

Reflections on Our 40th Year



Springer Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher (from left) welcomed current Board President Randy Cooper and former Presidents Dick Neidhard and Paul Wenker in celebration of the school's 40th Anniversary.

Van Vurst and Dr. Norita Aplin, who have filled that role in the intervening years.

A second historic gathering was held in March, when the former Executive Directors returned to enjoy a luncheon with current and past Presidents of Springer's Board of Trustees. Current board President Randy Cooper was in attendance, along with former presidents Garret Frey, Tony Hobson, Tom Leugers, Ernie Lewis, Dick Neidhard, Paul Wenker and Russ Wilson.

Springer's students joined in the celebration with an activity that prompted reflection on what a Springer education has meant to them. Student Council representatives in each classroom led a discussion that generated a list of 40 ways Springer helps students with learning disabilities. The classroom lists were then compiled into one master list of 40. The words of the students themselves communicate as nothing else can. "The people here believe in us!"

It was the words of former students that stole the show at this year's A Springer Celebration! The program featured Mark Helmick, Springer psychologist for 36 of its 40 years, along with four Springer alumni – one from each of the last four decades. Their words of gratitude and stories of transformation were a poignant and powerful way to recognize the work that has been done at Springer and the heart with which it was done.

In honor of our 40th Anniversary, a special webpage has been created which contains more details and photos of each of the events mentioned above, as well as "extraordinary stories" of more Springer graduates and information on Springer's history. Find this page at www.springer-ld.org, About Us/40th Anniversary.

**Sr. Mary Jean Fields will be remembered as Sr. Mary Elizabeth Fields by those who knew her during her tenure at Springer.*

A Springer Celebration! an Evening to Remember

Three hundred friends of Springer revisited the 1970s to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the school's commitment to serving children with learning disabilities and their families.



Kim Vincent and Brad Johansen announce the lucky raffle winners.

Read more on page 3.

"A month or two after our son began attending Springer, he announced that he could read and he wanted to go back to his previous school and show them, and we did. It was just the beginning of highs at Springer."

– Parent of a 2011 Springer graduate

This year Springer celebrates 40 years of stories like this one.

We've found opportunities throughout the year to reflect, reminisce and recommit to the vision that fired the hearts of Springer's founders – a school where caring adults understand, guide, teach and believe in children with learning disabilities. A place where children can experience success.

In January, several of those early visionaries gathered for a luncheon that brought together for the first time the four women who have served in the role of Executive Director in the last 40 years. Current Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher hosted Springer's very first Director, Sr. Mary Jean Fields*, as well as Sr. Marianne



LETTER FROM OUR Executive Director *Shelly Weisbacher*



Throughout this year of celebrating our 40th Anniversary, the ‘power of words’ has played a significant role. To begin, we launched a redesigned website that highlighted our key message – *The Springer Experience. Success Changes Everything*. If you haven’t been to our site yet, perhaps you’ll find a few minutes this summer to browse and experience for yourself how vibrantly our key message comes to life at www.springer-ld.org.

For the children, the ‘power of words’ featured prominently in the All School Quest where literature and writing were the focus, and in a Student Council sponsored activity in

which the students crafted messages about how Springer helps kids with learning disabilities. From the dozens of messages, a list of the 40 ways that Springer helps was created. A few of my favorites are:

