

news & views

Henry Winkler to Return for Celebration!

Springer School and Center is thrilled to announce that actor, producer, director and author Henry Winkler will be making a return visit for *A Springer Celebration! 2013*. Winkler was the honored guest for the 2004 Celebration, where he received a proclamation from Hope Taft, on behalf of then Ohio Governor Robert Taft and herself. Winkler was also awarded the the Spirit of Springer Award, which honors an

individual who has excelled in his or her profession, made significant contributions on behalf of children, and who has a learning disability.

Springer's mission to empower children with learning disabilities to lead successful lives is of special interest to Winkler. When he was 30, he learned it was dyslexia that had made school a challenge for him as a child. His personal experiences prompted

Winkler to write children's books about a boy who has a learning disability. The popular "Hank Zipzer" series features 17 books about the "world's greatest underachiever."

A Springer Celebration! 2013 will be held Wednesday, April 24, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and will feature dinner and cocktails, a raffle and auctions. Local 12 WKRC-TV Sports Director Brad Johansen will return this year to serve as emcee for the evening and to preside over the live auction.

David and Martha Millett of Indian Hill are Co-Chairs for the event this year. "We are so honored to be chairing *A Springer Celebration! 2013*," said Martha Millett. "As an educator, parent and board member, I've seen the wonderful work that Springer does throughout our community. We are especially thrilled this year to be welcoming Henry Winkler."

Proceeds support financial aid and outreach programs. Call 871-6080 ext. 213 or visit www.springer-ld.org.



Celebration Committee (L to R) Co-Chair Martha Millett, Development Specialist Kirstin Eismir, Kim Vincent and Nancy Cooper.

Admissions Director Jan Annett Retires

Red hair, wigs and kerchiefs were abundant on October 12 at Springer. On "Red Hair Spirit Day," students and staff honored a much-loved member of the Springer family who was retiring after eighteen years as Admissions Director. The students presented Jan with a framed collage of notes, and Julie Morrow, SFA President, shared remarks and gifts of appreciation on behalf of the parents. In addressing the students, Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher said,

"Mrs. Annett cares deeply about each of you, and even though she won't be seeing you every day, she'll still be following your progress and cheering for your successes."

In addition to her many admissions responsibilities, Jan assumed leadership of other projects that provided students with opportunities for leadership and self-discovery, including the student tour guides and ambassadors. She was a member of Springer's Leadership Council and chaired

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All our gratitude to retired Admissions Director Jan Annett.

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This fall Springer's long-time Admissions Director Jan Annett retired. For many of you reading this, Jan was the first person you encountered on your way to becoming part of the Springer family. You probably remember the visit to her office – your own anxiety, the tears you may have shed talking about your son or daughter, and all the while Jan's warm smile and gentle questions. Jan listened intently as you described your child, prompting you to talk about your 'whole' child not just his or her difficulties. Together, you toured the school, peeking into classrooms and watching teachers and children interact.

Many of you have expressed that you left Springer that day feeling understood in a way you never had before, and reassured that there was a place where your child could learn to read, solve math problems, write stories and regain his or her self-confidence. You realized that Springer could become for you a place where you were understood, and where you would come to better understand your child's learning disability. You may have been convinced in that moment that Springer was the place for your child, but just as likely questions surfaced, and you turned to Jan for more answers and reassurance.

As you progressed through the process, Jan and you set up a school visit for your child. You may have worried and wondered about this, but again you found acceptance and warmth. In the 'golden hour,' as Jan described the time she spent with children during admissions, your son or daughter talked with Jan and completed assessments. From there, the tour commenced, and it was my good fortune to often be the first stop. Jan would prompt the students to share something they liked or something she had found them to be good at. No matter how challenged the child was as a learner, Jan could always uncover an area of strength.

As you can imagine, the work of the Admissions Director is far more involved than the time spent meeting parents and children. Files need to be carefully read to determine if Springer would be a good fit for what a child needs, and professionals consulted when the answers are not readily forthcoming. Once a child is admitted, careful consideration is given to class placement, and the information collected through the admissions process is then shared with all the adults who will be working with the student.

