



Here's to Henry!

Fall 2003

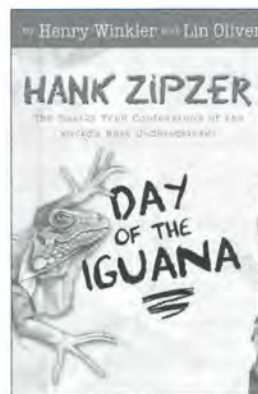
Henry Winkler experienced first-hand the struggles of being a child with learning disabilities. In an interview with the National Center for Learning Disabilities Henry shared, "School was very difficult for me, and very painful. School and I were not made for each other. No

*We are pleased
to announce that
the Spirit of
Springer Award will
be presented
to Henry Winkler*

one knew what a learning disability was back then, so everyone just said to me, 'Oh, you're funny, and you're verbal and you seem so smart, but you do so poorly in class. It must be that you're lazy.' And other people would say to me, 'No, you're just stupid.'" Henry's learning disabilities weren't diagnosed until he was in his thirties. In school, Henry had trouble with reading, spelling, and math. Yet he went on to receive his B.A. degree from Emerson College where he majored in drama and studied child psychology and was awarded a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Yale School of Drama.

Well known in television, motion pictures and theater, Henry's outstanding career has been acknowledged with, to name a few, the prestigious Humanitas Prize, an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Actor, an Emmy award for Best Children's Program, a Blockbuster Award nomination as Favorite Supporting Actor, two Golden Globe Awards for Best Actor in a Comedy Series and one for Best Actor, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, international star status, and his jacket from Happy Days has hung in the Smithsonian since February 13, 1980 confirming the status of The Fonzo as an American pop-cultural icon.

In addition to his current work as Executive Producer of Hollywood



Squares, Henry has most recently been a writer, working on a series of four novels with Lin Oliver entitled *Hank Zipzer*:

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- 2 Executive Director's Column, Nominate an Outstanding Achiever
- 3 Lunch & Conversation With Congressman Rob Portman, Springer Announces New Trustees and Board Officers for 2003-2004 School Year
- 4 Center Programs Underway
- 5 Students Read And Respond To Books By Henry Winkler
- 6 Springer Alumni Update, Memorial & Tribute Gifts
- 7 The SPA - An Integral Part Of Springer, Grant Provides New Pottery Wheels for Art Program
- 8 Save the Date!

The Mostly True Confessions of the World's Best Under-Achiever. The books are inspired by Henry's struggle throughout his education due to his learning challenges. The main character of the book series, Hank, is an imaginative fourth grader with dyslexia. *Niagara Falls or Does It?* and *I Got a D in Salami* were released in May 2002. The third book, *Day of the Iguana*, came out in September, 2003 and the fourth book is in process. There will be a total of 10 books.

We are pleased to announce that the Spirit of Springer Award will be presented to Henry Winkler at the annual event by Tom Bacher, first recipient

continued on pg. 4

Executive Director's Column

Shelly Weisbacher
Executive Director



Recently someone asked, "How do you measure the success of your students and your program?" I sensed the person asking the question anticipated a response based on statistics and percentages perhaps derived from proficiency testing or some other standardized measures.

"How do you measure the success of your students and your program?"

With so much press about high stakes testing, one can easily understand why such a response would be expected. Although standardized assessments are part of the way we evaluate student progress and program effectiveness, they fall far short as measurements of success. So,

how do we measure success?

The parents of one of our primary students would tell you that success is their child, who had never expressed the desire to read anything, announcing he wanted to read one of his treasured books by himself. "I think I can read it" the young boy told his mom and indeed he could with surprisingly little assistance.

Or it might be the father of a graduate telling you how proud the entire family was when David graduated from high school. His son's significant learning disabilities had caused the father to wonder if David could achieve a high school diploma. And two years out of high school, David has found success with a landscaping firm and contemplates a future in which he has his own landscaping business.

And then, there is the Upper School student who recently published a personal advocacy statement detailing his learning issues: "There are three areas that impact my learning. They are memory, language and attention. I have found strategies that help me take in and remember information better. I would like to explain them

so you can help me be successful in my learning." He went on to give numerous examples within each area. For instance, to assist with memory difficulties, "It really helps me to have an example or format to remember how something should be done." Understanding and being able to articulate one's learning disabilities are significant benchmarks and certainly a measure of success.

