

# news & views

A PUBLICATION OF SPRINGER SCHOOL AND CENTER



## 2020 Celebration to Leaf Guests Smiling

Plans are underway for the 2020 edition of *A Springer Celebration!* For this year's event, themed The Giving Tree, we'll be going back to our roots with our guest speaker for the evening, alumnus Nick Lefke. Nick's story will leaf you smiling as he talks about how Springer gave him the tools to start his own tree trimming business – a venture that has shot up and blossomed into both a large-scale tree service and a disaster relief company.

Event Co-Chairs Cecily Fassler and Peter Frey have reserved the Music Hall Ballroom for this year's Celebration, to be held on Thursday, May 7, 2020. Emceed by FOX19 NOW Sports Director Joe Danneman, the evening will include cocktails, dinner, and silent and live auctions. Parent Jenni Ward will serve as Auction Chair for this fun event that you won't want to miss!

"I am very excited to co-chair the Springer Celebration with Peter," said Cecily. "Last year he threw such an amazing event that I am honored to be a part of building on it. We have quite a few new and exciting things in store for the event!"

For more information, visit [bidpal.net/givingtree](http://bidpal.net/givingtree).



CELEBRATION SPEAKER ALUMNUS NICK LEFKE

## Center Hosts Film Screening and Math Expert

This fall, Springer's Center hosted two events for the public that raised awareness of learning disabilities and offered strategies for managing them.

To kick off LD Awareness and ADHD Awareness Months in October, Springer hosted more than 200 people at a screening of a documentary film that explores the lives of young adults

living with a learning disability or ADHD. *Normal Isn't Real: Succeeding with Learning Disabilities and ADHD* was produced by award-winning filmmaker Kryss Kornmeier and was shown at Children's Hospital's Sabin Auditorium.

After the film, a panel of four Springer alumni, introduced by Springer alum and Trustee Casey Boland, fielded questions from the audience. The panel included Springer Trustee Mike Wright, Celebration 2019 Speaker Michael Schulte, photographer Tatiana Weedman and Megan Lowe, a PhD student at Miami University. Conversation was lively, with a number of Springer alumni in the audience of 200, and the panelists shared openly about their challenges and successes.

Additionally, in November math expert Marilyn Zecher, MA, CALT, shared strategies and tools for multisensory math instruction. Parents attended an evening program and professionals took part in a full-day workshop. Attendees at the professional program were led in assembling tools for teaching math using beads, string, straws and dice. Marilyn demonstrated memory strategies and methods for engaging math learners kinesthetically.

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FACILITATOR CASEY BOLAND AND ALUMNI PANELISTS MEGAN LOWE, MICHAEL SCHULTE, TATIANA WEEDMAN AND MIKE WRIGHT

## From Our Executive Director

What a year it has been so far! From art exhibits in China to gathering food donations for Montgomery Food Share, Springer has been involved in a wonderful array of activity this year. This issue of News & Views is packed with stories about student experiences, community events and our alumni. It helps me appreciate to an even greater degree just how dynamic our organization truly is.

Many know that in addition to our school we serve a broader purpose outside of our own four walls. Springer's mission, to empower students with learning disabilities to lead successful lives, is our beacon as well as our purpose. Our mission reminds us who we are and tells us where we're going. It is our calling to not only reach those students who attend our school, but also to offer that knowledge to other students, parents, professionals and organizations in our community. This work is accomplished as part of our namesake: This is the purpose of our Center.

Springer's Center seeks to help others in our region learn more about learning disabilities. Programs are offered through-

out the year at other schools, universities and on our campus. Over 1,000 people each year build their knowledge and awareness of learning disabilities by attending Center programs. We have had a great year reaching people through programs, and there is so much more ahead!

Please feel free to join us at one of the events listed below. We have had a great year reaching people – be it through Center programs or with the activities in our School that you will read about in this version of News & Views. Thank you, as always, for being part of our community!

All my best,



**Brett T. Marcoux**  
Executive Director

### Upcoming Center Programs Hosted at Springer School and Center

**Pathway to College Admission for Students with LD/ADHD** - Program for parents

Wednesday, February 19, 6:30 to 8:00 pm

**Summer Skills / Reading Comprehension** - Program for parents

Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 to 8:00 pm

**Strategies for the General Education Teacher:**

**Supporting Students with ADHD and Executive Function Challenges** - Program for Professionals

Friday, May 8, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

## 10 Ways You Can Leave a Springer Legacy



1

Call to talk with Springer about your legacy plans for Springer.