Of course, the family's discovering Springer in the first place precedes all of this work. During the admissions process, families are routinely asked how they came to know about Springer. Some learn of Springer when their son or daughter undergoes a private diagnostic evaluation. We also reach families through outreach programs, through programs sponsored jointly with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and other agencies, through news releases and our online presence.

Most families tell us, however, that they had never heard of Springer until a neighbor, relative or friend suggested they call. We firmly believe that there is good reason why word-of-mouth remains the number one source for families. When someone you trust tells you that Springer made the difference, you can't help but want to know more. Thank you to all within the community, for your role in helping families learn about Springer. And thank you, Jan Annett, for an incredible eighteen years of leading our admissions process.



Shelly Weisbacher



Springer's new Admissions Director, Carmen Mendoza.

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the Diversity Circle, planning numerous staff development programs and working with other schools in the area to coordinate student programs. Jan also taught at Springer for two years in the 1970s. During a staff celebration for Jan, Shelly said, "Jan has left an indelible mark on our community."

Assuming the Admissions Director role is Carmen Mendoza. Carmen worked at Springer from 1996 until a family move in 2006 took her to Brownsburg, near Indianapolis. She held several positions while at Springer including Intermediate level teacher and Center Program Coordinator. Carmen was especially

known for establishing effective working relationships with parents, empowering them to better support their children, and for her work with educators, delivering one-day to weeklong workshops.

While living in Indiana, Carmen earned a Master's degree in education and worked as the sole resource teacher in a PK-8 school setting. She was a resource not only to the children and their parents, but also to her colleagues and the school administrators, helping them create education plans and implement differentiated instruction.

This fall everything fell into place for Carmen, her husband and three sons to return to Cincinnati. Welcome back Carmen!



Above: Student Council President Emily Finkenstein is embraced by Stacy Pavin of Families to Families while Placement Director Terri Moorhead looks on.

Below: Students sort winter coats for "Wishing You a Warm December."



The Value of Giving

Reaching out to those in need is a value at Springer that plays out as student involvement in various contributory activities throughout the year.

Student Council has already poured their energy into "Wishing You a Warm December," an annual collection of winter wear that coincides with the holiday season. This year, Student Council was able to present more than 200 winter coats, along with hats, gloves, mittens and toiletries to Families to Families, a local organization that supports victims of domestic violence.

Tied to their learning about Canadian Boxing Day (December 26), Kim Lankford's and Dawn Attebery's classes collected socks and mittens in decorated boxes. The boxes were given to children at Westwood Elementary School as holiday gifts.

Many contributory activities are woven into the annual All School Quest, this year with the theme Making Connections: Ourselves, Our Community, Our World. Students in the Primary Department are

embracing the theme by earning canned goods from parents and teachers for acts of kindness, and donating those items to the Walnut Hills Kitchen, along with notes, poems and cards the children will write.

Nicole Kloesz's and Cari Kelly's Intermediate classes are reaching out to help maintain habitat for gorillas in Africa, and keep the environment clean in America, by collecting used cell phones. Called "Go Bananas!" the project arose from connections many students have with the Cincinnati Zoo, and student CeCe Jones' success with a neighborhood phone collection over the summer.

Other Intermediate classes are serving as pen pals for residents at St. Margaret Hall, a residential care facility for the elderly, located close to Springer's campus. The Upper School is planning a reprise of last year's successful walk-a-thon. This year the donations they raise will go to an organization that drills safe water wells for villages in Africa.

Connecting with Our World

Springer students had a unique opportunity to connect with teachers from halfway around the world through Cincinnati's involvement in the Sister City Association. Through the Association and the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, five teachers from sister city Liuzhou, China, are visiting Cincinnati for a 21-week immersion program. Teachers of English to Chinese-speaking students (English as a Second Language), the women are building their skills in English, and learning about the educational system in America.

At Springer, the teachers gave presentations on Chinese culture to students in each department, speaking about the Chinese New Year, the Peking Opera, the

symbolism of Chinese fans, and a number of other aspects of Chinese culture.

"The opportunity for students to hear from these women fits so well with this year's All School Quest," said Assistant Principal Sandy Kohn. "The theme of the Quest is Making Connections: Ourselves, Our Community, Our World. The students responded very positively to the teachers, and the visit provided a tangible connection to their world."