Another parent of a 1999 graduate wrote to tell us of her son's accomplishments including his recent induction into the National Honor Society. When her son entered Springer, he did not see himself as a capable learner. Not only did Springer teach him the strategies and skills he needed to achieve academically, but in his mother's words "The biggest thing Springer did was to give him his confidence back so that he was able to learn."

The graduates featured on page 6 provide a further glimpse into the many and varied ways our students achieve success. Our students succeed because many hands join together to provide a learning environment that meets the child where they are and builds from there. Measures of success at Springer are as individual and personal as each of the children we educate.

Nominate an Outstanding Achiever

Submit your application now for the 2004 Outstanding Achiever Award. This annual award honors Springer graduates who have demonstrated leadership through their school, work, community or extracurricular activities.

Last year's recipients included individuals who have or are pursuing careers in business, law enforcement, and arts education. Community service ranged from work with the Anderson Township Fire Department and the Starfire Council

of Cincinnati to volunteer work at events benefitting the arts. They all share one common goal - to improve the world around them.

Honorees will be recognized at Springer's Annual Dinner held on May 10, 2004. Please call Springer's Communication Coordinator, Kim LaChance at 871-6080 ext. 228 to request a nomination form. Nominees should be high school age or older.

News and Views is published three times a year. For comments or questions, please call Kim LaChance at 513.871.6080 ext. 228 or e-mail at klachance@springer.hccanet.org.

Springer School and Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion or ethnic origin.

Accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States. Member, Ohio Association of Independent Schools.

Lunch & Conversation With Congressman Rob Portman

On Monday, November 10, a special luncheon was held for Reuben Springer Society members in recognition of their valuable contributions to Springer. The Society was established in 1995 to acknowledge leadership gifts to the Annual Fund.



Congressman Rob Portman

The informal gathering, held in the home of Springer board member, Sarah

Steinman and her husband, Steve, featured Congressman Rob Portman as guest speaker. Congressman Port-



Shelly Weisbacher and Eric Yeiser converse during the luncheon.

man served on the Springer Board of Trustees from 1991 to 2000. He spoke of Springer saying, "Springer provides so much help to our community, not only through the day school to individual students but to public schools as well

through the outreach of the center. The work they do is so important to the field of education."

While enjoying lunch, guests listened to Congressman Portman talk about education, the overall climate in Washington, and an update about the war in Iraq. Conversation and questions followed.

Commenting on the luncheon, Shelly Weisbacher said, "We so appreciate Rob joining us today. It made for a truly special event."



Mary Ann Mulcahey, Tony Simion and Gail Piraino get ready for lunch.

Springer Announces New Trustees and Board Officers for 2003-2004 School Year

Springer School and Center is pleased to welcome the following Trustees to its Board:



Mr. Robert Adams

Mr. Robert Adams is the retired Chief Operating Officer for Great American Financial Resources and Chairman and President of Great American Life Insurance. He is the founder of Salix, a document imaging company and serves on the Board of Great American Financial

Resources. Previously, Mr. Adams served as Chairman of the Bethesda Foundation, on the Miami University Business Advisory Council, and on the Million Dollar Roundtable Foundation Board. Mr. Adams believes, "Education is the backbone of our country, and I have experienced the benefit of caring people and programs which helped our son."



Dr. Sheila Wall

Dr. Sheila Wall, a psychiatrist in private practice, is the mother of two

Springer graduates. When asked about Springer's role in our community, Dr. Wall stated, "Springer provides an important and crucial service to children with learning disabilities and their families." Dr. Wall is a member of the American Psychiatric Association and the Ohio Psychiatric Association. She also serves as a participant in the American Psychiatric Association Practice Research Network.

Board officers for the 2003-04 school year are:

President

Elizabeth Schar

Vice President and Treasurer

W. Russell Wilson

Secretary

John Sawyer

Here's to Henry!... continued from pg. 1

of the award. The Spirit of Springer Award recognizes an individual who has excelled in their profession, has made significant contributions on behalf of children, either through their work or philanthropy, and who has a learning disability.

