all staff members engaged in a day-long training with facilitators Rick Pinderhughes, Psy.D., and Sarah Werkman, M.A., from VISIONS, Inc., who had also led a three-day training for 15 staffers in June 2017.

The November session blended material from the summer workshop with new information. The day focused on developing common language and skills to address equity and multiculturalism. One of the most impactful activities involved staffers identifying historically "included" groups of which they are a member – groups such as white/Caucasian, middle/upper class, formally educated, etc. Many discovered that they were members of most, or all, of the included groups on the list, and had an opportunity to reflect on the impact that has had on their lives.

"This training is very timely," said receptionist Molly Shumate. "It helped me to realize I sometimes live in a "box" and become complacent regarding struggles of others. VISIONS training has provided me with tools to overcome biases I never realized I had, and has proven to be invaluable in both my professional and personal life."

Evidence of this work continues to make its way throughout Springer. Lower School teacher Jessica Goins shared that she

has increased the diversity represented in the displays in her classroom, and selects books about people from different countries and those with different family arrangements to build students' empathy. "In my classroom, the norm is differences," she noted.

Library Media Specialist Amanda Forbes showed Middle School students a short video about school children who marched for civil rights in Birmingham in 1963, and asked them to write their response to what they had seen. "The video made me mad," said Alex Hartings, "because the police were putting a lot of people in jail for protesting." Conner Gibson wrote, "The March of the Children was a sad time in history. I think if I could go back in time, I would do everything the exact same, and not back down."

Lower School students participated in an essay contest centered around the values displayed by Jackie Robinson, baseball's first African American player. The students identified barriers to success in their lives, and then wrote about how the values displayed by Robinson could be used to overcome their barriers. In the library, Amanda led the youngest Lower School students through a kinesthetic activity that helped them to identify barriers in their own lives, and strategize ways to overcome them.

Funding from the Shelly Weisbacher Fund for Professional Development (see second page) will allow this important work to continue in the coming years.

Mike Wright Discusses Leadership with Middle School

As a former player for the NFL's New England Patriots, Springer Trustee and alumnus Mike Wright has learned a thing or two about leadership. In January, Mike shared what he'd learned with Middle School students.

"Leadership isn't about grand gestures or being above other people," Mike told the students. "It's about being a kind person, an everyday leader. Your example is what leads others."

Mike visited two weeks in a row. The first week he had a conversation with the students, and the second week he led them in a game in the gym, and then reinforced his message about leadership.

"Mike told us that a leader is not always the most famous person," said student Summer Jones. "He said we shouldn't strive to be popular. Leadership is about helping people."



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS GATHER AROUND MIKE WRIGHT



DR. NORITA APLIN WITH DR. CHRIS TANNER AND HER HUSBAND STAN RAGLE (LEFT) // STUDENTS PERFORM FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES AT THE WINTER ASSEMBLY

Chris Tanner Brings Steel Band to Springer

Bringing a truckload of steel pans with him, Dr. Chris Tanner returned to Springer in December as the 2017 Norita Aplin Musician in Residence. During his week-long residency, Chris spoke with every class, sharing the history of the steel pan, an instrument that was invented in the 1930s in Trinidad and Tobago in response to a government ban on drumming in public. When drums were banned, people started banging on whatever they could find that was not a drum, to circumvent the ban, and the steel pan was born.

Chris also worked with small groups of Lower School students, teaching them songs on the steel pans that they performed at a December 21 holiday assembly. "Returning to Springer in December 2017 as a Musician in Residence was a tremendous pleasure for me," said Chris. "Each time I am welcomed again into the Springer family, I am amazed at the dedication to excellence and the devotion to student success that every member of the staff demonstrates. It is inspiring to observe what goes on at Springer, and I am happy to have been a small part of it."

Lower School student Canon Crowther enjoyed the experience, and said of the steel pans, "It's an instrument I would consider playing again." Sam Wade thought, "It's a weird instrument, and fun to play." "I like how the metal drums sound," said Josh Moore, "and I liked learning about how the different instruments were named (bass pans, guitar pans, lead pan, etc.) When Alex Gilchrist saw the instruments, he realized he had once played a beginner version in a toy store. "I was nervous and excited at the same time, to play in front of people," he recalled.