2

Speak with Springer's estate attorney to start your estate plans.



3

Set up a Charitable Remainder Trust or Charitable Lead Trust with Springer as the beneficiary



4

Designate a percentage or an amount of your assets to Springer.



5

Consider giving stocks, bonds and CDs.



6

Name Springer as the beneficiary of your IRA or pension plan.



7

Name Springer as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy.



8

Leave a gift in your will for Springer



9

Remember deceased loved ones with a memorial gift to Springer.



10

Encourage family members and friends who have seen the impact of Springer to leave a gift.





MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER SHARON FROST PLAYS FOOTBALL WITH STUDENTS // SCOTT STOLL TALKS WITH GREEN TEAM STUDENTS AT LUNCHTIME



## Man Who Cycled the World Launches Be Your Best Self Week

Author and speaker Scott Stoll lived the life of an action hero. Scott shared with Springer students the stories of his adventures during four years riding a bicycle around the world. He visited Springer to kick off Be Your Best Self Week for 2019.

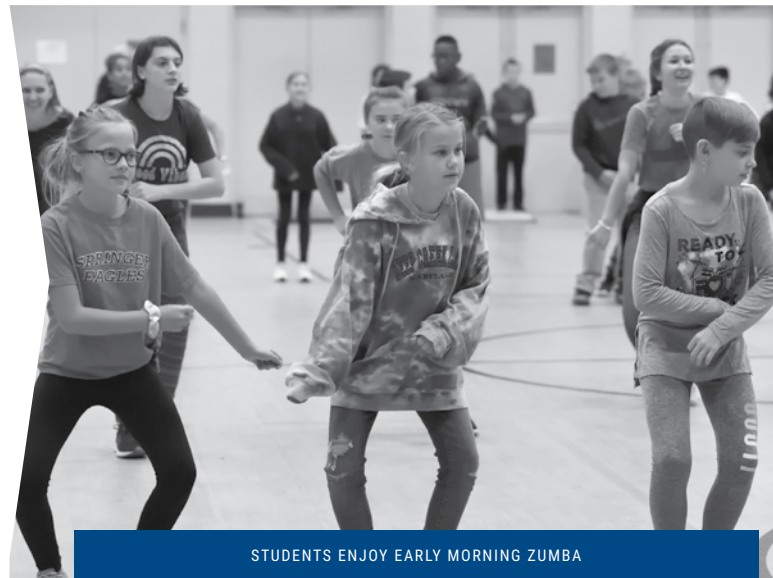
"If I could do anything, what would I do?" That was the question that prompted Scott's quest to ride around the world, a trek that included 32,344 miles, 59 countries, six continents, and a swim across a river to find a crocodile on the opposite bank. He challenged students to ask themselves the same question and to follow their dreams as he shared photos of his adventures during an assembly. Scott also visited classrooms to talk with students and enjoyed lunch with Green Team students.

Other activities during Be Your Best Self Week included morning Zumba sessions with Instructional Assistant and Springer alum Marika Huelskamp, callisthenic exercises in classrooms led by Physical Education Teacher Mark Phelps, and the popular "Play with Staff Day," when adults join students on the playground for recess. Army E-4 Specialist Jake McLaughlin visited Springer on Wednesday morning, conducting an exercise "boot camp" for willing students.

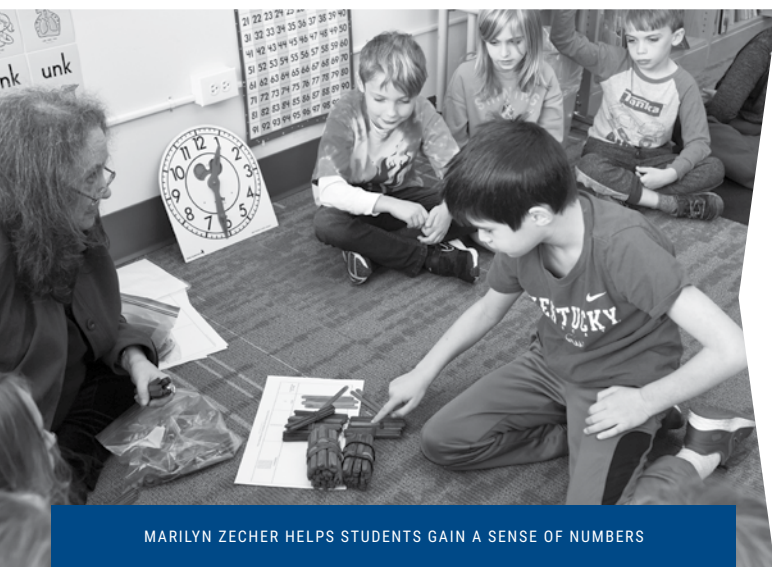
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During her visit, Marilyn spent a day with Springer students, applying her methods in classrooms with students of all ages. Marilyn specializes in evidence-based methods and interventions for all students, but which are especially effective with students having learning difficulties in the fields of mathematics and study skills.