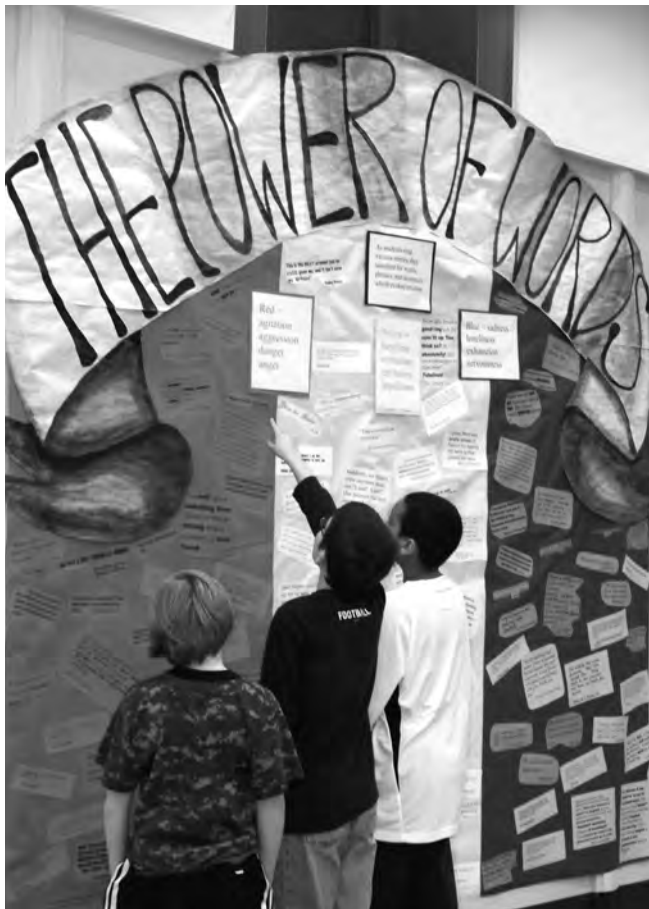
- Our self-esteem and confidence get a boost.
- We learn to set our own work pace and to respect those whose pace is different.
- We learn that we can take risks.
- People here believe in us!

The ‘power of words’ proved to be the highlight as well at this year’s *A Springer Celebration!* Four alumni representing each of the four decades spoke most eloquently about the impact that Springer had on their lives. “People say Springer changed my life,” shared Mike Kamphake, 1992 graduate. “Springer didn’t change my life. It gave me a life.” And 1988 graduate Chelsey Schneider’s words also spoke to the transformative effect that Springer had. “I came to Springer as a girl in the lowest reading group, with no confidence. I left three years later a strong, successful learner.” Powerful words – powerful messages of hope.

And finally, featured on page 5 of this issue is a word collage created at the Annual Dinner. Words were printed on colorful paper shapes, 40 different words in all. Guests at the dinner chose a word and expressed in words and pictures how for them that word tied to *The Springer Experience*:

- Heart** – Powers all that we do.
- Nurture** – Confidence blooms when the soul is nurtured.
- Commitment** – It’s a long road and we are here to walk it with you!
- Organization** – A strategy for success.
- Empower** – Springer empowers me to be my best!
- Potential** – Imagine the possibilities.

Simple phrases conveying powerful messages, conveying *The Springer Experience. Success Changes Everything.*



Check us out on



Back to 1971

2011 A Springer Celebration! An Evening of Memories

April 27th was truly a memorable evening! Springer friends and family gathered at the Great American Ball Park for a 40th Anniversary celebration.

Nearly 300 people, some dressed in their '70s finest, listened as a graduate from each of the last four decades spoke about the impact Springer has had on their lives. Dr. Mark Helmick, Springer psychologist for 36 years, led us through the decades and introduced the alumni speakers.

Once again, Local12 WKRC-TV Sports Director Brad Johansen emceed the evening's program and served as auctioneer. Net proceeds of \$104,000 will provide critical financial aid and outreach programs for the children and families affected by learning disabilities in our region.

"I would like to say thank you to all the wonderful people who came out to celebrate with us, and for each of the alumni who so movingly shared their stories," said Event Chair Kim Vincent. "It was an unforgettable evening, and all for an important cause."

Springer thanks Brad and Kim for their support of this landmark Celebration, and extends special thanks to the evening's generous Benefactor and Patron Sponsors.

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Literacy a Focus for Springer's Center

"As a 7th grade teacher, I was told I wouldn't need to teach decoding," says Intervention Specialist Lorie Bolton of Little Miami Local School District.

"But some of my students do not know phonics and struggle with reading. MARS has shown me how to help these students, and given me the confidence I need to do it."

Lorie is one of 15 Greater Cincinnati educators who attended *A Multisensory Approach to Reading Success (MARS)*, a week-long hands-on class that equips educators to teach students with a variety of learning styles. "This class has helped me to identify my own teaching style," says Little Miami Intervention Specialist Michelle Durand, "and to see that there are students my style does not serve well. I've learned strategies for reaching all of my students."

Early reading development is foundational to literacy, and the MARS program is just one way Springer's center champions the cause of literacy. "We offer MARS on our campus annually," explains MARS instructor Eileen Schroeder, "but this year we were contracted for multiple sessions throughout the year, visiting schools in Dayton, and in Northern and Central Kentucky."

