

MR. HENRY WINKLER, ACTOR, DIRECTOR, producer, and writer, was the guest speaker at Springer School and Center's annual event held March 2, 2004 at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel. The program began with a special presentation by Ohio's First Lady, Hope Taft who bestowed upon Mr. Winkler a proclamation on behalf of the Governor and herself. Four hundred-fifty guests then had the privilege of hearing Mr. Winkler share reflections on his challenges with learning disabilities and his determination to be successful despite them. He delivered a message of hope and resiliency, as well as telling anecdotes from his many acting experiences. Mr. Winkler was presented with the Spirit of Springer Award, given to individuals who have excelled in their profession, made significant contributions on behalf of children, either through their work or philanthropy, and who have a learning disability.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Winkler made a surprise visit to the school, much to the delight of all the students. He gathered the students around him in a pep rally fashion, reaching out to them in a familiar and comfortable way. "There is no nutritional value in negative thoughts," he told them, "If you will it, it is not a dream." Too young to remember when The Fonz from

Happy Days was all the craze, the students have come to know Mr. Winkler through a series of children's books he has written. Hank Zipzer, the book's main character, is a 4th grader with dyslexia. Hank's difficulties in school are based on Mr. Winkler's own struggles.

Cammy Dierking from Local 12 News acted as emcee for the evening. Event chairs were Jennifer & Ed Arbaugh and Patty & Tim Lufkin. The "Here's to Henry" event raised \$110,000. Proceeds will support Springer's mission to empower students with learning disabilities to lead successful lives.

Here's To Henry!



*Right: Henry's surprise visit with Springer students.
Below: Co-chairs Ed and Jennifer Arbaugh and
Patty and Tim Lufkin join Henry at the event.*



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Executive Director's Column

SHELLY WEISBACHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TRY TO PLACE YOURSELF IN THE FOLLOWING scenario: You are a thirteen year old Springer student. Your teachers have nominated you to be a Springer Ambassador. In this role, you will be called on to address assemblies of 50 to 100 elementary students, to speak to educators attending Springer seminars, and to provide tours of the school to community guests. In each instance, your role will involve talking about learning disabilities, explaining your own profile of strengths and weaknesses, and educating your audience about effective strategies to address learning disabilities.

You agree to serve as an ambassador. Jan Annett, Admissions Director and Ambassador Coordinator, meets with you and the other 14 ambassadors. Together you brainstorm ideas for your presentations and generate a list of questions you are likely to be asked. You craft your personal message and practice it with the help of Jan and other staff members.

Soon you find yourself called upon to visit a school where the fifth graders, as part of the Everybody Counts curriculum, have been studying learning disabilities. For their culminating activity, you and two other Springer ambassadors will be speaking to them.

You arrive at the school and are ushered into a large room where 80 children and their teachers have already assembled. It's a bit scary, but you hear yourself being introduced and you step forward to begin your story. When you and the other ambassadors have finished talking, many hands go up in the audience. The children want to know, "How did you feel when you found out you had a learning disability? Did people at your other school make fun of you? Can you explain again that math strategy you talked about? What kind of sports or music do you like?" The students want to understand your learning difficulties, but they also want to know more about your personal interests. They want to connect with you.

Days later thank you notes like this one arrive at Springer:

*Dear Chris,
Thank you for coming to our school to talk about which kind of learning disability you have. You made me understand that people with learning disabilities are just like everybody else except they have trouble with school. You also taught me that people with learning disabilities aren't bad at everything in school. Everybody's good at something.
Thanks again, Lauren*

How did you do placing yourself in this picture? For many of us, public speaking tops our list of things we least like to do, let alone talking about something as personal as one's struggles in school. To do what our students do requires a great deal of courage. It goes beyond being a self-advocate and moves into the realm of advocacy on a far greater scale. Our students in fact are educators. Through their personal stories they are demystifying learning disabilities for other children and for adults. And, on more than one occasion it is their stories that have led other children to recognize that their own struggles had a root cause.

Pictured here are this year's ambassadors. My thanks and appreciation to them for the role they play in achieving Springer's mission to empower students with learning disabilities to lead successful lives.

News and Views is published three times a year. For comments or questions, please call Kim LaChance at 513.871.6080 ext. 213 or e-mail at klachance@springer.hccanet.org.

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Leave A Legacy

EACH OF US WANTS TO BE REMEMBERED FOR the things we cared about most in our life—our basic philosophies and the values we represented. That's what *Leave a Legacy* is all about...how each of us can leave behind a powerful message about the ideals, beliefs, and organizations important to us during our lifetime.