In its fourth year, Be Your Best Self Week was designed by Mark Phelps and former Assistant Principal Siobhan Taylor to promote wellness, good nutrition, physical fitness and connections among students and staff.



STUDENTS ENJOY EARLY MORNING ZUMBA

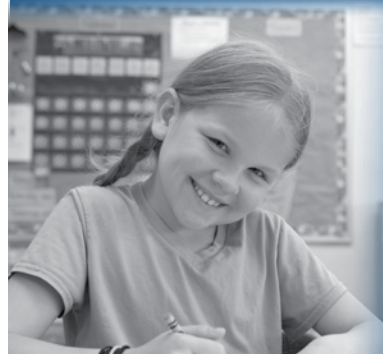


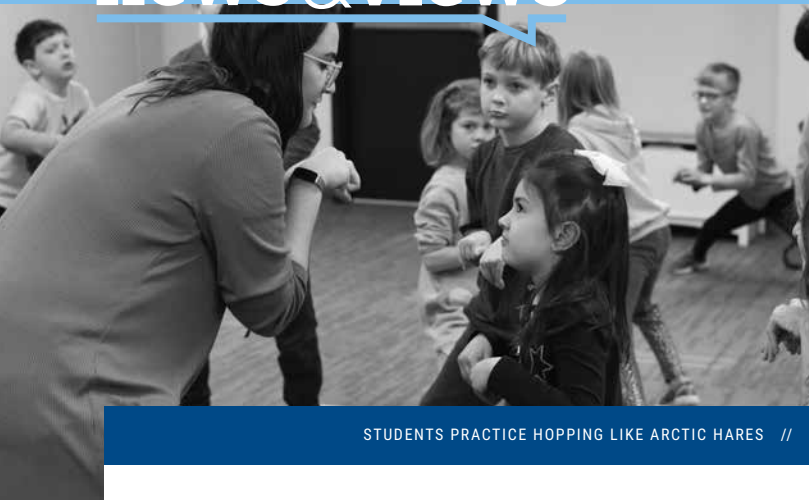
MARILYN ZECHER HELPS STUDENTS GAIN A SENSE OF NUMBERS

## Adventures in Summer Learning

Imagine where one summer can take you!

Application information now available at [www.springer-ld.org/summer](http://www.springer-ld.org/summer).





STUDENTS PRACTICE HOPPING LIKE ARCTIC HARES // REENACTING THE 2002 OLYMPIC SPEED SKATING PILE-UP



## Youngest Students Enjoy Theater Residency

The winter world came to life on Springer's stage on December 19, when Green Department students gave performances culminating a three-day theater residency with actor, artist and storyteller Rae Buchanan.

Rae worked with each classroom of first through third graders to prepare sketches in which students portrayed the action in recorded narrations. Mrs. Kessen's students appeared as various arctic animals, depicting the drama of life in the arctic as wary Snowshoe Hares, silent Snowy Owls and snarling Arctic Foxes.