Center programs at Springer also help parents to build literacy skills in the home. *Supporting Reading Development* is a two-hour workshop that gives parents strategies for sounding out

words, spelling, vocabulary and comprehension. *Reading for Meaning* helps parents of students in grades 6 through 12 to aid their children in building comprehension. These two classes, along with a third, *Helping Your Child Become a Strategic Learner*, are also available free to a limited number of school districts each year through a grant from the Daniel and Susan Pfau Foundation.

"Our Educator and Parent Programs have proven very useful for helping children who struggle with reading," notes Center Director Barbara Hunter, "but the roots of literacy are planted early in a child's life. For that reason, we are excited to have had several opportunities to reach families of the youngest learners this year."

In January, Barbara addressed parents of infants and toddlers through *Help Me Grow*, an initiative of the Ohio Department of Health. The program was an interactive session that provided parents with tools and strategies for creating a literacy-rich home environment.

Barbara also participated in the third annual *Prevention of Failure* conference, convened by the IDEA Center for Excellence and the International Dyslexia Association, where she discussed prevention of reading failure by nourishing the whole child.

Springer was also represented at the Early Childhood Learning Institute's program, "*Providing the Foundation for Education: Graduation Starts Here*," sponsored by the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency, where Barbara presented two breakout sessions entitled *Look Harder is Not a Strategy!*

"A cornerstone of Springer's expertise is in early reading development and strategic intervention of learning disabilities," says Barbara. "It's a part of our mission that allows us to share what we do best with parents and professionals, because we know that for a child struggling in school, success does change everything."



2010-11 SPA Executive Board members Camilla Hinsch (from left), Ann Carroll, Linda Glascock, Kim Addington, Caryn Franke, Holly Reilmann, Tom Welch, Margie Nordlund and Paula Berryman.



Parents Enrich The Springer Experience

Springer is fortunate to have an active and creative parent association whose fundraising and volunteer efforts enrich the lives of students and staff. Each year the Springer Parent Association (SPA) sponsors fundraising events such as the fall Bike Hike, brings special programs to the school and expresses appreciation for our staff.

This spring, SPA sponsored a visit from COSI on Wheels, which transformed the Springer gym into an environment in which students could explore

the natural world and learn about ecology and conservation.

Springer thanks the members of the 2010-11 SPA Executive Board, and each parent who contributed this year to The Springer Experience, through SPA or in other ways.



Students explore the natural world when COSI on Wheels visits Springer.



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Julie Morrow

Parents at Large

Kelly Jones-Primary

Margie Nordlund-Intermediate

Kim Addington-Intermediate

Laura Limardi-Upper School

Alumni CONNECTIONS

Luc Betz '07 graduated this spring from Lakeview High School in Battle Creek, Michigan, where he received the President's Award for Academic Excellence. In the fall he will attend Western Michigan University, majoring in Aeronautical Engineering.

Nicholas Lefke '07 has graduated with four years of honors from Moeller High School, where he was awarded The Blessed Father Chaminade Service Award for service to his school, church and community. Nicholas will be attending The College of Mount Saint Joseph in the fall. He has received the Challenge Award and Academic Achievement Award from Mount Saint Joseph, the Robert A. Cunningham Award from the GE Credit Union and the Koptial Young Entrepreneur Award from the National Federation of Independent Business.

Rosalyn Johnson '01 attended Beacon College where she graduated Summa Cum Laude. She went on to earn a Master's degree in Mental Health and School Counseling from Nova Southeastern University, and is currently working toward an Ed.D. degree in Counseling Psychology at Argosy University in Sarasota.

Emily Moorhead '97 earned a Master's in Fine Art from Washington University, St. Louis, in 2010. She is currently completing a one-month artist residency at The Torpedo Factory, an artist studio in Alexandria, Va., after which she will take a position as Gallery Director at the Roy G Biv Gallery in Columbus, Ohio.



With school psychologist Dr. Mark Helmick (center), Springer alumni Alan Kleesattel (from left), Peter Cholak, Chelsey Schneider and Mike Kamphake at A Springer Celebration! 2011.

Springer's 40th Anniversary provided an opportunity to catch up with the four alumni who shared their stories at A Springer Celebration! 2011.

Peter Cholak '74 received two Master's degrees and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin, and is now a professor of mathematics, teaching logic in the University of Notre Dame College of Science.

