

news & views

BE A KID AGAIN!

Just for a few hours, wouldn't it be fun to forget the demands of the day and play with some Silly Putty? Or maybe you'd prefer pickup sticks. More competitive people will have a chance to participate in tricycle races at *A Springer Celebration! 2014, Let's Play!*

Springer's building will be turned into a playland for grown-ups at this year's fundraising dinner, which will feature games, activities and fun for the child in everyone. "I am thrilled with the plans for the 2014 Celebration," said Development Specialist Kirstin Eismín. "It will be an outrageously fun time, with things to do that will appeal to people of all ages. You'll feel like a kid again!" Some of the activities planned include mini golf, giant floor puzzles, and a photo booth.

The evening will include dinner, cocktails and both live and silent auctions. Local 12 WKRC-TV Sports Director Brad

Johansen will emcee. The Celebration is set for May 1, from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.

This year's raffle will feature a special treat – Borcharding Buick GMC is sponsoring the Grand Prize, a 24-month lease on a 2014 Buick Encore, a sporty SUV equipped with OnStar, GMC's auto safety and navigation system, and SiriusXM satellite radio. Routine scheduled maintenance is included for the duration of the lease. Some restrictions apply. Exciting runner-up prizes include a Reds Experience valued at \$2,000, gifts cards for gas and groceries valued at \$1,000, and His and Her iPad minis valued at \$1,000.

Springer alumnus Casey Boland will chair the event. "I was honored to be asked to chair this year's Celebration," said Casey. "We're planning some activities that will help people experience what it might be like to have a learning disability, and others that are just plain fun!"

Proceeds support financial aid and outreach programs. Call 871-6080 ext. 213 or visit www.springer-ld.org/celebration_14.



Celebration Chair and Springer alumnus Casey Boland

Center Programs Expand to Support Young Learners



Students build language skills through Adventures in Summer Learning.

Springer's center is rolling out a new series of programs this year, designed to address the needs of preschool and kindergarten students. Launch to Success will help parents discover learning difficulties early, when intervention can be most effective. "Research has shown that parents who know about expected developmental and academic milestones are better able to identify problems with their child's

learning, and they seek help sooner," said Center Program Coordinator Sandi Staud.

The series includes three components – a two-hour workshop for parents, an expansion of Springer's Adventures in Summer Learning program, and an initiative to work with area preschools to provide programming tailored for the needs of the parents at that school.

The workshop for parents, entitled Milestones in Early Childhood and

continued on next page

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"I had a nagging sense that things weren't right."

"I wish I had done something sooner. He's miserable now."

"Everyone kept telling me she would outgrow this."

These statements are just a few we have heard from parents as they relay their story in the Admissions Office or talk to one of the Center Program Coordinators. We know there are a number of reasons that parents are hesitant to seek advice, an evaluation, or special services for their child. Among the reasons: it's hard to accept that one's child might have a learning disability, ADHD, or executive dysfunction; there's concern about the stigma associated with any of these diagnoses; and often a 'wait and see' approach has been advised. The prevalence of the 'wait and see' approach, in fact, has been confirmed through national surveys

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scheduled for February 20, provides parents with an overview of the expected language abilities of children at different ages, activities that help parents assess and build language skills, and resources for developing an action plan should difficulties be encountered. Through a grant from The Andrew Jergens Foundation, the workshop can be brought to preschools and elementary schools, for presentation to their parents.

conducted in recent years on behalf of the National Center for Learning Disabilities and like organizations.

For fifteen years, the center has provided programs, information and referral services geared to parents of school-aged children to help them recognize and address learning disabilities, ADHD, and executive function difficulties. We have spoken about the importance of early intervention, shared information on warning signs and helped parents develop a plan for moving forward. These efforts have impacted thousands of school-aged children and their families.

We are pleased that beginning this winter, we are expanding our focus to include parents of pre-school aged children. On page 1, you read about Milestones in Early Childhood: Preparing for Success in School, the program for parents that will be held February 20, and the other

For more than 20 years, Adventures in Summer Learning has offered summer programs for students entering grades 1-8. The addition of the Launch program will address the learning needs of younger students – those entering kindergarten and first grade.

