



Springer
School and Center

News & Views

A Publication of Springer School & Center

Take a Closer Look at... www.springerschoolandcenter.org

Today, there are many ways for a non-profit organization to communicate with its friends and family members. At Springer, we publish this newsletter for our donors, and send a number of weekly and monthly updates to parents. We also host events, mail letters, make phone calls, and generally keep in touch on a regular basis with everyone who is involved with our success.

In today's world of technology, it is also necessary to have a timely and informative web site. To this end, Springer staff has created a new web site that showcases our school and center.

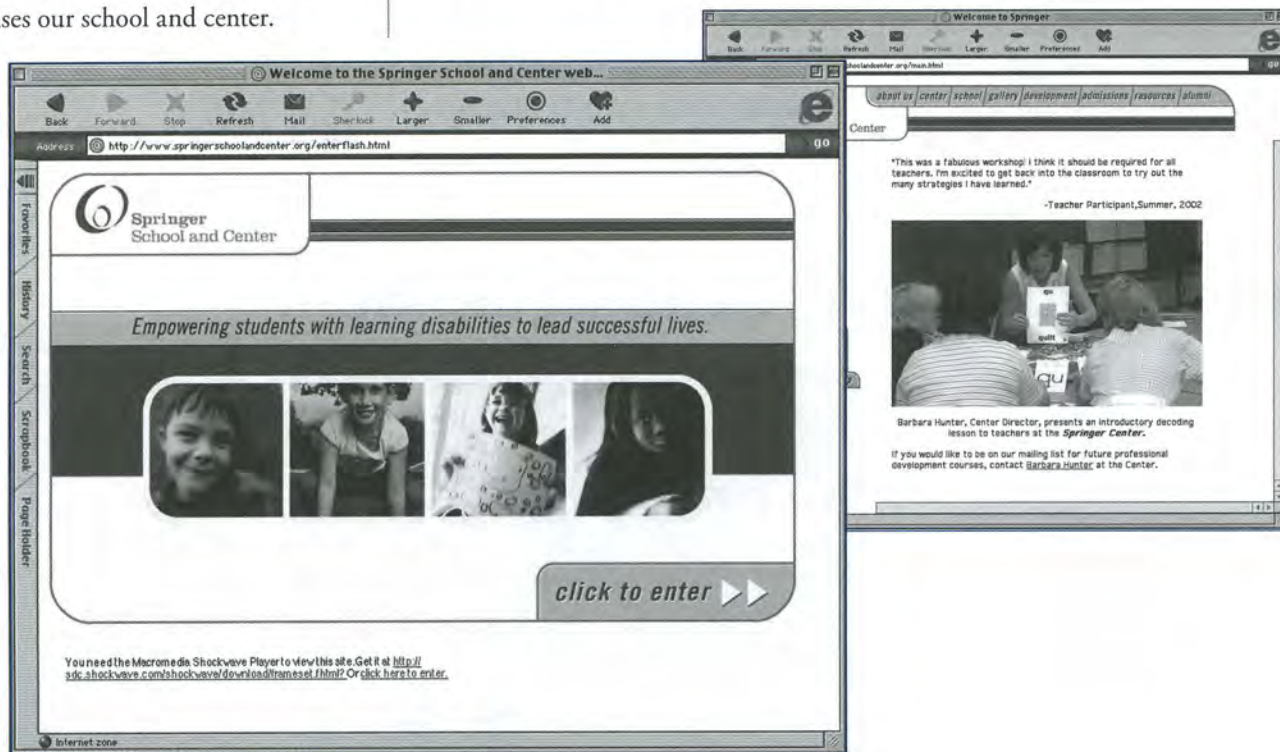
Prospective parents can contact admissions, teachers can find information about classes at the center, and individuals who are interested in supporting Springer can find the necessary information to make a gift. You can read News & Views and the annual report online and find photos that show our students involved in events and projects. The site also provides resources and links to the field of learning disabilities; Dr. Mel Levine's All Kinds of Minds, and the National Center for Learning Disabilities, to name just a few.