Virginia Curry, like her sister, Emilie before her, never had a child at Springer, yet she, too, felt compelled to support Springer's program, bequeathing \$62,500 at the time of her death so that struggling students could benefit. The Curry sisters were friends of a family whose son attended Springer.

Virginia Thornton Curry spent most of her life in Cincinnati's Hyde Park, but she would

have been just as at home in the Hyde Park across the Atlantic Ocean. Ms. Curry was a longtime member of the Cincinnati branch of the English-Speaking Union and had an affinity for British history. Because of her work for the Union, Queen Elizabeth II knighted her and her sister, Emilie Thornton Curry, in 1988.

Education, reading, and writing were important aspects of life to Virginia Curry. When she turned 90, she wrote and published her memoirs and presented signed copies to the 90 friends who attended her birthday party. Longtime friend, Dr. Sally Helton said, "She was an unbelievable reader and writer. Her home library must have contained 1,200 volumes, and she read all of them." Quoting Ms. Curry, Dr. Helton said,

"She used to say, 'When someone dies, it's like a library burning.'" Ms. Curry was 93 when she died at her home after a short illness.

Studies show that many Greater Cincinnatians contribute annually to their favorite nonprofit organizations but only a few make plans to leave charitable bequests, like Virginia Curry's, to these same organizations.

Leave a Legacy is a community-wide collaborative initiative designed to educate, inspire, and encourage people from all walks of life to make gifts through their wills or estates to their favorite nonprofit organizations. *Leave a Legacy* encourages us to supplement our lifetime giving with testamentary gifts that will continue to support the many nonprofit organizations, like Springer School and Center, that contribute significantly to our region's quality of life.

Nine Things You Can Do To Leave a Legacy for Springer School and Center

1. Prepare a will. Only 50% of those who pass away in Greater Cincinnati have one. Without a will, you lose control of the assets you have worked a lifetime to acquire.
2. Leave a gift in your will for Springer. Only 6% of all households in the U.S. actually make a charitable bequest. Imagine the positive impact on our community if everyone made even a modest donation to a nonprofit organization.
3. Leave a specific dollar amount or a percentage of the assets in your will to Springer. The provision can be part of a new will or added to your existing will as a codicil.
4. Consider using assets for your charitable gift. These can include, but aren't limited to: stocks, bonds, and CDs.
5. Name Springer School and Center as the beneficiary of your IRA or pension plan.
6. Purchase a new life insurance policy naming Springer as the beneficiary.
7. Name Springer as the beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy.
8. Remember deceased loved ones with memorial gifts to Springer.
9. Encourage family members and friends to leave gifts to Springer in their wills.

MEMORIAL & TRIBUTE GIFTS

Thank you to the following friends of Springer School and Center who made Memorial or Tribute gifts from November 2003 to April 2004.

Memorials

In memory of Donald Albers
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Bob and Carol Conners

In memory of Jane Weinberg
Bruce H. Allen, M.D.
Mrs. Shirley Allen

In memory of Keir Zangrando
Gail Piraino

Tributes

In honor of their grandchildren
Jim and Diane Katsanis

In honor of Jack & Barbara Klein's 50th Anniversary
Mrs. Pat Byer
Mr. and Mrs. Ivan S. Misrach
Dr. and Mrs. Harold J. Schneider

In honor of Michael & Molly Prues' marriage
Jerry and Denise Prues

In honor of Ben Sweeney's Bar Mitzvah
Gail Piraino

ALUMNI UPDATE

CALL 513.871.6080 EXT. 213 OR SEND EMAIL TO klachance@springer.hccanet.org with news of Springer alums.

Jes Sollars '95 attends the College of Mount St. Joseph, majoring in Business.

Mike Wright '96 is attending the University of Cincinnati after graduating from Purcell Marian High School in 2000. Mike received a scholarship from the university and is in a starting position at defensive tackle for the Bearcats football team.

Chris Brown '98 is a 2003 graduate of Cinco Ranch High School in Katy, Texas.

Andrew Babey '99 was recently inducted into the National Honor Society at Highlands High School (rated #1 school in Kentucky in academics) in Ft. Thomas. He carries a full class load and has taken three advanced courses: Advanced Chemistry, Advanced Algebra II, and German III Advanced.

Doug Haglage '99 is a 2003 graduate of Moeller High School. He attends Hocking College studying Environmental Restoration.

Andy Reutcke '99 graduated in June 2003 from Sycamore High School.

Sam Weinberg '01 is a freshman at Sycamore High School. Sam plays saxophone in the Sycamore Band and Jazz Band. While a 7th grader, he was one of two students to have a solo in the Spring Concert. He has many friends and maintains A's and B's in his classes.

