

Fall 1999

News and Views

The Springer School

New Trustees Join Springer Board

Springer is pleased to welcome the following Trustees to the Board:

Thomas G. DeWitt, M.D. is the Carl Wehl Professor and Director in the Division of General and Community Pediatrics at Children's Hospital Medical Center. Dr. DeWitt also serves as Associate Chair for Primary Care Programs in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He is serving on the Strategic Planning Committee.

"I anticipate being able to learn from the Springer expertise, and hopefully contribute to its excellence."

—Thomas G. DeWitt, M.D.

Richard M. Kimbler is the Director of Retail and Residential Development for Al Neyer, Inc. In addition to serving on the Development Committee, Mr. Kimbler is also Chairing the 1999-2000 Annual Fund Drive. His daughter Meredith is an Upper School student at Springer.

Kate Lawrence joins the Board of Trustees as the parent of two Springer graduates and a past President of the Springer Parents' Association. She has also been actively involved with Springer's annual dinner and auction, Magnolia Time. Kate is serving on the Resource Committee.

Board Officers for 1999-2000 are:

Richard J. Blum, President

Paul F. Wenker, Vice President

Stephen T. MacConnell, Treasurer

Sarah O. Steinman, Ph.D., Secretary

Annual Fund Kicks Off

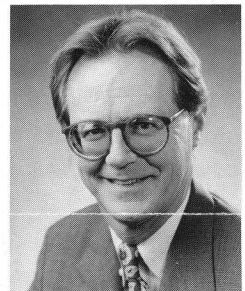
The 1999-2000 Annual Fund Drive kicked off recently, aiming to raise \$290,000 by June 30th. All proceeds from the Drive will benefit financial aid scholarships and help underwrite operational and programming costs for Springer Center for Learning Disabilities.

Chairing this year's Drive is Springer parent and Trustee Rick Kimbler. Mr. Kimbler's goals for the Drive are to increase the total dollars raised, as well as overall participation.

The Annual Fund Drive serves as Springer's main fund raising effort for the year, and involves every constituency in the Springer Family. Last year, over \$175,000 was raised for scholarships alone!

Every year, the need for financial aid grows, and with the addition of the Springer Center for

Learning Disabilities (see page 3), even more funds must be raised so Springer can continue to impact those who need it most.



Rick Kimbler

Please see upcoming issues of *News and Views* to check the progress of the Fund Drive.

Inside this issue:

New Trustees, Annual Fund Drive	1
Executive Director's Column, New Staff, Art Show	2
Springer Center for Learning Disabilities	3
Bike Hike, Graduate Spotlight	4
Bookmaking Project, Everybody Counts	5
Outstanding Achiever Award, Magnolia Time	6



**Executive
Director's
Column**

**Shelly
Weisbacher**

Much has been written about the *learning organization*, so much in fact that one could dismiss the notion as a fad of the 90's. However, if you have the privilege of being part of an organization that truly embraces these principles, you understand how dynamic and meaningful the concept of the learning organization is.

At The Springer School, the learning organization concept permeates all that we do. The staff is constantly reaching beyond what they know, seeking opportunities for growth, and supporting each other's learning as well as the learning of the children and their families.

A recent faculty meeting began with a general presentation about some aspects of Dr. Mel Levine's work that we are incorporating. Dr. Levine is an internationally recognized expert in the field of learning disabilities. His work focuses on identifying and addressing difficulties with attention, memory, language, and other neurodevelopmental functions. He has created a framework for looking at the impact these difficulties have on learning from preschool through high school. Many Springer teachers have attended one or more of his week-long courses, and in May of 1998, Dr. Levine conducted a full day workshop at Springer on attentional issues. Staff use his framework for learning in identifying students' strengths and challenges, and setting student priority learning goals for the year.

Following the general presentation at the faculty meeting, teachers shared ways they were implementing Dr. Levine's ideas. What was most striking about these mini presentations was the variety of ideas being integrated across many levels. Some teachers have developed new tools to help parents understand their child's difficulties, others have created systems for charting their students' learning profiles and sharing these with the students. Teachers distributed sample forms and extended invitations to each other to dialogue further or to stop into their classrooms to see the new ideas in action. As a faculty they have taken Dr. Levine's work, blended it with their current practices, and achieved a new level of helping children and parents understand the process of learning.

Welcome New Staff!