Summer 2002

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We are excited about our newest form of communication. We hope you will take some time to "surf" our site and let us know what you think.



Executive Director's Column

Shelly Weisbacher
Executive Director



Learning disabilities are seldom given attention in the media. However, this spring three wonderful events occurred. First, Dr. Mel Levine, a world-renowned pediatrician and expert on learning disabilities appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show. He and Ms. Winfrey spent the hour discussing how children learn and why some children despite average or above average ability fail in school. The program brought to the mainstream a most important message – children want to succeed in school and when they are not we must seek answers to their difficulties immediately.

Secondly, Dr. Levine's outstanding documentary, *Misunderstood Minds* aired on PBS stations. The documentary follows the course of five families over a three-year period as both parents and children come to understand and address the child's learning difficulties. As in life, not all the stories end as well as one might hope, but the viewer is left with a powerful understanding that the earlier we can intervene in a child's

school experience, the greater the likelihood for long term success.

Finally, for its May 13th issue, *Fortune* magazine's cover story was "The Dyslexic CEO". The article profiles the struggles of numerous highly successful CEOs including Charles Schwab, Richard Branson, and John Chambers. Reading these very personal profiles, one is awed and inspired by these folks who overcame their early failures and the labels others attached to them – stupid, dumb, and lazy. Yet, overcome they did with dazzling results. Their stories demonstrate that while learning disabilities are issues across the lifespan, they do not have to place limits on one's achievements.

For everyone who seeks to educate, to inform, and to support individuals affected by learning disabilities, we can be encouraged by these messages of hope and resilience. Much closer to home, we find further encouragement for the importance of our work in the graduate survey responses. The following are but a few samples of the many wonderful testaments to Springer and all who contribute to its success.

"You know all I can think of is how my parents and Springer School supported me during 1st through 6th grade.

My parents told me that they were worried that I was never going to graduate high school or I was never going to be able to read. But both my parents and Springer supported me through all of my difficult times. Now I go to one of the best engineering schools in the country. I am just really glad that I had Springer School there to support me."

"Springer has helped me find strength within myself. I've learned to not give up, even when times are rough. Also, Springer was a diverse school. This made me open to new and different ideas and people."

"Springer has given me much confidence in myself. I am going into my senior year in college, which is something I never thought I would be saying. I use to think that with a learning disability you don't get very far. Well Springer has shown me that I can get far in life as long as I work hard. I didn't realize how much I loved Springer and how much it has helped me until I got into high school."

"Springer has helped me find strength within myself."

Dater Funds Playground Equipment

Thanks to a very generous \$18,000 grant from the Charles H. Dater Foundation and an additional \$1,300 from the Springer Parent Association, phase II of the playground renovation is now complete. The enhanced play space offers many more options for children of varied motor skills and ages. Our students will enjoy the equipment for years to come.



Springer Alumni Update

Call the Alumni Office at 513.871.6080 ext. 232 or send e-mail to alumni@springer.hccanet.org with news of Springer alums.

Adam Blau '86 is attending Northern Kentucky University and doing silk screening.

David Blau '86 lists as his greatest accomplishments his daughter and a degree from Prescott College in May 2002 with a major in Therapeutic Programming and a minor in Education. He has used his skills in automotive mechanics both to support himself and his family as well as using it as a basis for his senior project entitled "Therapeutic Programming Through Automotive Repair and Maintenance."

Kathy Boggio LaCalameto '81 has a beautiful 2 1/2 year old daughter named Kaylee Rae. Kathy works for the Northwest School District.

Drew Farnham '97 is an honor roll student, an athlete and loves outdoor sports. He plays on basketball and golf teams and is active with the French club at Madeira High School.

Kristy Gruenemeier '94 has recently graduated from the College of Mount St. Joseph with a bachelor's degree in Recreational Therapy.