Chris is Interim Chair of the Music Department at Miami University, and the founder and director of the Miami University Steel Band. He has authored a guide for the development of steel

band programs in schools, and has released a recording of original music for steel band and jazz soloists. In 2016, Chris founded the National Society of Steel Band Educators, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing steel band education in the United States.

The Norita Aplin Musician in Residence Program was established in 1997 to recognize former Executive Director Dr. Norita Aplin's 14 years of leadership at Springer. The music residency reflects Dr. Aplin's devotion to the children at Springer, and her life-long passion for music. Chris was the program's first Musician in Residence in 1998, when he brought African drumming to Springer.





LUCY BROCK SHARES HER WORK WITH GRANDFATHER JOHN GALVIN // BELLA BATTLE WITH GRANDFATHER LYWOOD BATTLE, JR., BOARD OF TRUSTEES SECRETARY

Students Display Their Work on Be Our Guest Day

Traditionally held on the day before Thanksgiving break begins, Be Our Guest Day is an opportunity for family members or special friends to visit and see first-hand how Springer is meeting the individual needs of each student.

This year, visitors to the Lower School had a chance to tour the new library with their student, and then they visited the classrooms, where students shared the strategies and technological tools they use every day.

Middle School students displayed the work they are doing, and some classes prepared a presentation for their guests. One class chose inspirational quotes to share with their visitors.

"It's always a pleasure to see students being supported by friends and family," said Principal Eldrich Carr. "It's vital to their success in school and in life."



QUINN HUTCHINSON WITH GRANDPARENTS DON AND PAT SMYTH

Drs. Braaten and Quinn to Speak

In the third year of The Daniel & Susan Pfau Foundation Distinguished Speaker series, Springer will once again partner with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Springer to host two experts on learning disabilities and ADHD in March. The program will bring Ellen B. Braaten, Ph.D., and Patricia O. Quinn, M.D., for programs addressing both parents and professionals.

Dr. Braaten will present a professional development program during the day on March 19 in which she will discuss the impact slow processing speed can have on student success, and how teachers can help their students with slow processing. In the evening, Dr. Braaten will address parents, helping them to understand the same issue and presenting strategies for coping at home. Dr. Braaten is a renowned psychologist, researcher, television contributor and author, and Director of the Learning and Emotional Assessment Program at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. She is the author of a number of books, including *Bright Kids Who Can't Keep Up*, published in 2014.

Dr. Quinn will address professionals on the subject of ADHD in girls, explaining the gender-specific manifestations of the disorder and offering accommodations, interventions and treatments that will improve outcomes. A developmental pediatrician, Dr.

Quinn is a well-known international expert, author and speaker who has focused for more than two decades on issues confronting girls and women with ADHD, as well as high school and college students with the disorder. She has authored several best-selling books on the topic, and received the CHADD Hall of Fame Award in 2000 for her work in these areas.

Both programs for parents and professionals will be held at the Cooper Creek Event Center in Blue Ash on March 19. For more information and to register, visit www.Springer-LD.org.

ELLEN B. BRAATEN, PH.D.

PATRICIA O. QUINN, M.D.





"THE NATI NINJA" GIVES A STUDENT A HIGH FIVE // FACULTY MEMBERS SHARON SCHINASI AND ERIN HOLZMAN JOIN STUDENTS ON THE PLAYGROUND

Nati Ninja Highlights Be Your Best Self Week

Television's four-time American Ninja Warrior James Wilson brought his Nati Ninja obstacle course to Springer on October 10, as part of Be Your Best Self Week. The annual program aims to encourage students to eat well and stay fit, as well as foster connection among students and staff. Each student conquered the obstacle course, which stretched around the perimeter of the gym, cheered on by their fellow students.

Kicking off the week with his Ninja Warrior challenge, Wilson charged the students to set goals for themselves. "Being your best self is setting daily goals and pushing yourself to accomplish them every day," he said. "I don't fear failure – I fear not having the chance, and right now we all have a chance to be the best version of ourselves."

