



News & Views

*of The Springer
School*

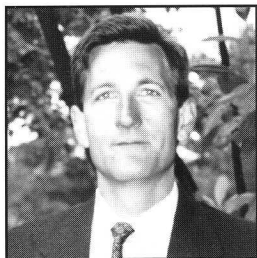
Fall/Winter 1997

Annual Fund Drive Underway

Under the leadership of Trustee **Bradley Turner**, the school's annual solicitation for support of its financial aid program is off to a very strong start. Mr. Turner, a relative newcomer to Cincinnati, is managing director of Gradison McDonald's Asset Management Fund. He is pleased to be associated with Springer because of his interest in educational programs and the school's fine reputation in the city.

Achieving the \$175,000 goal will assist families who would otherwise be unable to send their children to the school. This year, 50 children are receiving financial aid.

The **Community Campaign** seeks the support of individuals and businesses in the area through the involvement of more than 30 volunteers. The volunteers include trustees, current and past parents and friends of the school. The **Alumni Parents' Campaign** is led this year by Rick and Debbie Blum, whose son is a Springer graduate. Dick Meder, the school's first graduate to be elected to the Board, is heading up the **Graduates' Campaign**. This campaign focuses on the idea of giving back so others can have the same chances they had. Buck Niehoff, chair of the **Present Parents' Campaign**, has offered two areas in need of support - financial aid or the library renovation project. The first-ever **Grandparents' Campaign**, chaired by John and Ruth Sawyer, also offers two options - financial aid or expansion of the science program. Contributions to the Fund Drive are accepted throughout the year; the school's fiscal year ends on June 30.



*Fund Drive Chair
Bradley Turner*

Springer Announces New Board President & Officers

The Springer School is pleased to announce its officers and the addition of four new members to its Board of Trustees:

Anthony W. Hobson has been elected President of the Board of Trustees for the 1997-98 school year. A Trustee since 1989, Mr. Hobson has served the school through his work on the Strategic Planning Committee; as Treasurer; as Chair of the Annual Fund Drive; and as a member of the Search Committee for the school's new Executive Director.



Other Officers are: Vice President, **Richard Blum**, alumni parent; Vice President, **Mary Moffett**; and Treasurer, **Louis D. George**.

Joining the Board of Trustees this year are:

Pam Gardner is a former elementary school teacher who is currently devoting her time as a volunteer to several educational projects in different area schools, including Anderson Place Elementary School in Madisonville where she is a language arts tutor. She chaired Springer's major special event, Magnolia Time, last year. Her son is a Springer Intermediate level student.

Thomas Heekin has broad experience working with area non-profit organizations. He is a Trustee of the Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Services, the Greater Cincinnati Center for Economic Education and the Cincinnati Bar Association. Mr. Heekin is a partner at Taft, Stettinius and Hollister and an adjunct professor at NKU-Chase College of Law.

A 1973 Springer graduate, **Dick Meder** is Senior Sales Vice President at West Shell Commercial. He feels, "As a graduate of Springer School, I look forward to giving back what Springer School was able to instill in me as a student and more importantly as a person." He is active on the school's Development Committee, the Graduates' Campaign and Alumni Activities.

Elizabeth Schar has been involved with the Mazza Collection and Magnolia Time. She is also a board member of the Cincinnati Arts Festival. Mrs. Schar is an Account Supervisor at Northlich, Stolley, LaWarre. Her son is an Intermediate student at Springer.



Executive Director's Message

Shelly Weisbacher

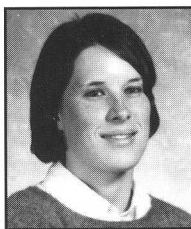
This issue of News and Views celebrates the combined efforts of students, parents, staff, Trustees, and the greater community in achieving our goals. This is exemplified in our successful fund raising for financial aid, the special events for children and their families, and especially in the beautiful renovation of our library. We also celebrate our new staff and trustees, and the accomplishments of individuals. We are delighted for our students who won awards at the Hyde Park Art Show, and thrilled by the accomplishments of Springer grads Kevin McLay and Erin Barrett.