Emily Hawkins '91 graduated from Elon College with a degree in Psychology. After living aboard in Australia, attending John Casablanca's Model and Career Center, Emily currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia working as a model, actress and nanny. She enjoys traveling to see her friends, working out and reading.



Rosie Herman '93 will complete her Associates degree in general studies, with a focus in recreation management, from Indiana State University. She enjoys running, has completed the Flying Pig Marathon in Cincinnati and hopes to run in the 2003 Boston Marathon with her mom Laurie who is an instructional assistant at Springer.



Paul Krone '99 attends Cincinnati Country Day School where he was voted most valuable player for the swim team this year. He swims with the Cincinnati Marlins and earned a varsity letter in cross country track. Paul also teaches Sunday school at Indian Hill Church and is a volunteer at Stepping Stones.

Paul Kuhn '01 made First Honors during his first two quarters at St. Xavier High School.



Andrew Lockwood '82 earned degrees from the Culinary Institute of America and the New England Culinary Institute in culinary arts and hospitality management. He is currently a manager for Sodexo at Mercy Hospital in Cin-

cinnati. Andrew is engaged to be married to Jordan Rutledge.



Roger Long '94 is a 2001 graduate of St. Xavier High School where he played varsity lacrosse and was a mentor to incoming students. Roger has just completed his first year at Miami University majoring in business administration.

Mark Tittel '86 attended Cincinnati State and the University of Cincinnati. He works for IntraNet, a computer company.



Mitch Weisberger '88 attended Columbus State College and the University of Cincinnati as well as studying and working a year in Israel at Kibbutz Yavneh. He is an electrician with Weisberger Electronics. Mitch is married to Tracy Kabakoff Weisberger, and they are expecting their first child.



Sam Wilson '99 has completed 8th grade at Cincinnati Country Day School. He enjoys sports of all kinds.

Outstanding Achievers are Honored

Springer School and Center knows from thirty years of research and hard work that children can learn and can enjoy learning if the right strategies are used to teach them. At no time is that more apparent than at Springer's annual meeting when graduates are honored with the Outstanding Achiever Award. This award recognizes accomplishments in academics, arts, athletics, career paths, and community service.

Rob Kramer, today, is a successful business owner, but his memories of academic life are not the best, as he struggled to learn in spite of his learning disabilities. Rob's music ability garnered him a musical theatre scholarship to Otterbein College where he received a BA in communications. During a stint in New York, while trying to start a career in the theatre, Rob discovered personal training.



Presently, Rob is a personal trainer and owner of Robert Kramer Personal Fitness in Madeira. He credits the love and commitment of his parents to his success, and his own persistence in always wanting to "get things right." Rob continues to give back by donating many hours of personal training to area schools for fund-raising purposes. Also, he has collected hundreds of holiday gifts from his clients for St. John's Social Services in Over the Rhine.

Mimi Cooper graduated from Springer in 1991 and went on to pursue her high school education at Indian Hill High School. There she excelled in track and soccer, making the all-city soccer team in her senior year. The letter she wrote for college admission was published in *Their World* magazine, a publication of the National Center for Learning Disabilities. In the letter Mimi described her initial fears at coming to Springer and how the faculty pushed her to do things she would never have thought of doing.



Mimi graduated from Butler University in 1995 with a degree in elementary education and is currently completing a master's degree in school counseling. Her love of children and volunteer spirit are evident by her soccer coaching for Pike Township in Indianapolis, kindergarten tutoring and junior kindergarten teaching.

Miriam Lipson is currently a student at Tulane University, majoring in communication with a minor in media arts. Miriam, who graduated from Springer in 1991, went to Seven Hills School where she was an honor roll student and received the Carol M. Brestel Award, an overall achievement award presented to a senior at Seven Hills.