The Nati Ninja has a personal connection with Springer – his son Aiden began fourth grade here in August. "I'm so grateful for

having the opportunity to bring Ninja Warrior to Springer!" said Wilson. "I was pleased by everyone's enthusiasm, including the faculty, and I believe everyone was a winner that day."

Physical Education Teacher Mark Phelps created and oversees Be Your Best Self Week, which is in its third year. "The message and example that Mr. Wilson brought to Springer perfectly captures the spirit of Be Your Best Self Week," said Phelps. "We are fortunate that he and his family are part of the Springer family."

Additional activities during Be Your Best Self Week included morning calisthenics, yoga classes, and Zumba classes led by Springer alumna Marika Huelskamp, who is an Instructional Assistant. On "Teacher/Staff Play Day," staff members joined students for fun on the playground during recess periods.

Springer Supports Students Experiencing Homelessness

In an initiative spearheaded by Student Council, Springer students and staff gathered new winter wear, socks and games for UpSpring, a local nonprofit that supports children experiencing homelessness. Representatives of UpSpring attended Springer's December 21 winter assembly where they received donations of 324 pairs of socks, 160 hats, 120 pairs of gloves, 57 games and 23 scarves, presented by Student Council officers.

"It was incredible to see the support of the Springer community in donating to such an important cause."

– ERIN FIORITO, COUNSELOR / STUDENT LIFE COORDINATOR

Students learned about UpSpring during their participation in last year's Magnified Giving program – a hands-on experience in philanthropy for middle and high school students. "Collecting items for UpSpring taught me about giving back to others," said Student Council President Khai Brock. "The fact that the children we were helping are homeless made me grateful for what I have. I have dinner every night. Some of these children don't."

"It was incredible to see the support of the Springer community in donating to such an important cause," said Student Council

Advisor Erin Fiorito. "Our Student Council really took the lead in encouraging students to donate, and the outcome was impressive."

Founded in 1988, UpSpring helps 3,500 children a year get to school, stay in school and succeed in school through summer and after-school programs, and through distribution of needed resources to children and youth experiencing homelessness in Greater Cincinnati, where it is estimated that nearly half of all children live in poverty.



STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICER SUMMER JONES AND OTHERS CARRY DONATIONS PRESENTED TO UPSPRING



LOWER SCHOOL TAEKWONDO CLASS, OFFERED BY CINCINNATI TAEKWONDO

After-School Programs Offer Variety of Opportunities

Springer has a long tradition of providing a rich variety of After-School Programs that encourage students to try new activities, build new skills, expand their social networks and strengthen their bodies.

"I like how I get to know new people in pottery class."

— RUBY ROSENBLUM, MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

Art Teacher Corrinne Thaler has been offering classes in pottery for many years. She teaches an Advanced Pottery class for students in Middle School and Lower Blue and Gray departments. "Pottery is fun," said student Preston Carey, "because you get to create whatever you want." "I like how I get to know new people in pottery class," added Ruby Rosenblum.

Twice each week, instructors from the Cincinnati Taekwondo Center visit Springer to lead classes for students in Lower School. Assisting Instructor and fourth-degree black belt Rick Beard is Springer alumna Olivia Matt. Now a first-degree black belt, Olivia got her start

in Taekwondo in Springer's after-school classes. "These students are where I used to be," said Olivia. "I love watching them learn, and I love teaching them." Next year Olivia plans to attend the University of Cincinnati to study Elementary Education.

This fall, the Executive Director and co-founder of Pones, Inc., Kim Popa brought classes in improvisational dance for Lower School students to Springer. Pones offers accessible opportunities for people to be involved with dance in Greater Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Chicago, and internationally in Italy.

Beginning in February, students in Lower School Blue and Gray departments have been participating in a weekly wheelchair basketball program brought to Springer through SkoolAid. SkoolAid members Jacob Counts and Ian Smith bring wheelchairs specially designed for basketball, and lead the students in fun-filled competition.

Other after-school programs this year have included basketball and volleyball, and in the spring, Music Teacher Judy McMahon will conduct a choral group.



