



Coming Up in February

Monday, February 5 Student Council Officer Meeting, 12:10-12:50

Friday, February 9 2nd Trimester Grading Period Ends

Monday, February 12 Student Council Meeting 11:30-12:50

Wednesday, **February 14** Student Appreciation Day

Monday, February 19 Presidents' Day – School Closed

Wednesday, February 21 PGPRs go home to families



Lots of creative and varied learning experiences make Middle School a fun and interesting place to learn! Here's a little more about what we've been up to, and where we're headed in February!

A Leadership Role Model

The Middle School students have just wrapped up some work in their advisories around leadership and social awareness, culminating in visits from Mike Wright (a Springer alum, former New England Patriot, and current board member) on back to back Fridays to first speak with students about everyday leadership and then come back to participate in an active advisory game. As we move into February, advisory groups will be delving into the topics of empathy, appreciation, and gratitude; these are sure to be challenging but reflective and positive experiences for our students.

Student Appreciation Day

It is a Springer tradition each year in February to hold Student Appreciation Day, and celebrate the strengths and contributions of our students. **All students will be treated to an ice cream sundae at lunchtime. If there are allergies or dietary concerns, please contact your child's homeroom teacher in advance.** We look forward to a special Student Appreciation/ Valentine's Day!

Science Rocks!

We are starting on the journey of discovering more about our dynamic Earth! We will be learning about the very ground we walk on and how even the finest grain takes a lot of work to make. From there we will fine tuning our understanding of minerals, the rock cycle, and the three classes of rock. That is right! Our students will be amateur gemologists after February! Also, in order to be ready for the first ever Middle School Spring Garden, students will be creating their compost starters in class.



In-Depth Author Studies

Reading classes will work on an author study unit during the month of February. This means students will read multiple books by the same author and look for connections between characters and themes. They will also be studying different writing styles and write essays about what they're identified.

Cheeseburgers in Writing Class

In Writing classes we have moved from narrative or first person stories to opinion writing. Students are being pushed to make choices, create informed opinions, and then support their position with facts. This type of writing will be helpful when classes move into informational essays because they have already learned how to research and support topics they feel passionately about. Also, some students may be mentioning "cheeseburgers" in writing. Rest assured we are not taking trips to the closest burger shack. The "cheeseburger" is an outline strategy that helps students plan and chunk longer paragraphs to more manageable pieces. This is a strategy that can (and should!) be used in future settings.



What's Better Than A Reading Pal? Having a LEARNING ALLY!

Learning Ally is an online library of audiobooks and audio-textbooks for those who benefit from listening to a human voice while following along in a book. Learning Ally has recently started to download the words for many of their titles, eliminating the need to hold a book in hand. These are noted as "VOICETEXT" books, as you browse their catalog. Many of the students at Springer benefit from listening to books, and have much greater comprehension using this technology.

While Learning Ally is a paid subscription, Springer currently enjoys an institutional membership, giving all students at school, and at home, the opportunity to use this resource without additional cost to families.

What's the benefit?

Students can access a wide assortment of books to listen to on a home computer with Learning Ally's Link software (free download), or listen "on-the-go" through the Learning Ally app for iPad and iPhone. All Learning Ally books are read aloud by a real person. Listening to high interest books can develop background knowledge and support vocabulary development.

How does my child get started at home?

- Visit the Learning Ally website at www.learningally.org to get directions for downloading the free software necessary for use on the computer and other devices.
- Once downloaded, your child will log-in using the same specific username and password given to them at school. Most students keep this in the back of their Communication Book. Please ask your child's homeroom teacher if you cannot locate this information.
- Searching and downloading books is a snap after logging in. Just follow the directions on the website.

**Learning Ally provides books on a wide variety of topics and levels. While we monitor books your child downloads at school, it is also very important that you are aware of your child's reading choices at home. Children often need guidance as to the level and topic of books. Together we can support your child's reading comprehension and exploration of fascinating topics.

In order to maintain a monitor student use, we are working to support 5 books selections at a time. If you and your child are interested in downloading a book and your child is at the suggested limit, please review selections and have your child delete one book, or add it to a list to download at a later date.

Please give Learning Ally a try if you haven't already, and as always, if you have any questions please feel free to contact Barbara Hunter at bkhunter@springer-ld.org or 513-871-6080.

Reminders for February



Order Out Days are Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15, and 22. Orders must be placed each week by Monday evening at www.springer-ld.org/OOD.



Bundle Up! Throughout the winter, students will continue to be outside multiple times each day, unless the temperature falls below 20 degrees, or is raining/snowing. Please remind your child to wear pants, a coat, hat, gloves, etc. to stay safe and comfortable.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Advanced Pottery – Tuesday, Feb. 6th 3:10-4:45 p.m.

Festival in the Woods

Lower School students are participating in *Festival in the Woods*, a student art show at the Blue Ash Recreation Center. We invite all of the Springer Community to a fun opening reception that includes crafts and activities and is free and open to the public! Friday, February 23, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

SPRINGER SCHOOL PHONE (513) 871-6080

Attendance – Press 7

Transportation – Press 2;
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A complete list of staff/faculty phone extensions can be found in the Springer Family Handbook.