Miriam has been awarded Tulane's 2002 Emerging Student Leader Award and received the Urban Village Community Service Award in 2001. She will be the 2002-2003 Vice Chair of Volunteers and Community Relations for the Community Action Council of Tulane University Students. In 2001, Miriam completed summer course work with Tulane professors in the public relations and communication departments at the University of West Indies, Barbados.



Memorial & Tribute Gifts

Thank you to the following friends of Springer School and Center who recently made Memorial or Tribute gifts from March 2002 to June 2002.

Memorials

In memory of Clara Arling

Liz Wenker

In memory of Richard Bath

Bob and Carol Connors

In memory of Sima Berenson

Liz Wenker

In memory of Johanna Bernholt

Liz Wenker

In memory of Charles Boylan

Bob and Carol Connors

In memory of Maria Gonzalez-Bonet

Bob and Carol Connors

In memory of Philip Harten

Staff of Cosmetic and Implant

Dental Center

In memory of Amanda Heisler

Bruce H. Allen, M.D.

In memory of Lorena Hillebrand

Bernie and Cheryl Blau

In memory of Anna M. Kilmer

Bernie and Cheryl Blau

In memory of Margaret Mahin

Bob and Joy Thaler and family

In memory of Madeleine Niebling

Liz Wenker

In memory of Mrs. Josephine

Ogozalek

Jack and Joyce Steinman

In memory of John Penote

Bob and Carol Connors

In memory of Len Simion

Brad Barbera, Joan M. Gordon,

Frank Kofron, Charles Proctor, Mary Schwartz, David Story, Pam Witt, The Andrew Jergens Company, and the Psychology Department and Developmental Disabilities Division of Children's Hospital Medical Center

In memory of Judith Mary Wonkum

Bernie and Cheryl Blau

In memory of Sandra Young

Arebba B. Maxwell

Tributes

In honor of Ron Tatham

QualiData Research Inc.

To learn more about Springer School and Center's Memorial and Tribute Gifts Program, please call the Development Office at 513.871.6080 ext. 213.

Spring Artist-In-Residence

Upper School students celebrated their creativity and this year's All School Quest theme of literature with Artist-in-Residence, Kate Kern. As a local artist who specializes in bookmaking, Ms. Kern helped the students explore books from a different perspective, that of an art form.

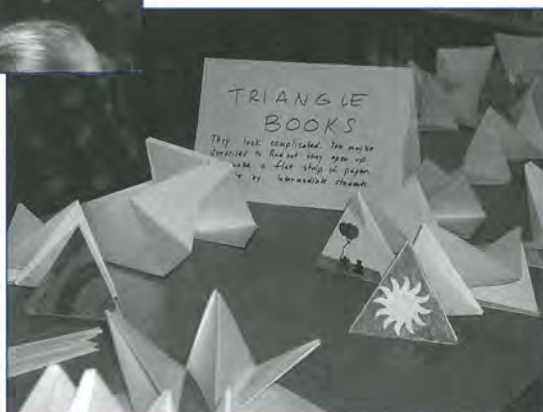
During one session of this spring's artist-in-residence program, Ms. Kern brought in poet Terri Ford to work with students in crafting their own poems. Through touch, sight and smell, and drawing the students were asked to describe an object. From their descriptions they developed simple poems. Some of the students included these poems in their books.

Being a parent of two Springer graduates, Ms. Kern is naturally interested in learning disabilities. She has received training from the International Dyslexia Association, and has given lectures to

teachers and parents on visual arts and learning disabilities. Her philosophy on working with children is to trust that each child is an artist, and let them trust their own instincts about their artwork. She wants the students to feel that everyone is capable of making great art.

Through the process of making their artist's books the students also developed visual planning skills, abstract and critical thinking, exercised motor skills and practiced their writing and verbal skills. During the exhibition of their completed books, the upper school students gave presentations to fellow students, family members and Springer trustees on the process of making various types of books, how to read or view the books and what their books meant to them.

This project was funded through the Maureen Wenker Artist-in-Residence Fund.