Parker Baldwin '02 has been busy at Sycamore Junior High. He recently managed the lights for The Masque and Mime Drama Club's production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

Below left to right: Sam Weinberg, Doug Haglage, Andy Reutcke, and Andrew Babey



Alum Shares His Story

MR. EDDIE BILKASLEY'S INSCRIPTION IN his book, *Five-Alarms in Cincinnati*, says to Springer students, "Don't ever give up hope, stay focused on your goals in life and you will succeed." Mr. Bilkasley has lived his life according to his own advice.

Eddie Bilkasley was a Springer student from 1958 to 1963. Recently, he paid a visit to Springer School and Center and shared his story.

It was at St. Pat's in Northside (where Eddie repeated 1st grade one time and 2nd grade two times), that his family found help. A teacher told his parents about a school that could sift through his issues and teach him ways to learn that worked for him. Springer was that school.

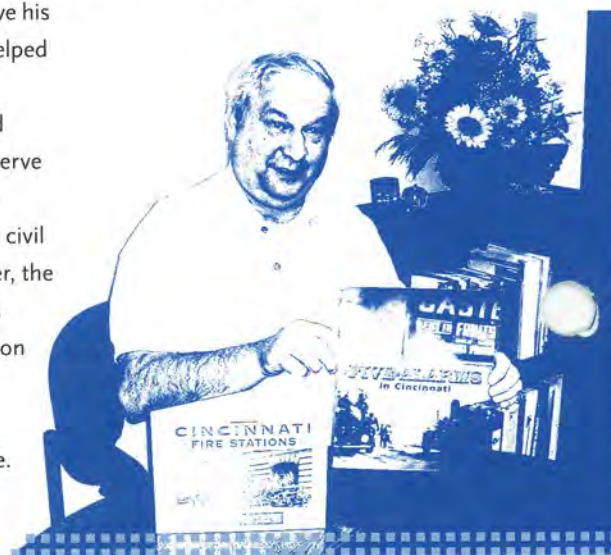
Eddie was good in math, but struggled tremendously with reading and spelling. His motor skills were poor, and his self-esteem was low. Eddie shared that he was frustrated

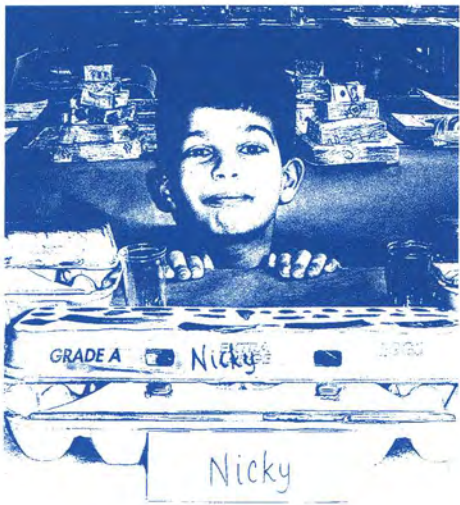
and "didn't care" but because of his time at Springer that changed to, "I can do something." By working in small groups and one-on-one with teachers, Eddie slowly began to gain confidence and learned strategies to be successful. He worked on memorization and received special tape recordings of books for assignments. Gym classes helped improve his motor skills. As Eddie put it, "Springer helped prepare me for living out in the world."

After leaving Springer, Eddie attended Princeton High School and went on to serve 31 years with the Cincinnati Fire Department. Having tried six times to pass the civil service exam necessary to be a firefighter, the department was impressed with Eddie's perseverance and offered him the position of Fire Division Photographer. Eddie's photos helped map out fire scenes and where trucks and lines were during a fire.

The pictures helped with training, insurance procedures, keeping records, and arson investigations.

Eddie has written two books and is working on others about his fire experiences. The books include many of his photographs. *Five-Alarms in Cincinnati* and *Cincinnati Fire Stations* are available in all bookstores. Congratulations Eddie Bilkasley on staying focused, never giving up and succeeding!





Springer Takes A Trip Around The World!

THIS YEAR'S ALL SCHOOL QUEST, HELD Thursday, April 1, featured "A Trip Around the World" with stops in Japan, Germany, Nigeria, Mexico, Brazil, and India. The All School Quest is an annual experience at Springer in which all students and staff share and explore a common theme with the extended Springer community. The Quest is noncompetitive and is open to all forms of expression. It offers an opportunity for all involved to feel successful and proud of their accomplishments. Congratulations to students and staff on all their efforts!