When asked what he tells kids with learning problems, Henry said, "There is a greatness inside them. Their job is to figure out what it is and how to get it out. It just doesn't matter that they can't learn the traditional way, or it doesn't matter that they can't spell...It would be great if they could, but if they can't, that doesn't stop them from living

their dream."

We are very excited about having Henry Winkler as our guest at this year's annual event. You are invited to join us and help Springer students find their own greatness within, to realize their dreams. Places for this special evening can be reserved by calling the Development Office at 871-6080 ext. 213. Proceeds from the evening will be used to support development of center programs and for financial aid.

Tickets to the Here's To Henry event are \$125.00 per person. Invitations will be mailed in early January. Additionally, auction items and volunteers are needed

to support this important fundraising endeavor. For more information, call Cathy Sleva at 871-6080 ext. 213.

Event Chairs

*Ed and Jennifer Arbaugh
Tim and Patty Lufkin*

Auction Chairs

*Gina Fritz
Jenny Lefke*

School Basket Chair

Dianne Wade

Volunteer Chair

Stephanie Harty

Emcee

Cammy Dierking

Center Programs Underway

Springer is taking parent education programs "on the road" thanks to a grant provided by the *Daniel and Susan Pfau Foundation*. The generous grant enables Springer to reach even further into the community to provide parent programs where parents feel most comfortable - in their communities. "We are very excited about the teaching opportunities this will open up to us," says Barbara Hunter, Center Director, "many more families will be touched because of the Foundation's support."



Teachers participating in the October 22nd Math in the Middle class

This extension of the center's programs is significant. Offering these programs out in the community will provide an awareness of Springer's resources to families. In a familiar setting, parents will be more likely to attend. Participating in one of these programs is a first step for parents in recognizing that their child is struggling because of learning disabilities and in realizing that Springer can be helpful to them, now and in the future. Reaching parents in this way can begin a life-changing process for parents and their struggling learner.

Four different seminars will be available to parent organizations in the tri-state area on a "we come to you" offering. The seminars include An Overview of Learning Disabilities, Your Child: A Closer Look at Learning, AD/HD and the Successful Learner, and Helping Your Child Become A Strategic Learner. These seminars are available at the center as well.

On October 13, the center's Adventures After-School program began for students.

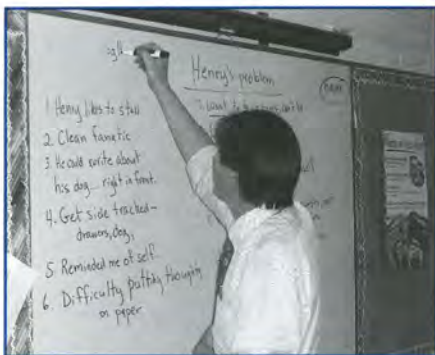
For the elementary level student, the focus is on small group language arts instruction. Students in grades 7-9 meet once a week to work on developing organizational and study skills with an emphasis on learning how to learn. Students also are exposed to the Kurzweil reading software and word processing. Three different groups are available, based on the age and ability level of the student. The program lasts for 18 weeks.

Four fall classes are being offered for teachers: The AD/HD Child in Your Classroom, Math in the Middle, Really Learning! Teaching Students in the Inclusive Classroom, and The Multi-sensory Reading Teacher in the K-3 Classroom. In conjunction with Ashland University, teachers participating in any three Springer professional development courses over the course of the 2003-04 school year can also earn two graduate semester credits.

Students Read And Respond To Books By Henry Winkler

Upper School and Intermediate classes have been reading *Niagara Falls or Does It?* and *I Got a D in Salami* by Henry Winkler. After reading, students have written various types of responses to the stories of Hank Zipzer, the books' main character. Hank is an imaginative fourth grader with dyslexia.

Writing instruction at Springer is based on the writing process model developed at the Teacher's College of Columbia University. It is regarded as one of the finest models for teaching writing. The Columbia model, used in our Writing Workshop at Springer, is designed to help students grow into more independent writers. Steps in the process include: pre-writing, drafting, revision, editing, and publishing. Publishing is where students can celebrate their progress as young writers! Read and enjoy some excerpts of their writing pieces.