Class of 2002



Springer School and Center presents its graduating class of 2002. Our students have worked hard to embrace new ways of dealing with their learning disabilities. They are now ready and well prepared to return to mainstream classrooms throughout the Greater Cincinnati area. Not only are they better equipped with strategies for learning, they have also developed the skills to become advocates for their own learning process. Congratulations to our students, their families, and Springer staff for a job well done!

Nathaniel Huntly Adams –
Cincinnati Country Day School
John T. Allendorf –
Dater Montessori School
Daniel J. Azbill –
Hopewell Junior School
Landen Arnold –
Westminster School of Nashville
Parker William Baldwin –
Sycamore Junior High School
Daniel M. Benedetti –
Purcell Marian High School
Michelle Blowers –
Mariemont Junior High School
Robert Austin Brashear –
Adair County Middle School
Collin Breimeier – Marburn Academy
Blake Burns – Nagel Middle School
Timothy R. Campbell –
McNicholas High School
Emily Castellini – St. Ursula Villa
Adam R. Chandler –
Purcell Marian High School
Jared Connelly -
Purcell Marian High School
Norman Cook –
Norwood Middle School
Hope S. Curran –
Miami Valley Christian School

Leah S. Curran –
Miami Valley Christian School
David Lee Eichert –
St. Paul Lutheran School
Dylin Forrest Fischer -
Cincinnati Country Day School
Chrislyne Emily Fleischmann –
Sellman Middle School
Diana Fogwell – Anderson High School
Andy Gorman –
Roger Bacon High School
Sarah Griesinger –
Sycamore Junior High School
Ayal Shachar Gruber –
South Side Middle School
Emmet Maxwell Grummich –
Rapid Run Middle School
Mackenzie Elliot Hamm –
Loveland High School
Danielle Nicole Hardy –
St. Ursula Academy
S. Elliot Harkness -
Cincinnati Country Day School
Mary Kate Hassett -
Mariemont Junior High School
Jack A. Hemmer II –
St. Xavier High School
Lauren Catherine Jackson –
Loveland Intermediate School
Eric Jacques -
Purcell Marian High School
Mitchell Allen Jett –
Turkeyfoot Middle School
Blake Edward Kelmar –
Richmond, Virginia
Sara Mathena – Taylor High School
Coombs McCaslin – Seven Hills School
Brittany Lyn McGuire –
Little Miami Junior High School
Sean Patrick McGuire –
Little Miami Junior High School
Alex McMahan –
J.F. Burns Elementary School

Maura C. McMahon –
School for Creative & Performing Arts
Hunter Mindrum -
Mariemont Junior High School
Matthew Thomas Molloy –
Loveland Middle School
Melissa H. Ott –
Indian Hill Middle School
William T. Petty – Homeschool
Michael Keith Pryse –
Highlands High School
Kurt Robert Raver –
Anderson High School
Steven Andrew Rohdenburg -
Loveland Middle School
Joe Rohm – Mt. Lebanon High School
Christina Johnston Ryall –
Mariemont High School
John Sallee – Mercy Montessori Center
Eric Schmuelling -
Purcell Marian High School
Michael Skeels –
Columbia Elementary School
Nicole Smith – Undecided
Ashley Nicole Soldano –
Cornerstone Montessori School
Brian Bradley Staud –
Our Lady of Lourdes School
Alex Steele –
Hammersville Elementary School
Norma Renee Stone – Homeschool
Sarah Catherine Swart -
Purcell Marian High School
Michiko Margaret Takahashi –
Freedom Elementary School
Justin Joseph Tasset –
Sycamore Junior High School
Steven Paul Turton – Homeschool
Annette Mutete Wambua –
Princeton High School
Halley Anders York –
Wyoming Middle School
Keir Dylan Zangrando – Trinity School
Gabriel Zelazny –
Madeira Junior/Senior High School

Springer Parent Association

Reflections on the year by Mary Burdsall, SPA President

Working hand in hand with parents, staff and students, the members of the Springer Parent Association (SPA) once again provided a year of support, appreciation and good humor to everyone at Springer. We sold Spiritwear, holiday gift-wrap and SCRIP certificates, hosted the annual Bike Hike, Order Out Day, and a holiday gift shop for the students. Through the wonderful support and generosity of our families we were able to purchase laser printers, digital cameras, a tv/vcr for the second floor, additional instruments for the music room, and new books and a small copier for

the library. We also sponsored a parent education program and visiting author Rick Sowash.