CALLA GERKIN ENJOYS IMPROVISATIONAL DANCE



PARTICIPATING IN WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL IS A FUN WAY TO BUILD EMPATHY



PRESTON CAREY GLAZES A PIECE IN ADVANCED POTTERY



LOWER SCHOOL GREEN STUDENTS GATHER AROUND EMILY MORGAN // PAULETTA HANSEL APPLAUDS A STUDENT'S NEWLY WRITTEN POEM

Springer Hosts Local Authors

Springer students had unique opportunities to meet and work with two local authors in November.

Creator of the "Next Time You See" series of picture books about science, Emily Morgan met with students in every department and read from her book, *Next Time You See a Seashell*. She gave each child a shell to hold and examine as she read. Emily shared with the students her idea for the book series, which came to her while on vacation at Sanibel Island. Collecting shells on the beach prompted research on the animals that had created them. After learning about mollusks, "the next time I saw a seashell, I would see it with 'new eyes,'" she remembered.

"Springer is an amazing place. The atmosphere there is so positive and inviting. I enjoyed spending the day with students from all grade levels. They had wonderful questions, connections and ideas to share. It was a truly wonderful day!"

— EMILY MORGAN, VISITING AUTHOR

Fifth-grader Alex Shannon was impressed with Emily's presentation. "I liked her story of how she became an author," he said. Third-grader Layla Claxton recalled, "I liked the story of the shell, and that I got to keep the shell she gave me."

Emily read from several other of her "Next Time" books, about subjects such as pill bugs, spider webs, fireflies and sunsets. She shared with students that her book, *Next Time You See a Sunset*, recently traveled on a rocket to the International Space Station where it was read aloud by an astronaut as part of the Story Time from Space program. A video of the read-aloud was recently posted on storytimefromspace.com.

Middle School students had the opportunity to work with Cincinnati Poet Laureate Pauletta Hansel. Pauletta conducted a poetry workshop with each class, beginning by asking how many poets were in the room. Typically, no one raised a hand. At the end of the class, every student responded positively to the same question, because Pauletta had led them through the process of writing a poem, involving their experience and their senses.

"Everyone in our class was surprised that they were poets," said sixth-grader Nathan Schmidt. "I thought it was cool that she taught us easy ways to do things." Sixth-grader Sadie Kottmyer appreciated that Pauletta tied poetry to experience. "In poetry,

you're speaking from where your experience has happened," she said, "and you're sharing your experience with others."

"It was a delight to get to know the Springer community through its poetry," said Pauletta. "I had always heard the Springer provided a welcoming, inspiring education for its students, and am so honored to have been able to experience this for myself. If I were a poem, I would surely want to be written and read by a Springer student."

Named Cincinnati Poet Laureate in April, 2016, Pauletta Hansel is the first to carry that title. Cincinnati once had an official poet, and the position was re-established in 2015 with the title Poet Laureate. Pauletta will serve for two years, and is tasked with promoting the reading and writing of poetry in Cincinnati, and with writing poetry for events and occasions.

Memorials and Tributes

(AS OF 1/26/18)

In Memory Of David and Anne McConnell

Lois McConnell Jones

In Memory Of Dr. Elmore A. Kindel

William Schneebeck

In Memory Of Eric Yeiser

Norita Aplin and Stanley Ragle

In Memory Of Ernie Lewis

Tina and Tim Candelaresi

In Memory Of Marianne Betagole

Barbara and Justin Klein

In Memory Of Robbie Dimling

Robert Dimling

Christeen and Michael Scherer

Leave a Legacy

Arranging for a planned gift to Springer School and Center is a thoughtful way to support Springer's mission into the future. For more information about leaving a bequest or making other deferred gift arrangements, speak to your attorney or tax professional, and please contact Springer's Development Office at 513-871-6080 ext. 213.

Alumni Connections

Austin Abbott '14 is a senior at Norwood High School. Austin has been on Norwood's varsity football team for four years, in the position of kicker, and also plays in the school band. He has taken several Advanced Placement classes, and is currently in honors classes. Austin has been offered a full football scholarship at Eastern Kentucky University, where he would pursue a double major in pre-med and environmental science. He is also considering other college options. Austin is working toward a career in medical sales.