The class generates ideas in the pre-writing stage.

Upper School students wrote about Hank's problems:

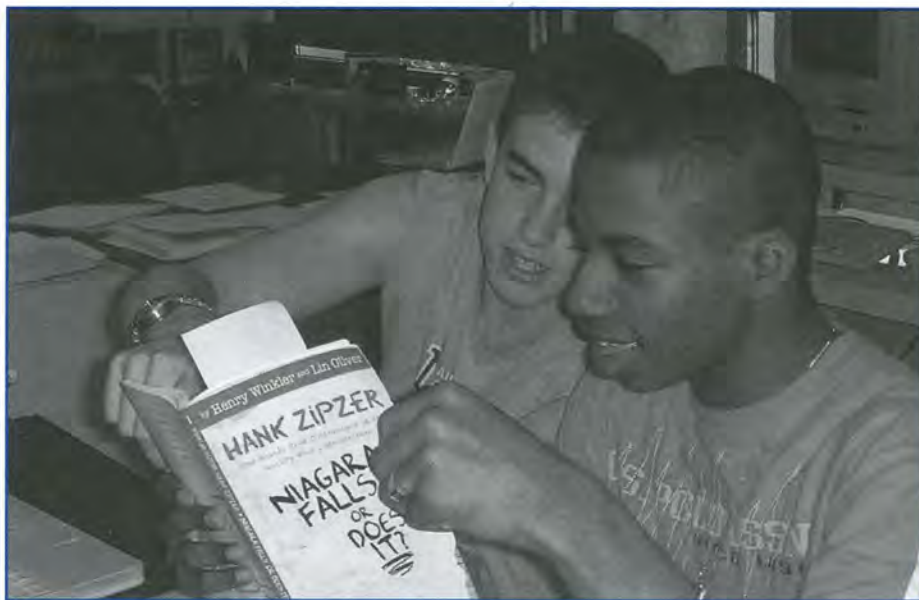
Hank stalls to keep from doing his work. He could write a lot of good things. His problems remind me of me when I was at my old school. I always stalled and I was always out of control. I would always have

a reason to do something else other than work. I had an extremely hard time at that school. – Ben



By editing their own work, writers learn it is important to correct errors in order to communicate effectively.

I feel like Hank Zipzer when he had to write the five paragraphs about what he did over the summer. I also get confused, frustrated, and I'm easily distracted. Here are some strategies I use when I have to write: Keep the T.V. off, stay off the Internet and computer games, get a snack and drink, time your breaks, shut your door and close the windows, close your desk drawers, turn on a fan so you are not distracted by other noises. – Sam



In the revision stage, students are challenged to make their writing clear and complete.

Letter of Advice written to Hank Zipzer by Intermediate Students:

*Dear Hank,
To help you memorize things, use flashcards. Don't stress out about your work, just relax.*

*Sincerely,
Michael, Bobby, and Robert*



Writers are ready to get their ideas on paper in the second step - drafting.

*Dear Hank,
Try writing notes for you to look back at so you remember your assignments. Use a computer to keep your stuff organized.
Sincerely,
Ryan, Russ, and Will*

Springer Alumni Update

Call 513.871.6080 ext. 213 or send email to alumni@springer.hccanet.org with news of Springer alums.



Brian Staud '02 attends Our Lady of Lourdes School. Recently, a poem written by Brian was selected from the Creative Communications poetry contest to be published in Celebrate! Young Poets Speak Out. The poem was entitled, *Patriot*.

Rafe Brown '80 is working on his doctorate at the University of Texas at Austin and then will do a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California at Berkeley. He was offered two of the country's most prized academic jobs in herpetology even before completing his Ph.D., and accepted at the University of Kansas at Lawrence. He will begin there as an assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology in January 2005. Rafe will also be assistant curator at the university's Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center.

Julia Rogers '92 is a fourth year student of the Early Childhood Education program at the University of Cincinnati. She is working as an intern in the Northwest School District this fall. Upon graduation next June, she plans to teach and move on to graduate school. Recently, Julia was awarded the UC College of Education's highest scholar-

ship: the Pearl M. Wright Award. It is a \$13,500 grant given to the outstanding early childhood education senior.