The Chinese teachers spent most of their time here speaking to the students, but they discovered enough about Springer to plan a return visit when they can learn about our unique strategic approach to teaching students with diverse learning needs.



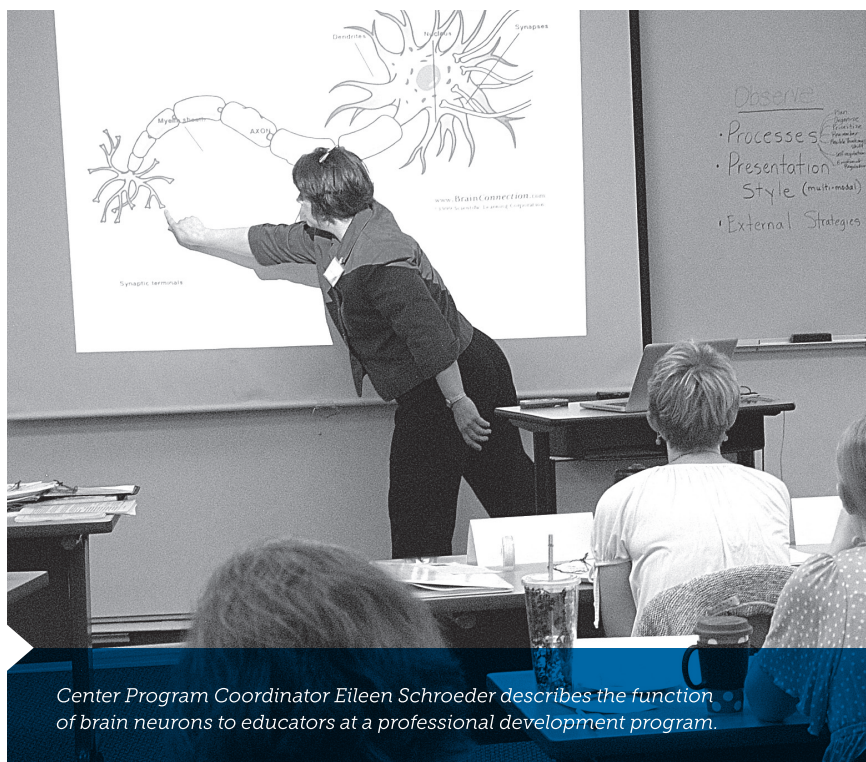
Center Stays at the Leading Edge

Springer's center has always made it a priority to stay current with the latest research and thinking on the education of children with learning disabilities. Members of the center staff are constantly reading and talking with teachers and administrators about initiatives underway throughout the tri-state. "We're in the Springer classrooms on a regular basis as well," says Center Director Barbara Hunter, "so that we can speak to how the research-based practices and processes are implemented and working."

Center staff members are in touch with guidelines and new information from the Ohio Department of Education, and with organizations such as ASCD, NCLD and others, to stay on top of what is expected of teachers and districts. Every year, programs for parents and professionals are reviewed and updated to reflect current thinking in both research and state educational requirements.

When the State of Ohio recently adopted the Common Core Standards for education, the center staff created workshops for educators that help them decode the language of the Standards and understand how to implement them, while differentiating instruction to meet the needs of diverse learners.

When psycho-educational evaluations began to speak of deficits in Executive Function (EF), the center revised an existing one-day program on ADHD to include



Center Program Coordinator Eileen Schroeder describes the function of brain neurons to educators at a professional development program.

information that helps educators understand what EF is, and how it impacts a student with executive dysfunction. The program was so well attended that it has been expanded into a two-day summer professional development course that equips teachers to create a classroom-wide environment that both supports EF, and helps identify strategies for supporting those students who are having difficulty with executive dysfunction.