*"The way the Springer students embraced this experience was amazing!"*

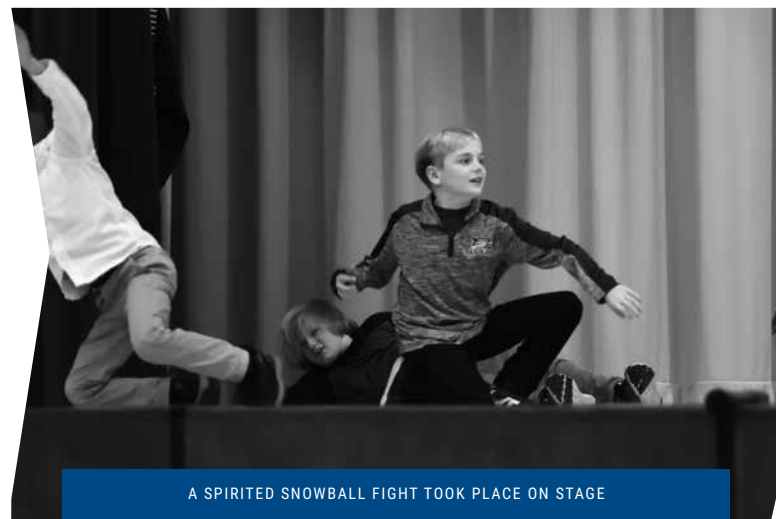
— ACTOR IN RESIDENCE RAE BUCHANAN

Mrs. Casey's students reenacted memorable moments from the Winter Olympics. Scenes included the 1948 oversight when the United States accidentally sent two ice hockey teams, only to have both disqualified from competition, and the 2002 pile-up that knocked Apolo Ohno out of the speed skating competition. Both were performed by students in graceful, dramatic slow motion.

The students in Mrs. Walton's class dramatized all the fun of a snow day, from the excitement of waking up to a snow-covered

world to the fun of sledding and snowman building. The performance ended with students caught in a raucous snowball fight.

"The thing that will stick with me the most about the theater residency is the bravery, spunk, and hard work of all the students!" said Rae. "From day one they gave their everything to the show, and I could not be more proud of the work they did. I travel to many different schools, but the way the Springer students embraced this experience was amazing."



A SPIRITED SNOWBALL FIGHT TOOK PLACE ON STAGE

## Students and Staff Support Montgomery Food Share



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PASS ALONG DONATIONS

On December 19, a human train of students and faculty stretching around the gym and through the library transported 1,020 pounds of food and personal care items to a waiting truck. Food and supplies were donated to Montgomery Food Share, a local nonprofit combatting hunger in Cincinnati. Each December, Springer's Student Council organizes a contributory activity, and this year's donations to the Montgomery organization were sent on to the Freestore Foodbank in Over-the-Rhine.

Montgomery Food Share is the brainchild of Springer Instructional Assistant Wendy New who launched the nonprofit in 2013 among her neighbors. Since then, MFS has collected 88 tons of food, the equivalent of 146,000 meals. "Springer's contribution this year will provide 850 meals for food insecure individuals in our area," said Wendy. "Well done, Springer! As always, we have shown generosity of spirit at this time of year."





PASSERSBY VIEW ARTWORK AT THE FRIENDLY CITIES EXHIBIT IN CHINA // ORGANIZER JOSEPH HAMRICK STANDS BEFORE DISPLAY OF SPRINGER ARTWORK

## Springer Student Art Displayed in China

In October, the artwork of several students from Springer School and Center was displayed in the Friendly Cities Painting Exhibition in Liuzhou, China. The exhibition was organized through the Sister City Association with the aim of deepening mutual understanding between children of China and other countries, and strengthening friendship between Liuzhou and other member cities. Artwork by children from Cincinnati, Muntinlupa City of the Philippines, Bandung City of Indonesia and Ami Town of Japan, was displayed in an outdoor location in Liuzhou.

Joseph Hamrick, Chairman of the Cincinnati-Liuzhou Sister City Committee, gathered and organized photographed artwork

from Cincinnati and sent the photos to China. He traveled to Liuzhou to view the exhibition and take part in an opening ceremony. "People who viewed the exhibition were especially impressed with the works from Cincinnati students," said Hamrick.

The Springer students whose artwork was chosen for the exhibit are Eden Arvay, Nic Babb, Abby Beutel, Owen Boone, Luca Centurion, Alex Dandridge, Bill Fitzpatrick, Lily Harper, Max Holm, Nina Jackson, Owen Lawler, Grady Lemmerman, Journey Peterson, Casey Putnick, Savannah Tarrab, and Faye Wolfson. Their works were created in the classroom of Springer Art Teacher Corrinne Thaler.

## ACTION Team Challenges Perspectives

Springer's staff of 71 were set loose on the city of Cincinnati in August. They were sent on a "scavenger hunt" by Springer's ACTION Team, looking for indications of perspectives different from their own. Divided into teams, staffers searched for examples of public art, cultural references, social service agencies, places of worship, and many other goals. Each team was given a small amount of money to use for transportation, or for any other use they decided upon.

As luck would have it, several teams ran across Springer alumni as they went about their task. Many experienced new perspectives as they traveled in different ways and visited locations new to them. Several groups saw the purpose of a public library in a new way when they visited the Main Branch on Vine Street.