In appreciation of our wonderful Springer staff, we hosted a week of lunches for them in the spring and made sure they each had a gift certificate from Lazarus for the holidays. While SPA is an integral part of Springer, our success would not be possible without the fabulous support of our volunteers, program officers, families, and especially Springer staff and trustees.

2001-2002 SPA Officers

Lynn Harkness
Treasurer

Wendy Zangrando
Recording Secretary

Robin Adams
*Vice President,
Classroom Programs*

Toni Fleischmann
Vice President, Fundraising

Cathy Barrett
*Vice president,
School-Wide Programs*

Linda Lovett
Immediate Past President

Bolan Scholarship Awards

Christina Ryall from the Upper School and Mitchell Jett from the Intermediate level were named the 2002 Bolan Scholarship Award recipients. The award recognizes graduating students who demonstrate an understanding of their learning disability, apply the strategies

learned at Springer, display a positive attitude, demonstrate leadership and show concern for others. The award provides each graduate with a scholarship to offset future educational costs.

This year the Bolan Scholarships were dedicated to the memories of Peter Bolan and Danielle Hater. The Bolan family established this award in memory of Mr. Bolan in 1988. Mr. Bolan was the father of a Springer graduate and a great supporter of the school.

Danielle Hater received the Bolan Scholarship award in 1996. This spring, at the age of 19, she lost her battle with a rare form of bone cancer. Throughout her illness, she demonstrated those very same qualities that had caused Springer

to honor her in 1996 – she told her family that she was a survivor, and that maybe she would not beat the cancer but she would not let it get the best of her. That she was going to live fully right to the end which she did with grace and good humor.



Margaret Bolan and Springer Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher present the Bolan Scholarship award to Mitchell Jett.



Christina Ryall and Mitchell Jett, 2002 Bolan Scholarship Recipients



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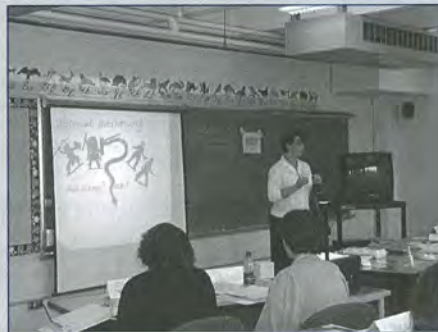
Parents of grads: If this publication is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please notify the alumni office of his/her new mailing address.

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STEPS—A Success for Area Teachers

Springer Center began the summer by offering its week-long professional development seminar, Steps to Success at the Seton Parent/Professional Archdiocese Resource Center (SPARC) and a second week at the Springer School and Center campus. Educators, counselors and administrators gained a better understanding of how to identify breakdowns that occur in student learning and implement research-based, best practices to build strategies and interventions that ensure every student has the opportunity to be a successful learner.

Both sessions of Steps to Success were filled with dedicated professionals committed to making a difference in their students' lives. Their thoughtful study and participation was evidence of their dedication. We at Springer School and Center applaud them!



“What a valuable experience! I am taking away so many ideas and techniques that I will use in my classroom.”

“This was an excellent workshop – presented in an organized, cohesive manner. The practical applications for a large classroom or small group setting were also extremely helpful.”

“This was a fabulous workshop! I think it should be required for all teachers. I’m excited to get back into the classroom to try out the many strategies I have learned.”