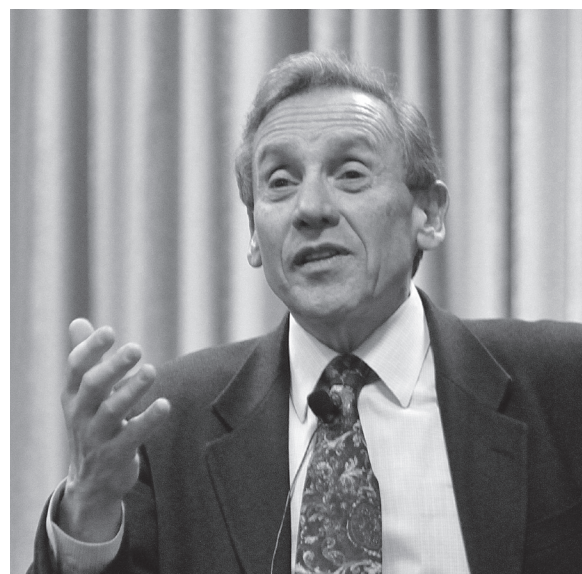
"Our National Speakers series is another way Springer stays at the leading edge," says Barbara. "Partnering with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center to bring speakers like Dr. Russell Barkley and Dr. Robert Brooks to Cincinnati gives parents and professionals an opportunity to hear from today's experts and implement best-practice methods in their work with children."

DR. ROBERT BROOKS ADDRESSES PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS

Renowned expert on motivation, resilience and family relationships Dr. Robert Brooks spoke to educators and clinicians on January 22 about strategies for increasing student engagement in school. Nearly 130 professionals attended a day-long workshop where Dr. Brooks guided them in examining the mindset they bring to their work with children, and encouraged them

to become the kind of "charismatic adult" who can make a lasting impact on a child.

In an evening program, 185 parents learned ways to manage stress and build resilience in the family through Dr. Brooks' personal stories and years of clinical experience. Springer partnered with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center to sponsor Dr. Brooks' visit.



McCutcheon and Bacher

UKULELES SING AT SPRINGER

Strumming ukuleles in an array of colors, Intermediate students sang as they played before an audience of students and parents. Leading the band was 2012-2013 Norita Aplin Musician in Residence Jim McCutcheon.

Returning for his third visit to Springer, Jim spent seven days working with the students. Known as "The Guitar Man," he plays a variety of fretted instruments, including guitar, banjo, ukulele, lute and the Bolivian charango. He performs publicly, composes original music, produces CDs, hosts a weekly program on Dayton Public Radio and offers school programs for both students and teachers.

During his residency, Jim spoke with every class, explaining and demonstrating the many instruments he brought with him. Students had an opportunity to touch or even play many of the instruments, and they learned the structural components that all the instruments share.

Jim then worked more closely with a group of 21 Intermediate students, teaching them songs on the ukulele that they

performed on the final day of the program. The students played both traditional folk tunes, and a song about Springer's All School Quest composed by the musician during his visit. "To play the ukulele before an audience in only a week gives the students experience at training themselves to do complicated things quickly," says Jim. "Not only have they negotiated the songs on the ukulele, but they have sung along at the same time."

Jim uses the ukulele for student programs because it is easier to manage than a guitar. "It's simpler because it has only four strings," he explains. "And I tune the strings a bit low so that they are looser and easier to play."

"Springer is a marvelous place," says Jim. "The support from the staff is stellar, and the kids are great! I feel a real connection with Springer."

The Musician in Residence program is made possible through a fund established in honor of Dr. Norita Aplin, recognizing her 14 years of leadership at Springer.



*Above: Students practice with Jim and then perform with him in a ukulele concert.
Below: Jim McCutcheon with Norita Aplin.*



PAINTING WITH LIGHT

Known around the world for his luminous paintings, Cincinnati artist Tom Bacher spent two weeks at Springer School and Center as the 2012-13 Maureen Wenker Artist in Residence. This was the artist's fourth visit to Springer

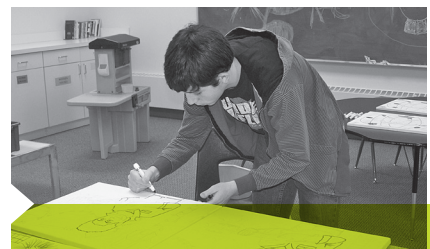
Tom developed his unique process for creating luminous paintings in the 1970s, and his artwork is now featured in galleries in New York, Cincinnati and Los Angeles. A selection of Tom's work is currently on display in Brussels, and six of his luminous paintings of Cincinnati adorn the double staircase outside the entrance to the Hall of Mirrors at Cincinnati's Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel.