Mihkayla Shetterly '14 is a senior at the Wasatch Academy in Utah. She plans to study business with a minor in psychology next year, and has been accepted at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida. Mihkayla has been active in equestrian sports.

Zach Spohr '14 is a sophomore at Roger Bacon High School. Zach has enjoyed taking classes in Latin and web design, and is active in the Anime Club and on the Chess Team.

Allison Schoster '13 is a freshman at the University of Cincinnati Blue Ash where she is majoring in Pre-Health Professions. She graduated from Badin High School in 2017. Allison plans to pursue a career in dental hygiene.

Chuck Steines '12 is a senior at Summit Country Day School, where he is a forward on the soccer team. Chuck helped Summit's team win the State Championship three years running. He also plays club soccer. In the fall, Chuck plans to study business in college. He has been accepted at Elon University and the University of Dayton, and is waiting to hear from Clemson.

Jessie Simmons '09 graduated from the University of Cincinnati in April, 2017, with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work, a minor in Africana Studies and a 3.6 GPA. She was accepted into the Accelerated Master's of Social Work program and the Deaf Studies Certification program at the University of Cincinnati, and she passed the LSW licensure exam. Jessie is currently interning in the Kidney-Liver-Pancreas Transplant Unit at the U.C. Medical Center.

Erin Nordhill '08 graduated cum laude from the Oregon Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care, June 2017. She now resides in Medford, Oregon and works as a Respiratory Therapist at the Asante Rogue Regional Hospital. Erin also teaches lab classes to the undergraduate students at OIT.

Nick Lefke '07 graduated from the University of Mount St. Joseph in 2015 with a

B.A. degree in business. He is the owner/founder of Lefke Tree Experts, a tree service company that he launched in 2011.

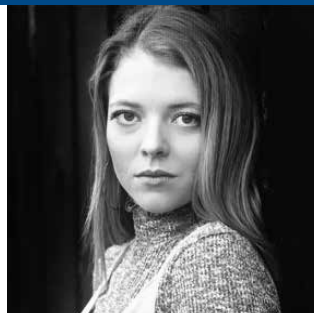
Jason Harris '03 is a 2013 graduate of the College of Mount St. Joseph where he earned a B.A. in Liberal Arts with a minor in Philosophy. He is currently in his second year of studies at Syracuse University in Syracuse, NY, working toward an M.S. in Cultural Foundations of Education (Disability Studies) and a Certificate of Advanced Study in Disability Studies, and in August 2017, he completed a summer internship with American Association of People with Disabilities in Washington, D.C. In 2013, Jason founded JasonsConnection.org, an inclusive website that connects people with varying abilities and needs to quality resources, support and each other. He also speaks to groups, sharing his insights about having an invisible disability, contributes articles, and interviews people with diverse abilities from around the world.

Drew Lane '99 attended Western Kentucky University and graduated from Sinclair Community College with an Associate's degree in Medical Coding and Billing. He has worked for several years at the Janet Clemmons Center in Hamilton, Ohio, doing data entry work.

AUSTIN ABBOTT



MIHKAYLA SHETTERLY



ZACH SPOHR



ALLISON SCHOSTER



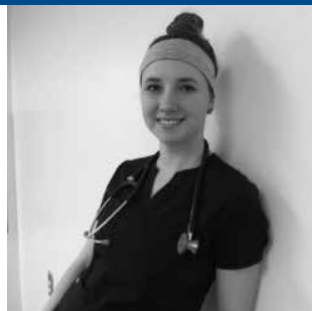
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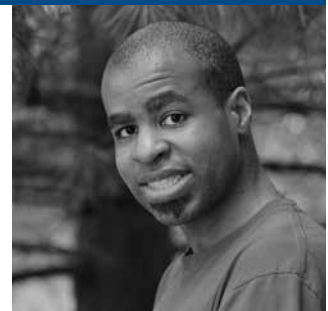
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