Chelsey Schneider '88 earned a Master's degree in school psychology from Miami University and works as a school psychologist in the Oak Hills School District.

Mike Kamphake '92 was an All-Star football player and graduate in social work at the University of Kentucky, and is now a firefighter in Lexington.

Alan Kleesattel '06 graduated with honors from the School for Creative and Performing Arts and is currently studying lighting design and technology at the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music.

"The Voice of Springer" Retires after 24 Years

"Welcome to Springer School and Center."

Anyone who has called Springer in the last 24 years has encountered the warm and welcoming voice of School Secretary Sue Belanger. Sue has been the first person people meet when they come to Springer, and her friendly smile and manner have calmed many an anxious child or parent.

Sue has had to wear many hats as she juggled phone calls, visitors and paperwork – or a child with a scrape or stomachache. She has handled it all in a calm and reassuring manner.

"Sue takes time to listen – really listen – to people who call us for help," says Springer Admissions Director Jan Annett. "Even if the child is not a match for Springer's program, Sue will give parents other possible options to pursue. But of course it isn't just information she dispenses; it's a listening ear and a generous heart."

We extend our grateful appreciation for 24 years of service, and wish Sue well in her retirement..



Sue Belanger

Tributes

(as of 6-24-11)

In honor of Bradley Robert Becker

Mr. and Mrs. William Jackson

In honor of Richard Newsom

The Human Capital Group

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Newsom

Memorials

(as of 6-24-11)

It was with sadness that Springer learned of the passing of Carl Pratt, husband of Springer Instructional Assistant Julie Pratt, and friend of our community for many years. As a Springer parent, Carl cheerfully devoted many hours in service to the school, helping with our annual Magnolia Time event. Carl organized and led a Boy Scout Troop during the years his children Chip and Cecelia attended Springer. He will be greatly missed.

In Memory of Carl Pratt

Jan and Larry Annett

Dr. Norita Aplin and Mr. Stanley Ragle

Susan Belanger

Mr. and Mrs. James Brockman

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brokamp

Angela Buechner

JoAnne Rouse-Clark and Jim Clark

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cooper

Ruth Coppel

Julie and Gary Flowerdew

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Julie, Chip, Chris, Martha and Cecelia Pratt
Katie and Fred Robertshaw
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Saulnier
Carol Shumrick
Dr. Tony Simion and Dr. Mary Ann Mulcahey
Springer Parent Association
Springer School and Center
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thomas
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Umberg
Shelly and Ken Weisbacher

Springer has had to say goodbye to another long time friend and advocate with the passing of Thomas O. Youtsey, Jr. Tom's son, Thomas Youtsey III, and his grandson Thomas Youtsey IV (Ty) are both Springer graduates. Both Tom and his son served on Springer's Board of Trustees.

In Memory of Thomas O. Youtsey, Jr.

Gloria Ackerman

Dr. Norita Aplin and Mr. Stanley Ragle

Nancy Barrasch

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Booth

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Breen

Cherry Calender

Mr. Robert Ehmet and Ms. Carolyn Hayes

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Harper

Beverly Johnson

Kim and Pam Johnson

MAI Construction, Inc.

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Dr. Patrick Nutini

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pohlgeers

Mrs. Robert Rouse

Springer School and Center

Eve Thompson

Shelly and Ken Weisbacher

In memory of Margaret (Momi) A. Bolan

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Connors

Dr. and Mrs. Gregory Frey

Mary Jefferys

In memory of John Browarsky

Elizabeth Wenker

In memory of Peggy Campbell

Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell

Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas

In memory of Patricia Hofstrom

Dr. Norita Aplin and Mr. Stanley Ragle

In memory of Margaret Wenker Kelly

Elizabeth Wenker

In memory of Julianna Witte

Elizabeth Wenker

In memory of Mary Beth Ritter

Elizabeth Wenker

In memory of Joette McCully

Dr. Sheila Wall and Mr. Ron Tatham

In memory of Ivor Malone

Dr. Sheila Wall and Mr. Ron Tatham

In memory of Marjorie Rardin

Mr. and Mrs. Ruth and Steve Coppel

Kathy McMillin





Class of 2011

The excitement was palpable on June 2 when Springer celebrated the commencement of the Class of 2011. The forty-two graduating students clustered on the piazza, posing for pictures, straightening ties and hugging teachers who have made a difference in their lives.