The artist gave a presentation on his work to each class and then spent extended

time working with a group of 24 Upper School students, who created their own luminous paintings under his direction.

"It was a privilege for me to have spent two weeks with the students at Springer," said Tom. "I learned more from the kids than they did from me, I'm sure. The time went by way too fast!"

On November 9, the final day of Tom's stay, the artist and students presented their paintings at a reception for parents and staff. The reception was attended by Paul Wenker, who established the program in memory of his late wife Maureen, who was a Springer supporter and volunteer, and mother of three Springer graduates. This is the program's 21st year.



Students sketch their designs before applying luminous paint.



Alumni Connections

Anna Cucinotta '75 earned an Associate of Applied Science in Information Systems degree from Southern Ohio College (Brown Mackie College) in 1989, and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business Information Systems from Indiana Wesleyan University in 2008. Anna is currently a Solutions Architect for Cerner Corporation of Kansas City, Missouri, and lives in Cincinnati.

Greg Forster '76 earned a Bachelor's degree from Huston-Tillotson University in 1991, completed a Master's degree at Dallas Baptist University in 2009, and after several years in customer service, is beginning a second career in elementary education.

Christine Glaubitz '81 has a Master's degree in Adult and Higher Education, with a focus in Student Development. In the U.S. and in Sydney, Australia, Christine worked with university and community college students as a student adviser, and has worked as Student Services Manager for a university. She currently lives in Bremen, Germany, where she is learning German.

Joshua Cohen-Kolesa '89 graduated from Brown Mackie College in December 2007 with an Associate's Degree in accounting. He now works as an Estimator at General Data in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Jill Jeffers '89 earned a BA/BS degree from St. Lawrence University, and then graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology. She is currently employed as a Fashion Design Director.

Lee Ann Cliffe '90 graduated from the English Nanny and Governess School in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and is the mother of three boys.

Chris Miceli '90 is living in Cincinnati and is employed at Cast-Fab.

Betsy Findlay '91 graduated from Wittenberg University with a BA in Art History in 2002. She is currently an Event Project Manager for ASAP Event Advertising.

Mike Glassmeyer '91 graduated from the University of Dayton, and is currently Vice President of Purchasing at MI Homes.

Kevin Helmick '91 graduated from the University of Dayton and is now owner/operator of two locations of The Little Gym.

Emily Hawkins Stahl '91 earned a BA degree from Elon College and is now a homemaker living in Cincinnati. She and her husband have three children.

Jonah Weiss '94 earned a BFA with a major in photography at Washington University in St. Louis. After undergraduate school, he received a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia. Jonah is employed as a landscape designer in Denver, Colorado. His firm specializes in designing parks and other public spaces throughout western United States.

Stephanie Gfroerer Honebrink '95 has been married for 5 years and has a 2 ½ year old daughter named Ava. She works at Oxford Physical Therapy, and has recently become a Jazzercise instructor.

Matthew Cummings '96 attended Flathead Valley Community College in Montana for 2 ½ years before leaving for a job with FedEx. He worked at FedEx in Montana and Georgia for 9 years, and then worked for 7 months in the North Dakota oilfields. Matthew currently works in bridge and building maintenance for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway. He has two children.

Sam Cooper '97 attended Wittenberg University and is currently working in commercial real estate management and construction.

Andrew Babey '99 graduated from the University of Dayton in 2012, with a degree in engineering. Before graduation, he had secured a job with Weatherford, where he began as a field engineer. Recently Andrew received a promotion to district engineer, and moved to Utah. He is engaged to be married in June, 2013.

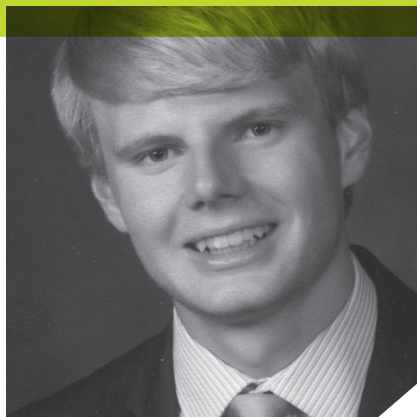
Brittany McGuire '02 graduated from the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow in 2008. She is now married, with one child and is expecting a second.