Michael McKenna '98 attended Elder High School and was in the graduating class of 2002. He played football during all four years at Elder. Presently, he is in a two year program at Cincinnati State and will transfer to Mount St. Joseph to complete his degree.



Maggie Hampton '99 graduated this year from Glen Este High School and is currently attending UC Clermont. Maggie plans to focus her studies in K-3 Education.

Michael Wilhide '94 was accepted into the Ph.D. program in Molecular, Cellular and Biochemical Pharmacology in the Department of Pharmacology and Cell Biophysics at the University of Cincinnati for the fall 2003 quarter. He was also awarded a scholarship, renewable annually for up to five years.

Memorial & Tribute Gifts

Thank you to the following friends of Springer School and Center who made Memorial or Tribute gifts from June 2003 to October 2003.

Memorials

In memory of Jack Chumley
Bruce H. Allen, M.D.

In memory of Charles Conners
Bob and Carol Conners

In memory of Ruth Conrad
Bob and Carol Conners

In memory of John Devanney
Bob and Carol Conners

In memory of Nancy Friedlander
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Abraham

In memory of Marjorie Hamburg
Bob and Carol Conners

In memory of Dorothy R. Hill
Steve and Lynn Harkness

In memory of Mrs. Marty McVeigh
Bob and Carol Conners

In memory of Nick Reinhart
Bruce H. Allen, M.D.

In memory of Bill Schneider
*Mr. and Mrs.
Edward A. Kamphake, Jr.*

Tributes

In honor of Mr. and Mrs.
Jack Schwab

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Abraham

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.

The Springer Parent Association – An Integral Part Of Springer

The Springer Parent Association, best known as SPA, plays an integral role in the Springer organization. Ann Robinson, this year's SPA President, sums it up best by saying, "SPA provides a wonderful network of opportunities to meet and interact with other parents, while providing fun and profitable events that benefit the students and the school."

Springer's program has been enriched this year with SPA's financial contributions to the Motor Therapy program and to the financial aid scholarship funds. They also provided each of the instructional staff members with gift certificates for buying items or supplies for their classrooms, and new student chairs have been purchased for the Primary



2003-04 SPA Officers - (l to r) Mariana Harness, VP Fundraising Programs; Barbara Sander, Treasurer; Caroline Cox, VP School-Wide Programs; Joy Loewenstine, Recording Secretary; Ann Robinson, President; and Mary Burdsall, Past President. Not Pictured: Dianne Wade, VP Classroom Programs.

and Upper School departments.

Activities that SPA works on through the year include Spirit Wear sale, Gift Wrap sale, the SCRIP program, Secret Holiday Shop, a Used Book Exchange, Order Out Days, Visiting Author programs, appreciation & hospitality events,

room parents, publishing, and their biggest fundraiser, the Bike/Hike & Family Picnic (to be held this year on April 25, 2004).

Thanks to all members of the SPA for their hard work and dedication to our community!

Grant Provides New Pottery Wheels for Art Program

Springer students are having a great time in the expanded pottery program which features three new pottery wheels. The new wheels and pottery supplies needed for the program were purchased with a grant provided by the *Levin Family Foundation*.

Springer's commitment to the whole child is enhanced through its art, music, physical education, and extracurricular activities. Along with Springer's comprehensive academic program, these programs help provide each student with a well-rounded education and an appreciation of the arts.

We thank the Levin Family Foundation for their support of Springer's work.



Upper School student, Colleen Weckerbrock works the wheel

Here's To Henry March 2, 2004 Save The Date!

Henry Winkler may be best known for his work as The Fonz on television's *Happy Days*. What you may not know is that for nearly three decades, Henry has done exceptional work in the fields of acting, directing, producing, and writing as well as dedicated community service work for children. And, he has learning disabilities.

On Tuesday, March 2, 2004, Henry Winkler will be the special guest at Springer's annual event. Here's To Henry will take place at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel from

6:00-10:00pm. The event will include cocktails & hors d'oeuvres, a silent and live auction, dinner, and reflections by Henry on his challenges with learning disabilities and his determination to be successful despite them. See inside for further information on this exciting evening.