Please join us in welcoming our new Staff/Faculty members:

Dafna Bahir is the Motor Therapist for the Primary Department. She holds Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Occupational Therapy from the Hebrew University and New York University.

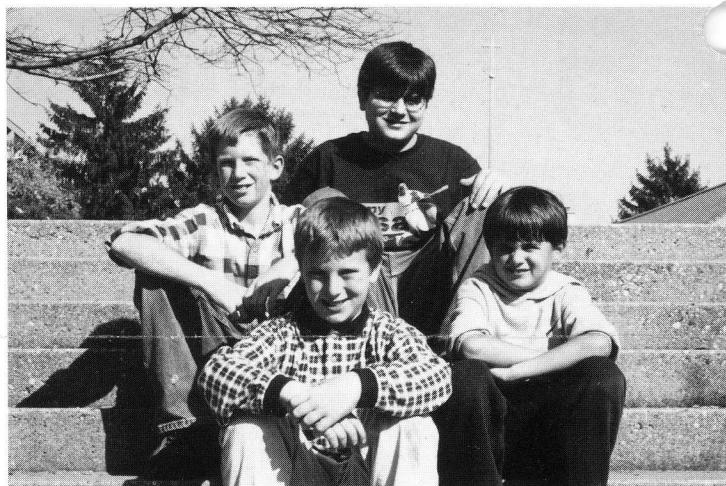
Mary Behan is the Office Assistant for the Outreach Center, Development Office, and Technology Coordinator. She has a Bachelor's Degree in English from Xavier University.

Crystal Crawford joins Springer as an Assistant in the Intermediate Department. Crystal holds a Master's Degree in Counseling from Xavier University, where she is currently pursuing a Special Education teaching certificate.

Dianne Dame was a substitute teacher before joining the staff as a Primary Department Assistant. Dianne has a Master's Degree in Reading from the University of Cincinnati, and spent most of her career with Cincinnati Public Schools as a classroom teacher.

Please see "New Staff" on page 3.

Hyde Park Art Show



L. to R. Brent Marx, Jon Kohne, Brian Staud, and Connor Free

The annual Hyde Park Art Show was held on October 3. Students in grades 1-12 participate, and Springer is always well represented. This year was no different, with 15 students entering pieces. Primary student Connor Free won a First Place ribbon for his oil pastel drawing, while honorable mentions went to Jon Kohne for his tempura painting, Brent Marx for his pencil and marker drawing, and Brian Staud for his 3-D entry.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Springer Center for Learning Disabilities

As part of Springer's continuing outreach efforts in the Greater Cincinnati community, Springer Center for Learning Disabilities offered many courses and workshops over the Summer for students who wanted to be better prepared for the upcoming school year. Some highlights included:

Adventures in Summer Learning

Springer's summer school program offered instruction for students performing below their potential in school. The children received reading, writing, math, and computer instruction, and also participated in fun activities like Challenge by Choice and trying the school's climbing wall.

Summer Handwriting Program

This program helped children who have trouble writing cursive in an efficient, legible manner. Students participated in games and motor activities designed to strengthen handwriting skills, such as letter formation, spacing, organization, and pencil grip.

Summer Book Club

The club offered an opportunity for students to prepare themselves for the new school year by working on reading comprehension skills as well as vocabulary studies.

Programs were also held this fall for parents, teachers, and other interested individuals in the Tri-State area. Over 100 people registered for Center programs ranging from informational sessions to pre-school reading activities to a mothers' discussion panel. In addition, Outreach Director Sandy Kohn traveled to area schools to deliver informational lectures on learning disabilities.

Springer Center for Learning Disabilities will be offering more programs for students, families, and teachers throughout the winter. Please see the following calendar for program listings.

December/January Programs

OVERVIEW OF LEARNING DISABILITIES

A free program about learning disabilities.

Choose one of these sessions.

Thursday, December 2 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 15 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

STUDY SKILLS

Parents can help their child with studies at home.

Cost \$15.

Tuesday, January 11 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

ENHANCING YOUR CHILD'S LANGUAGE SKILLS

Parents will understand language development and learn ways to enrich language. Cost \$15.

Thursday, December 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

TEACHER DAYS AT SPRINGER

An in-service program for teachers held at Springer Center. Teachers learn the latest information about learning disabilities and gain ideas for strategies and accommodations for their students who learn differently. Cost \$100. PDU credits are provided.