Charlie Wolff '03 graduated from Holy Cross High School in 2009, and is currently a senior at the University of Louisville, majoring in Political Science.

Alex Hushak '04 has graduated from Traverse City Central High School with honors. In high school, Alex was senior class vice president, and president of the school's business club. He is currently a freshman at DePaul University.

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L to R: Jonah Weiss, Malcolm Harris, Seth Davis.



MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

(as of 2/06/2013)

In memory of Sister Mary Jean Fields
William and Margaret Gale

In memory of David and Anne McConnell
Lois McConnell Jones and Michelle Platz

In memory of Dr. Gregory Miday
Sheila Wall and Ron Tatham

In memory of Colombe Nicholas
Richard and Diane Abraham

In honor of Joyce Kamen
and Fred Waygshol
Greg and Barbara Sherman

To Rabbi and Mrs. Lewis Kamrass, in
honor of the birth of their granddaughter
Greg and Barbara Sherman

SPRINGER FAMILIES INVOLVED AT SCHOOL

The Springer Family Association (SFA) works to support the mission of Springer and to provide enrichment programs for students. SFA coordinates events such as the Fun Fest in October and the Holiday Shop in December. "The Fun Fest is SFA's main fundraising activity," said SFA President Julie Morrow. "The students enjoyed the new venue this year, Gorman Heritage Farm."

Additional funds are raised from SFA's support of Order Out Days and *A Springer Celebration!*, grocery gift cards, and Spirit Wear sales. Funds generated through SFA's activities support special projects, after-school programs, the track and field team, and staff appreciation holiday gifts and lunches.



Students pay for their purchases at the Holiday Shop.

Springer Student Awarded Invention Patent

"The moment Blake explained his idea, I knew it was patentable," remembers Springer parent Matt Stephens. Four years after he submitted the application, Upper School student Blake Stephens received notification that his patent for a moveable fire screen had been granted.

Sitting by a backyard campfire, then 9-year-old Blake was frustrated by the smoke blowing about in the shifting breeze. He began to describe an idea for

a fire screen that could be erected at the windward side of the fire. Matt encouraged Blake to describe his idea to a patent attorney and draw diagrams of the fire screen. The attorney then wrote and submitted the application.

"I learned a lot about wind and the way smoke moves, and about what kinds of metal to use," said Blake about his experience. He and Matt are working on other ideas that they may seek to patent in the future.



Blake Stephens displays his approved patent application.

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Hailey Hushak '04 is an honor student at Traverse City Central High School, where she is a member of the swim team and the Student Senate, and serves as a mentor.

Malcolm Harris '05 attended Purcell Marian High School for two years, where he acted in all the school plays. Last year he homeschooled and also participated in a wilderness semester with Kroka Expeditions in New England. He and his classmates cross-country skied the 300 mile length of Vermont and then

helped build a canoe and paddled the Connecticut River - another 300 miles - camping all the way. Malcolm is attending another semester with Kroka this year, during which he will bike, raft and mountain-climb in Ecuador. He'll then return to Cincinnati for the spring semester to finish high school with Leaves of Learning and Cincinnati State, and to apply to colleges.

Seth Davis '06 graduated from Taylor High School in 2012. At Taylor, Seth was on the honor roll and participated in

swimming, choir, track and drama. He was in the competition senior choir, and was nominated for a Cappie Award for sound. Seth has worked for four summers as a Cincinnati Lifeguard, and plans to study fire science and work as a firefighter.

Ben Kimmel '09 is an avid Eagle Scout and a senior at Butler Tech. He is currently considering colleges throughout the Midwest.



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A Springer
CELEBRATION!
2013

REACH FOR THE STARS

An Evening with
Henry Winkler

Wednesday, April 24, 2013, 6:00pm - 9:30pm
Hyatt Regency, downtown Cincinnati

Please contact Springer School and Center
at (513) 871-6080 for more details.