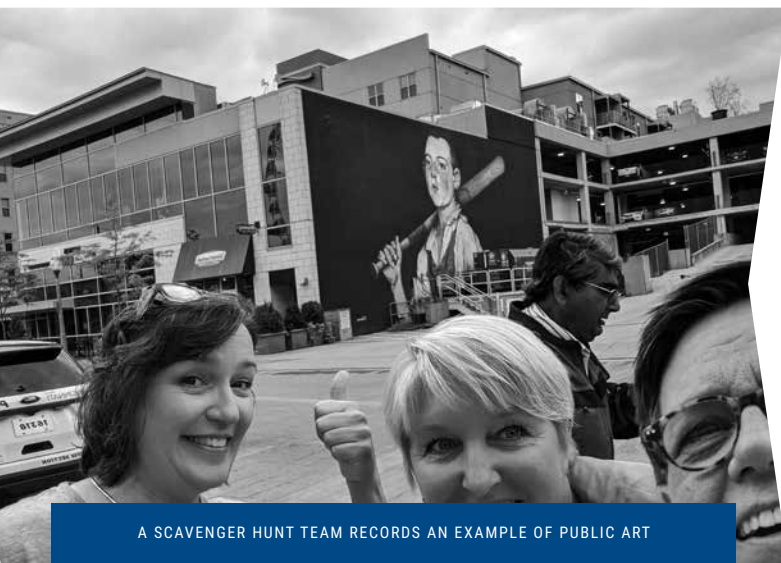
A group led by Springer employee Barbara Hunter passed alumna L. J. Hogue on the street. He stopped in his tracks, turned, and gave Barbara a big hug. "L. J.'s response speaks volumes about the impact Springer has on students," said Barbara. "Because of his experience with Springer faculty, L. J. is now planning a career in teaching."

The ACTION Team (Advancing Community Through Inclusive Opportunities and iNformation) was launched in 2017 with the goal of exploring with the staff issues of multiculturalism and inclusion. This staff development opportunity was supported by the Shelly Weisbacher Fund for Professional Development.

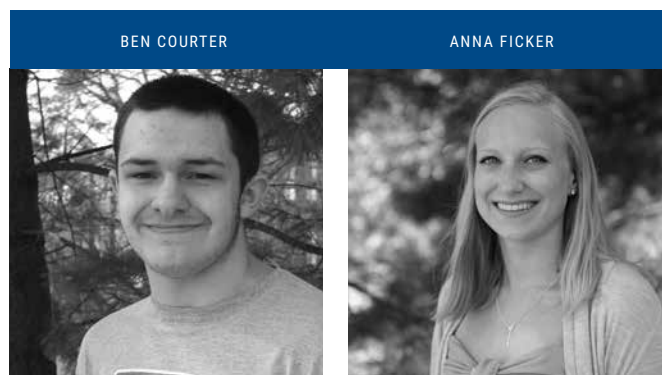
## Alumni Connections

**Ben Courter '17** is a junior at Turpin High School where he is a member of the Swim Team and the Digital Imaging Club. Ben plans to join the Navy after high school.

**Anna Ficker '11** attended St. Ursula Academy and Ohio Dominican University. She graduated from Ohio Dominican in 2019 with a degree in marketing. Anna played volleyball throughout high school and college. In the summer of 2018, she studied literature in London for three weeks.



A SCAVENGER HUNT TEAM RECORDS AN EXAMPLE OF PUBLIC ART



BEN COURTER

ANNA FICKER

# Marine Iguana



LOCAL AUTHOR MARY KAY CARSON SHARES PICTURES OF "WEIRD ANIMALS" WITH STUDENTS

## Author Mary Kay Carson Engages Students of All Ages

Local author Mary Kay Carson entranced students with stories of marine iguanas that deal with excess salt by spraying it on their heads where it crystalizes into a sparkling crown. Echo-location by bats was another popular topic in November, when the author of non-fiction books for children shared some of her books with students.

*"It was inspiring to see the students so engaged with our visiting author!"*

— LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST AMANDA FORBES

Lower School students enjoyed Mary Kay's presentation on unusual animals, which featured fish with extravagant red lips, color-changing cuttlefish and red-faced monkeys. She chal-

lenged the students to think about how the animals' peculiarities might help them survive.

The presentation for Middle School students focused on endangered animals such as bats and rhinos. Mary Kay talked about the efforts scientists are making to prevent the animals' extinction, and told success stories such as the erection of a fence at the opening of Carlsbad Cavern that keeps humans out but allows entrance and exit by bats.