Wednesday, January 19; Wednesday, February 9;
Thursday, March 2.

Springer Center also offers outreach services, such as educational speakers, to schools and parent groups. Please call the Center at 871-9174 for more details or to enroll.

New Staff

Continued from page 2.

Nicole Hildebrandt, a Language Therapist in the Intermediate Department, received her undergraduate degree from Miami University. She moved to Cincinnati after earning a Master's Degree in Speech-Language from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale.

Jody Huneke is an Assistant in the Upper School. Mrs. Huneke received both her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Physical Education from the Ohio State University.

Karen McGaughey is a Language Therapist teacher in the Intermediate Department. She received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky and her Master's from the University of Cincinnati.

Theresa Roehrig joins the Springer staff as an Instructional Assistant in the Primary Department. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Wright State University.

Jamie Wagner is a Classroom Teacher in the Intermediate Department. She has eight years of teaching experience and is currently working on a Master's Degree in Special Education from Xavier University.

Cassi Ward is an Instructional Assistant in the Intermediate Department. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Ohio University and is currently working towards a Master's of Education at Xavier University.

Bike Hike Fun for All!

The Springer Parents' Association sponsored the annual Bike Hike on October 10 at Sharon Woods. Springer students and families joined in the games, food, and fun despite the less-than-perfect weather. Students solicited sponsors for laps around the trail; over \$6,000 was raised for playground renovations through sponsor donations. The Upper School sponsored a Bake Sale to fund their social and scholastic activities. The highlight of the afternoon was the drawing for a BMX bike. And the winner was....Alex Steele, a student in the primary department. Thanks to all who made the Bike Hike a great afternoon!



Graduate Spotlight

We are always receiving good news about our graduates. Here's an update on some former Springer students:

ROSS FRESHWATER

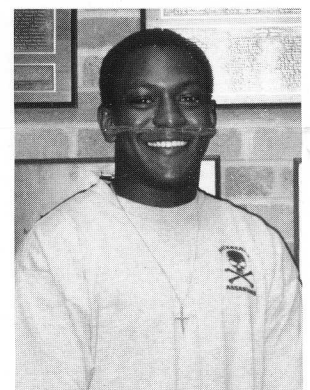
Ross Freshwater, a 1983 Springer graduate, was recently accepted to the Harvard Graduate School of Education for their Master's Degree Program. He plans to "give back something" as a teacher of high school English and Social Studies.

After Springer, Ross attended St. Xavier High School, Ohio University, and Ohio State University. He has served as an AmeriCorps team leader, a United Way executive in Seattle, WA, and a corporate executive for a San Francisco toy manufacturer.

CURTIS HUDSON

Curtis Hudson is a 1995 Springer grad who completed his Senior year at Purcell Marian High School in June. He received a football scholarship

from Kentucky State, where he is majoring in Physical Education. On a recent visit to Springer, Curtis thanked his former teachers for pushing him to achieve in and out of school, and preparing him for college. While he is nervous about this new chapter in his life, Curtis said, "I always wanted to go to college; Springer showed me what I needed to get there."



Curtis Hudson

GEORGE WELLS

George, a 1994 Springer grad, was the featured student athlete on Channel 9's "Prep Sports Show" on October 3. A football player for Sycamore High School, George told how he overcame his learning disabilities to achieve good grades and succeed in athletics. Way to go George!!

Student Bookmakers at Springer

Students in the Primary Department had the opportunity to work with local artist (and Springer parent) Kate Kern recently. Ms. Kern taught students the art of bookmaking, and helped them make books of their own.

Being the parent of two Springer students, 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. When she was awarded a grant from the Ohio Arts Council stipulating some form of community outreach, she decided sharing her talents with Springer students would be the perfect match.

Not only did students learn the process of making artist's books, they developed visual planning skills, abstract and critical thinking, and exercised motor skills. Each student was able to create her or his own design for the book, and decorate it any way she or he liked. Ms. Kern wanted to show students that anyone can create art,

not just people who have studied it in school.