"The addition of Launch to our summer learning program gives young learners a place to build school readiness, and helps parents to know their child as a learner," said Adventures Director Dr. Mary Ann Mulcahey. The Launch program will align with other Adventures programs in offering parents an end-of-session conference that includes feedback on the child's abilities and challenges, and advice on creating the best learning environment for the child and building skills at home.

The third prong of the Launch to Success series provides custom programming for area preschools that can be designed to meet the needs of parents

early intervention programs we've added, including Launch, a summer program for 5-6 year-olds that will help children gain school readiness skills.

Given parents' reluctance, however, to seek advice around possible learning difficulties, it is especially challenging to reach the very people who would benefit from this information. Please help us spread the word about these new programs. We know from past experience that encouragement from family and friends can make a big difference in getting parents to take that first step to finding help for their children who are struggling.

Shelly Weisbacher

Shelly Weisbacher

or educators. Through this program, the center will offer consulting services in early literacy to area preschools and elementary schools. Schools will be charged a fee to participate.

Funding for the preschool initiative is provided through a bequest from the Hayfield Foundation, and grants from an anonymous foundation and The Andrew Jergens Foundation.



"The Giving Tree" a Huge Success



The Frey family (L to R), Dan Frey, Tom Frey, Katie Tillar, Annie Erb, Marti Frey, Mike Frey, John Frey, Peter Frey, Lynn Wenstrup, John Frey, Jr., and Jim Frey

Dressed in bright green, yellow and white, Springer's gymnasium was the site of "The Giving Tree," a benefit dinner honoring the 25th anniversary of Springer's Barbara Cassady Frey Library. Held on September 7, the event raised \$60,000 to purchase Playaways and other books and digital resources for the library.

The Frey and Cassady families gathered friends and family for dinner, silent and live auctions, and a raffle. Entertainment by "Duelling Pianos" made for a lively evening, attended by 260 guests.

Students are already profiting from Playaways purchased with funds raised at the event. Playaways are electronic devices

loaded with audio books and accessed using headphones. For students with language-based learning disabilities, the Playaways can be an important support.

"Before I started using audio books, I read very slowly and my vocabulary was not good," said Upper School student Grayson Hines. "With audio books, I could read bigger books and my vocabulary grew. A larger vocabulary helps me to read printed books faster."

In 1988, the library was named to honor the memory of Springer alumni parent and volunteer Barbara Cassady Frey, Springer's first volunteer librarian. Mrs. Frey died of cancer in 1988. Her sons, Springer alumni

Peter and Dan Frey, were in attendance at the benefit, along with their father John Frey and his wife Marti, and siblings John, Mike, Jim and Tom Frey, and Lynn Wenstrup, Katie Tillar and Annie Erb.



L to R: Paige Grote, Jim and Julie Kelly



Dan Frey (center) and Peter Frey (right) check out the Playaways with Upper School students Grace Moore and Josh Campbell.

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. Leaving a bequest or making other deferred gift arrangements communicates your values to family and friends, and ensures that your wishes are carried out.

Springer's Legacy Society is comprised of friends who have made a bequest or other planned gift, supporting Springer into the future. For more information, call 513 871-6080 ext. 213.

Upper School to Visit Washington, D.C.



L to R: Upper School Team Leader Brad Johnson and Principal Jamie Williamson met with Margy and Bill Gale.

In April, Upper School students will make a visit to Washington, D.C., through the Oliver Gale Washington Academy. Funded by the William M. Gale Family Foundation, the Academy was founded in 2008 by Bill and Margy Gale in memory of Bill's father, Mr. Oliver Gale.

Students gathered this fall to learn more about the trip, scheduled for April 14 through 17, and to meet the Gales. Bill shared with the students his father's passion for both Springer, and for Washington,

D.C., where he resided while serving in the Eisenhower Administration.

"I'm so impressed with Bill and Margy's devotion to this program," said Principal Jamie Williamson. "They are involved with every step of the planning, and are committed to ensuring the students have an exceptional experience. Touring Washington gives students first-hand experiential learning about the nation's history, as well as a chance to travel away from home, maybe for the first time."