"Mary Kay Carson captivated the students with fun and weird facts about animals," said Library Media Specialist Amanda Forbes. "The students also learned about her career as a writer and how fun researching can be. It was inspiring to see the students so engaged with our visiting author!"

Mary Kay has written more than fifty nonfiction children's books about wildlife, space, weather, nature and other science and social studies topics. Her most recent book, *Weird Animals*, was published in January, 2019.

## Alum Builds Springer a Long Jump Pit for Eagle Scout Project

Over the summer, 29 volunteers contributed their time and talents to the construction of a long jump pit for students at Springer School and Center. The project was the brain child of Bishop Fenwick High School sophomore Ryan Brensike, who attended Springer during grades 5 through 8.

In his ninth year of scouting, Ryan needed a project to complete requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout. He decided the project must benefit Springer. "Springer helped me a lot," said Ryan, "and I wanted to give back."

Springer Physical Education teacher Mark Phelps remembers Ryan as a member of the Springer track team. "With a successful Springer track career, Ryan knows how valuable it would be for the team to have a long jump pit on campus," he said. "This addition to our grounds will enable success for Springer students for years to come."

A member of the track team at Fenwick, Ryan submitted a proposal to Springer for the installation of a long jump pit on the school grounds. He met with Springer Business Director Mark Priest last spring to put plans into place, then worked with vol-

unteers to dig the pit, install wood framing around it, and fill it with a layer of dirt and then sand. "Ryan coordinated the project from start to finish," noted Mark, "and Springer complemented his work by installing a shot put and discus ring nearby."

With the completion of the long jump pit, Ryan has only to pass final board interviews to attain Eagle Scout rank.



RYAN BRENSIKE WITH MARK PHELPS AND MARK PRIEST





BARRETT BRANDENBURG SHOWS HIS WORK AND GABRIELLE MILES' FAMILY LOOKS ON AS SHE DEMONSTRATES TECHNOLOGY TOOLS AT "BE OUR GUEST DAY"

## Fall Activities Bring Community Together

Fall brings several opportunities for the Springer community to come together, to learn more about what happens on a typical day at Springer, and to get to know one another better.

This October's family picnic was held on a sunny Sunday, which encouraged games of soccer and playground activity. Around 200 families and staff members enjoyed sandwiches, sides and dessert as they chatted with friends old and new.

"The family picnic is such a wonderful opportunity for families and staff to build connections in a fun, casual way," said Middle School Teacher Sharon Frost. "I love seeing all the smiles and laughter on the students' face. It's a great way to kick off the school year!"

Additionally, Be Our Guest Day has been a Springer tradition for decades. Held on the day before Thanksgiving break, Be Our Guest Day provides an opportunity for grandparents and special guests to visit Springer and learn about the tools and strategies students use every day.

In the library, Lower School students and their guests wrote and drew pictures on large sheets of paper, depicting things for which they were thankful. They enjoyed snacks and a photo booth, and then the students selected books and read to their guests. They also spent time in their classrooms, sharing with guests the technology tools and strategies they have learned.

Middle School students had prepared presentations for their guests that demonstrated learning strategies used in their classrooms.



PARENTS ENJOY CONVERSATION AT FAMILY PICNIC

## Memorials and Tributes *(as of 1/20/20)*

### **In Honor of Barb Miller's Birthday**

Barbara and Greg Sherman

### **In Memory of Robbie Dimling**

Robert Dimling

### **In Memory of Jared Lorenzen**

Sally and Edward Kamphake

### **In Memory of Michael Quellman**

Sheila Wall and Ron Tatham

### **In Memory of Brent Teichman**

Bruce H. Allen, M.D.

### **In Memory of Donna Jo McLay**

John Dreyer

Constance and Karl Graham

Jennifer Hanson

Roger Higley

Vicky Johnston

Elizabeth and Kent Kochheiser

Susan and Donal McDaniel

Scott McLay, Sr.

Emily Miraldi

Jeff Rathkamp

Jerilynn and John Rathkamp

Suzy and Frank Schuster

Ann and Joe Tomaselli

Kate and Allan Williams



Springer School and Center  
2121 Madison Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45208  
513.871.6080  
www.springer-ld.org

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YOU'RE INVITED  
TO AN EVENING IN THE TREES

A Springer  
**CELEBRATION!**  
2020



*Date* THURSDAY, MAY 7

*Time* 6-9:30PM

*Location*

CINCINNATI MUSIC HALL

(1241 ELM ST.)

[BIDPAL.NET/GIVINGTREE](http://BIDPAL.NET/GIVINGTREE)