During the ceremony, many students shared their thoughts and feelings on their time at Springer, and Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher charged the students to use moments of personal victory as reminders of what they can achieve.

Springer congratulates members of the Class of 2011 and wishes them well in their future academic endeavors!

P. Christian Aschi
 Alexandra J. Bauer
 Evan Berryman
 Will Carr
 Carson Thomas Carroll
 Andrew J. Chaffin
 Preston Cox
 Adam Alexander Dock
 Mary Claire Fibbe
 Anna Ficker
 Mary Fitzpatrick
 Catherine Fowler
 Dane Erickson Franke
 Alexis Hope Garza
 Jennifer Glascock
 Joseph Hill
 Holly Himes
 Sarah Himes
 Leila Ann Jaafari
 Brandon Jones
 Evan Scott Kallas

Maria Elizabeth Leeman
 Andrew J. Lovell
 Alex Lynn
 Miles Manigault
 Benjamin Ryan Mendelsohn
 Nicholas B. Midei
 Lauren Newton
 Foster Opals
 Aidan Christopher Quirk
 Logan Thomas Quirk
 Sophie Rosen
 Tate Davis Schreiber
 Connor Russell Sparks
 Adam P. Stevens
 Alex David Thurner
 Antonio Sean Tooley
 Bobby Von Allmen
 Grady Voss
 Tatiana Eloise Weedman
 Andrew M. Wilson
 Joe Woodruff



Maria Leeman and
 Jean Bolan Shurmer

Bolan Scholarship Award Winner

Maria Leeman was named recipient of the Bolan Scholarship Award for 2011. The award was presented by Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher and Jean Bolan Shurmer, daughter of Peter Bolan, in whose memory the scholarship was established in 1988.

Mr. Bolan was a Springer alumni parent, and a great supporter of the school. His wife Momi Bolan continued to support the scholarship fund over the years, taking a genuine interest in the recipient and often presenting the award at commencement ceremonies. Mrs. Bolan passed away last December, and this year the award was presented in her honor, as well as her husband's.

The Bolan Award recognizes a graduating student who demonstrates an understanding of his or her learning disability, applies the strategies learned at Springer, displays a positive attitude, demonstrates leadership and shows concern for others. The award provides the recipient with a scholarship to offset future educational costs.

Congratulations to Maria and her family!

At Year's End

The end of a school year is a busy time, packed with memory-making events that celebrate accomplishments and community at Springer.



Students enjoy lunch on the piazza and a chance to capture school memories in their autograph books at the annual **AUTOGRAPH PARTY**.



At Springer's year-end **RECOGNITION ASSEMBLY**, students are recognized for participation in Student Council, the Springer Ambassadors program and the Track Team, and Service Awards and S.H.A.R.E. Awards are presented.



Students and staff enjoy swimming, soccer, tennis and more at the annual **ALL SCHOOL OUTING** held at the Cincinnati Sports Club.



COMMENCEMENT is an exciting time for students transitioning to new schools.



Springer's 5th/6th grade 400 meter relay team.

Track Team Wraps Up Successful Season

Springer's 77-member track team completed their 2011 season with a four-member relay team placing second in the city at the CYO City Championship on May 14. The 5th/6th grade 400 meter relay team included Max Fales, Michael Kaspar, Feli Palumbo and John Schaller.

Springer's team competed in three other events during the season – the Our Lady of Grace and Sacred Heart Invitationals in April, and the SMAC Invitational in May.

Thanks to the students, who worked hard during a particularly rainy season, and the parents for their support. And special thanks to Springer's outstanding coaches – Kristy Ilg, Cari Kelly, Kristina Williams and Mark Phelps.

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“The Power of a Story” Evident at All School Quest



Springer students experienced the power of a story during this year's All School Quest, in which all classes delve into a common theme and share their discoveries through a variety of media.

Each year, the students spend weeks in exploration that culminates with a project fair where they display their work. This year's theme was “The Power of a Story.”

“This year's All School Quest gave families an opportunity to witness how Springer teachers guide students in analyzing a story and digging deep into it,” said Assistant Principal Sandy Kohn.

“Our students became authors, researchers and biographers as they examined stories from top to bottom and even sideways. They looked at stories that inspired and stories that entertained. They explored the reader's point of view and the author's point of view, reflecting on the emotions that the stories evoked.”