Students Support "the Gorp" to Further Cancer Research



Student Council President Emma Lee presents a check to Amy Swenson of LLS.

Led by Springer's Student Council, the entire Springer student body made bags of snack mix, called gorp, and sold them to raise money for the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society (LLS). Students formed assembly lines to combine Cheerios, chocolate chips, mini-pretzels and raisins, and package the mix in individual bags, which were sold to staff, parents, students and visitors to the school.

LLS raises funds that support research on the diagnosis and treatment of blood cancers, as well as patient services. The Society's cause is close to Springer's

heart because a student in the Primary Department is currently in remission from leukemia.

The sale of the gorp realized a profit of \$457, which was presented to LLS representative Amy Swenson at the annual school holiday assembly. When asked about the success of this project, Student Council President Emma Lee said, "This project brought out the whole school to support our fellow student who deals with the challenge of having leukemia. At Springer we try to support each other, knowing we all struggle with things."

SFA Enriches the Lives of Students



Throughout the school year, the Springer Family Association (SFA) provides enrichment programs for students and expressions of appreciation for staff at Springer. The biggest fundraising event of the year, Fun Fest at Gorman Heritage Farm, was a huge success. "The Fun Fest was very well attended," said SFA President Julie Morrow, "and we were pleased to meet our fundraising goal for the event."

In December, SFA hosted the Holiday Shop, giving students an opportunity to purchase gifts for family members in secret. Planning is underway for the visiting author program which will occur in the spring.

Funds raised through the Fun Fest, Order Out Days, *A Springer Celebration!*, grocery loyalty cards and Spirit Wear sales are used to support special projects, after-school programs, the track and field team, and staff appreciation holiday gifts and lunches.

SFA Executive Board 2013-14

- Julie Morrow, President
- Bruce Blackledge, VP School Programs
- Tracy Adams, VP Fundraising
- Tom Welch, Treasurer
- Mary Pettway, Secretary

Members at Large

- Laura Stautberg - Primary
- Ann McGee - Intermediate
- Ann Small-Wills - Intermediate
- Andi Levenson - Upper School

Students Perform *The Magic Flute* with Cincinnati Opera Singers

Springer Intermediate students brought to life Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute* on December 20, the final day of the Norita Aplin Musician in Residence Program. This year's Musicians in Residence were two members of the Cincinnati Opera. In the two weeks prior to the final production, Contralto La'Shelle Allen and Bass-Baritone Claude Cassion met with every classroom to share their love for opera, and then worked with a select group of Intermediate students to prepare for their performance of a simplified version of *The Magic Flute* at the holiday assembly on the last day before Winter Break.

La'Shelle and Claude performed at Springer last spring, and the students enjoyed their visit so much that the singers were invited to return as our Musicians in Residence for this school year. La'Shelle made her debut with Houston Grand Opera in the ensemble of *Show Boat*, and is looking forward to her participation with Cincinnati Opera for the 2013-14 season. Later this year, she will join the American Spiritual Ensemble for a tour in Spain. Claude made his Cincinnati Opera debut in 2012 when he played the role of Doctor Grenville in *La Traviata*. He will be singing in several of Cincinnati Opera's productions this season as well.

During her stay at Springer, La'Shelle received news that she will be performing at the Royal Danish Theatre in Copenhagen this year, in 30 performances of George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. She announced her good news at the holiday assembly.

"We tried to make the residency fun for the students, and started with games to loosen them up," said La'Shelle and Claude about their work with the young performers. The students learned lines, songs and action for their production, and wrote several of their own arrangements of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" in small groups. La'Shelle and Claude's goals for

the students were that they would learn about Mozart's life, and come to see themselves as arrangers, having that in common with the famous composer.

"It was fulfilling to see the kids retaining the information they learned about Mozart and about opera," said Claude. "You could see it sticking with them." La'Shelle agreed. "It made me cry to see how well they had memorized their parts," she said. "Many of the children memorized long passages of information, without being prompted to do so. There was an enthusiasm in their presentation that will surely stay with me in my memories of my time here."