Top row, left to right: Primary students, including Nicky Spadaccini, created the Nigerian game, "Ayo" out of egg cartons. Ayo is very similar to the game Mancala. Intermediate Blue students welcome guests to the country of Japan! Middle row: Girls in Intermediate Green show off a German holiday decoration. Bottom row: The Upper School had an Indian cooking day! Calcutta cauliflower soup, sweet potato curry, and split green lentils with tomatoes were among the delicious items. Nick Baumgartner and his mom look at some of the Primary projects.



SPRINGER ART TEACHER, CORRINNE THALER, has exciting news! Several students' artwork was submitted to various competitions and won!

Artworks created by Primary student, Hailey Hushak and Jake Bourgraf from Intermediate were chosen to serve as covers for the *Journal of Learning Disabilities*. The *Journal of Learning Disabilities* is a multidisciplinary, international publication presenting work and comments related to learning disabilities. It is published

six times annually. Hailey's and Jake's work was selected from 80 entries, the most ever submitted. Only three entries were chosen for 2004; each will appear on two covers.

In February, Primary student, Katy Zembrodt's artwork was selected as a winner in the 2003 "Friendship, Give It All You Got" contest, sponsored jointly by Ohio Public Images and the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council. Katy's work, a third place finish, "displayed a good understanding of the theme and the importance of accepting people who have disabilities as friends." Her artwork was displayed at the Ohio State House in Columbus.

Upper School student, Eleni Burns' art piece was accepted for the 24th Ohio Art Education Association's Young People's Art Exhibition. Pencil media was the choice of Eleni in the creation of the state winning work of art. The Rhodes State Office Tower Building served as the exhibition site.

A work of art by Lyndsey Caldwell, Intermediate student, was chosen for the 2004 Southwest Regional Youth Art Month Art Exhibition sponsored by the Southwest Region of the Ohio Art Education Association. Lyndsey's art was exhibited at Cincinnati's American Classical Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Only 75 pieces of artwork were selected from area schools for this prestigious show.

Ben Sweeney, Upper School, was one of 150 students from all over Ohio whose artwork was chosen for the 2004 Ohio Youth Art Month Art Exhibition. This exhibition is sponsored by the Ohio Art Education Association. Ben's work was displayed at the State Teachers Retirement System building.

It is a distinct honor for students to have artwork in any of these exhibitions. Congratulations to all students!

SPRINGER STUDENTS CREATE WINNING ART

Above: Jake Bourgraf and Hailey Hushak proudly display their artwork. Below: Ben Sweeney, Eleni Burns, Katy Zembrodt, and Lyndsey Caldwell created masterpieces as well.



My Visit With Henry Winkler

by Liz Bowers, age 10

Henry Winkler came to my school yesterday. I was so happy to see one of my favorite writers. He talked about his learning disability and I realize he had problems with reading like me and math. I love all his books. He put himself in the book and his teacher was really Mrs. Adolff. He ended up a lot in the principal's office. All of that was true. He cannot spell. I also cannot spell. He has his one person who goes to the computer for him. For example, he might say look up the word 'determine' and the person would type the word into the computer. I was so inspired by Henry Winkler, I now would like to be a actor or a writer. And now I know never give up hope and never let anyone say you cannot do anything. And I would like to thank Henry for making me more confident with myself and I would like to congratulate him for the award.



Top: Ohio's First Lady, Hope Taft shares a laugh with Henry. Bottom left to right: Enjoying themselves at the event are Karen & Bill Hoeb and Mark Schar. Dick and Tina Meder look forward to hearing Henry. Guests at the event also included Pat Ward, Jim Contis and Jon & Kim Deitloff

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Here's To Henry

Alumni Updates

Springer Students
Create Winning Art

and more!

Springer students make a difference, one penny at a time!

SPRINGER HAS NEW FRIENDS - IN GHANA, WEST AFRICA!

LAST YEAR, THE SPRINGER STUDENT COUNCIL was amazed to learn of students from a small village in Ghana in need of uniforms for their school sports program. Living in such a privileged country, it was hard to imagine competing without this important symbol of unification. It set the Council to action! They organized a school-wide "pennies war" to raise money for the school in Ghana. Competing as classrooms, Springer students contributed pennies and other change to reach a grand total of \$900. The uniforms were purchased, and extra money was used for paint and school supplies.

Ghana students were thrilled with their new uniforms! They expressed a new sense of pride. "We feel as good now as the city teams we play against" said one student. It was evident in their games, too. Having lost all of their games the previous year, this year the boy's football team and girl's volleyball team both made it to the semi-finals!

In a return gesture of friendship and appreciation, Ghana students recently sent a special hand-made banner to Springer students which will be displayed in the school.



Above: Ghana students proudly wear their new uniforms!
Below: Springer Student Council members display banner made by new friends in Ghana.