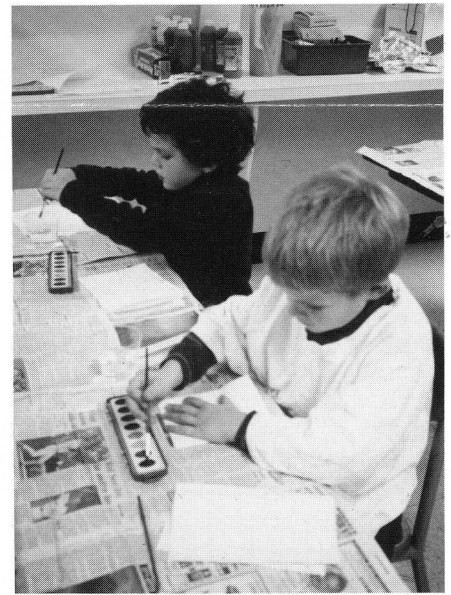
Ms. Kern brings 12 years of bookmaking experience to this project, combined with ten years of service through the Ohio Arts Council as an Artist-in-Residence for schools across the state. Her show, "Attract Year-Round Beauty" was recently featured at the Weston Art Gallery. Her book, Glove Index, also debuted during the show's run. You can look for her next piece, entitled "Mothers' Day" at the Mothers' Day Art Show at the Downtown Public Library.

Thank you to Kate Kern for the generous donation of her time and talents to Springer! Thanks also to the Maureen Wenker Artist-In-Residence Fund, which covered additional expenses.



"I trust that each child is an artist, and in turn, let them trust their own instincts about their artwork. I want them to feel everyone is capable of making great art."

—Kate Kern



Everybody Counts

1999-2000 EVERYBODY COUNTS STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Brittany Edwards
Tyler Ernst
Caroline Feldhaus
Leia Greathouse
Jack Hemmer
Meredith Kimbler
Megan Lowe
Aurora MacVeigh
Lauren Martin
Brent Marx
Craig Meiman
Nate Munafa
Joe Rohm
Christina Ryall
Nicholas Ryall
Ian Smith

Springer students are helping create a better understanding of learning disabilities by serving as Everybody Counts Ambassadors. Everybody Counts is a program that educates students about various disabilities and gives them a chance to ask questions they might otherwise feel embarrassed to ask. The goal of Everybody Counts is to foster acceptance of disabilities and show that all individuals are capable and important.

Each year, students from Springer visit fifth grade classes in and around Cincinnati, explaining what learning disabilities are, how they deal with learning issues, what challenges they face, and what it is like to go to Springer.

Both students and teachers find the Springer Ambassador's visits to be very informative. For example, a teacher at St.

Ursula Villa wrote, "Please know that your willingness to share your knowledge has made a huge difference in our understanding of learning disabilities."

Sandy Kohn, Outreach Director for Springer Center for Learning Disabilities, feels the Everybody Counts program is an effective way to increase understanding of learning disabilities among school-age children throughout Greater Cincinnati. "Springer students articulate their learning struggles so well. They talk about their learning weaknesses, strengths, and include strategies they've learned. They are so comfortable talking about their own learning disabilities, that they make it easy for the student audience to ask questions and to talk openly about learning disabilities."

**THE SPRINGER
SCHOOL**

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Magnolia Time Update

Magnolia Time, Springer's annual dinner and auction will be changing for the millennium!

Cincinnati Enquirer columnist and local celebrity **Laura Pulfer** has agreed to be roasted, with proceeds benefiting Springer's Financial Aid program and outreach programs at Springer Center for Learning Disabilities. Alumni Parents and Trustee, Paul and Joyce Wenker have volunteered their time to serve as General Chairpersons. Other Committee members include Nathan Bachrach, Tami Blowers, Pam Gardner, Peter Gomsak, and

Tom and Carol McTernan.

The May 2 event will be held at 5:30 p.m. at The Springer School. The evening will include a cocktail hour with a fabulous Silent Auction, a sit-down dinner catered by Elegant Fare, a fun-filled roasting of Laura Pulfer by her friends and colleagues, and a Grand Raffle drawing for \$10,000!

As always, volunteers are needed to make a great event like this run smoothly. If you are interesting in helping out, please call the Development Office at 871-6080 ext. 232.



Outstanding Achiever Award



If you would like to nominate a Springer graduate (or yourself!) for the 2000 Springer Outstanding Achiever Award, please call the Development Office at 513/871-6080 ext. 232. A nomination form will be mailed to you. Nominees should be high school-age or older.

THE SPRINGER SCHOOL IS NOW ON THE INTERNET!
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
WWW.HCCANET.ORG\SPRINGER\