Established in 1998, The Norita Aplin Musician in Residence Program honors former Springer Executive Director Dr. Norita Aplin for her 14 years of leadership at Springer. Dr. Aplin and her husband Stanley Ragle were in attendance for the students' final performance.



Dr. Norita Aplin and Stanley Ragle (center) welcome opera singers Claude Cassion and La'Shelle Allen.

MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

(as of 1/16/2014)

In memory of Mary Annett Shelly and Ken Weisbacher

In honor of the marriage of Mr. John Berg's daughter
Dr. and Mrs. Greg and Barbara Sherman

In memory of David and Anne McConnell
Ms. Michelle Platz

In honor of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Barsman's son
Dr. and Mrs. Greg and Barbara Sherman

In honor of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Zemboch's daughter
Dr. and Mrs. Greg and Barbara Sherman

Alumni Connections

Alex Betz '13 is a freshman at Moeller High School. He has received 1st honors and plays on the soccer team. Alex loves Moeller and is making lots of friends there.

Gregory Brugger '10 attained the rank of Eagle Scout in November, 2013. For his Eagle Project, Greg remodeled the roadside sign for the Cincinnati Center for Autism. He will graduate from Loveland High School in 2014.

CJ Elfers '10 is a Senior at Purcell Marian High School where he has played three years of baseball and one year of basketball. He has received honor roll each of his three years at Purcell. CJ is a Student Ambassador and is on Student Council. After this year, CJ plans to continue playing baseball at Miami University of Ohio or the University of Cincinnati, and study Criminal Justice, Education, Sports Management, or Athletic Training. The strategies he learned in his time at Springer he has carried with him all throughout high school and plans to use them in college. CJ cannot thank Springer enough for helping him become the man he is today.

Helen Macmann '09 graduated from Purcell Marian High School in May, 2013. She is currently attending the University of Cincinnati, where she is majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Bennett Szames '08 graduated from Indian Hill High School in 2013 and is currently attending the University of Hartford.

Aaron Ernst '07 has earned an Associate's degree in science from Clark State Community College. He is currently

attending Cincinnati State, and plans to transfer to Northern Kentucky University where he will complete a Bachelor's degree in sports medicine.

Carl Pretorius '07 studied psychology at the University of Dayton, and is currently in the psychology program at Cincinnati State. He plans to transfer to Ohio State University, where he will pursue a degree in environmental science.

Savannah Trester '07 was recently accepted into the National Honor Society. Savannah is a senior at Live Oaks/Anderson High School, where she is studying cosmetology. She plans to earn a business degree in college, and to open her own hair salon, which will focus on accommodating people with special needs.

Will Fritz '06 graduated from Cincinnati Country Day School in 2011 and is currently a junior at Vanderbilt University where he played football for two years. Will is studying Human Organizational Development and Corporate Strategy, and hopes to work in the nonprofit sector after graduation.

Liz Bowers '04 has a 3.5 grade point average in her junior year at Xavier University, and she is nationally ranked in fencing. Liz plans to graduate within the next year and to work as an Occupational Therapist.

Vanya Jabin '03 graduated from Anderson High School and is currently attending Cincinnati State where she is studying American Sign Language in the Interpreting program.

Brittany Lewis (Edwards) '00 graduated from Purcell Marian High School with second honors and a senior class leadership award. She has earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Wright State University, and is now pursuing a Master's degree at Case Western Reserve University.

Catherine Carroll '97 earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Manhattanville College, with a major in Studio Art and a minor in psychology. She has worked as an image designer for a high-end women's clothing line, mentored children with learning disabilities for an organization known as Project Eye to Eye, and worked as an art teacher and first grade instructional paraprofessional. Catherine is now pursuing a dual Master's program in Elementary and Special Education at Manhattanville College, and is working as a Special Education Kindergarten teacher in the New York City Public Schools.



Springer Students Create Art for the Sky

Springer students collaborated with Oregon artist Daniel Dancer in October to create a piece of art best viewed from atop a 50-foot crane. Wearing black shirts, Springer students and staff members each served as a drop of paint, filling in the outline of an eagle fashioned from mulch, sand and fabric on the school's lawn. Groups of students worked with Daniel to arrange the materials on the lawn before the entire school gathered to create the visual effect, which was photographed from above.

Daniel's artwork came with a message – something he calls "skysight." "You know the old saying, you can't see the forest for the trees? Skysight is the ability all humans have to see the whole first," said Daniel. "Training our imaginations to awaken our skysight, to rise above our problems and see the elusive Grand Picture and how each part fits into the whole, is a vital skill that can lead us to the most creative solutions to our problems."

Springer's Center Program Coordinator Barbara Hunter sees Daniel's concept of skysight as analogous to the strategies the school teaches to help children with learning disabilities find success. "We teach students that they must take a step back and observe themselves as learners," said Barbara. "What are their strengths? Where are their pitfalls? What strategies will help them to realize the goals they've set for themselves?"

Using still and video photography, Daniel produced a video that captured the process, the product, and the energy



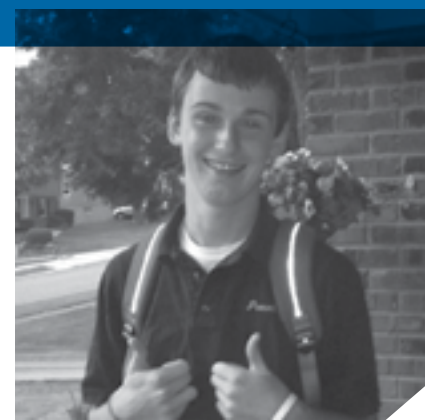
The Springer Eagle, as viewed from atop a 50-foot crane.

and enthusiasm displayed by students as they worked. A still photo and the video, which can be seen at <http://vimeo.com/77743545>, are all that remain of the artwork, created in honor of Springer's mascot. "Art that leaves no trace is a lesson in impermanence," said Daniel. "Children bodily experience the impermanent nature

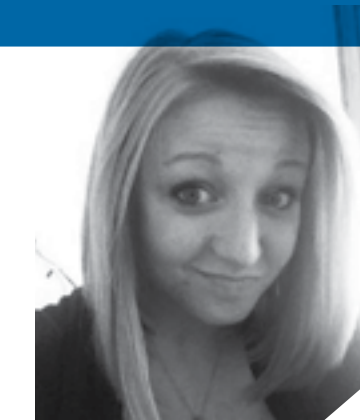
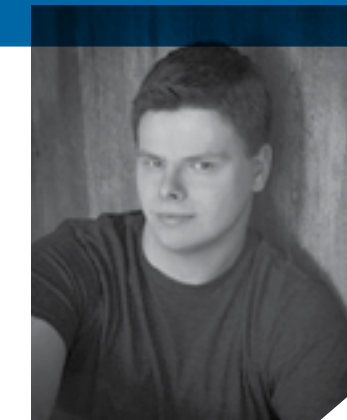
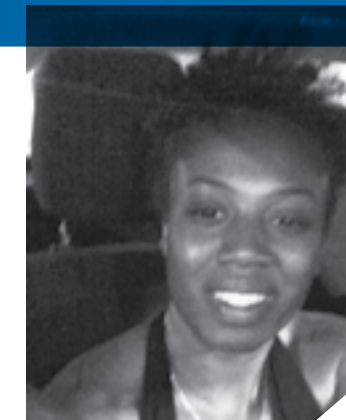
of all things as the image dissolves at the conclusion of the event."

This project was made possible through the Maureen Wenker Artist in Residence fund, which was created in memory of a Springer supporter and alumni parent.

L to R: Alex, Betz, CJ Elfers, Aaron Ernst, Catherine Carroll



L to R: Brittany Edwards Lewis, Greg Brugger, Liz Bowers, Carl Pretorius





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An Evening as a Child

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Other fabulous prizes:

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SiriusXM satellite radio. Or choose an
\$8,000 cash prize. With support from
Borchherding Buick GMC.