Yet, not all the celebrations we experienced are captured in the events reported. Some of the most memorable came in more quiet moments when...a child and teacher shared the special awareness that comes from doing something successfully for the first time...a child's instructional team and his parents reviewed the child's progress at school and home...an intermediate student who previously struggled to make friends excitedly told his mom about a project he and his friend had completed...a primary child flashed a broad smile to her parents as she was called to the stage at the fall honors assembly...Springer students spoke to children at another school about what it is like to have a learning disability.

These quiet moments marked important milestones for students in their learning, self-understanding, and self-advocacy. In recognizing these, we celebrated the children's hard work and determination, and provided them with the encouragement needed to achieve their next goal. Further, we celebrated the essence of Springer, our belief that through partnership with caring adults, children with learning disabilities will succeed.

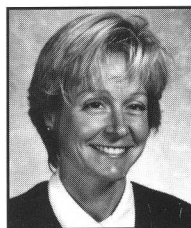
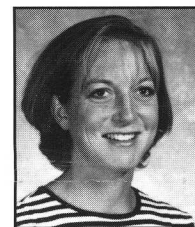
Springer Welcomes New Staff

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to The Springer School staff:



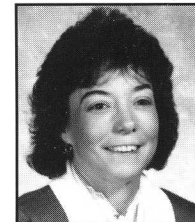
Amy Ault joins the Intermediate Gold Department. Amy graduated from St. Ursula Academy and Indiana University with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education/Special Education. Prior to coming to Springer, Ms. Ault's teaching experience included a Kindergarten class at St. Ursula Villa and a special education class for 8 and 9 year olds with ADD and behavioral disorders at Trinity School in Kenwood.

Amy Ford received her undergrad degree from Bowling Green State University and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Cincinnati. A Cincinnati native, she recently returned from Chicago where she was employed as an exercise therapist. Her other experiences include working as a fitness coordinator and a health educator. Ms. Ford joins the Springer staff as a Motor Therapist.



Carrie Pruett-Brown comes to Springer as Curriculum Director. After graduating from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education, she taught learning disabled and emotionally disturbed children at The Hannah More School in Baltimore, MD. Ms. Pruett-Brown has been teaching for eight years, working with grade levels from preschool to middle school.

JoAnne Rouse is the new Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director. Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ms. Rouse received her formal training in Computerized Business from Cincinnati Technical College. Ms. Rouse was previously employed with The Agency Home Care, where she was the Personnel Office Manager.



Beth Smith joins the Primary Department, working with 8 and 9 year olds. She received her degree in Elementary Education/Specific Learning Disabilities from the College of Mt. St. Joseph. She previously taught at Beechwood Independent Schools. Beth grew up in Tennessee, but now lives in Delhi.

Another Successful Year for Summer School Program

The Springer School's "Adventures in Summer Learning" program was a great success once again.

In its fourth year of providing outreach services to children beyond the Springer day school community, the Summer Program increased its enrollment from 30 to 40 students. The focus of "Adventures" is to provide the extra educational reinforcement some students need during the summer months.

Components of the curriculum are Language Arts, Math, Computer and Challenge by Choice. Each of these courses is designed to teach students strategies they can use in the coming school year.

If you would like more information about the Summer Program, please call the school at 871-6080 ext. SUM. Registration for the '98 session will begin in early Spring.

Library Reopening: A Family Affair

We at Springer often make reference to the "Springer Family" when telling of special achievements, projects, or donations. We have been blessed time and time again with the devotion and generosity of parents, trustees, staff and friends who come forth when there is a need. The library renovation project is a wonderful example of our family spirit.

In her Spring letter to parents, Norita Aplin, then executive director, described the project and asked for input or suggestions. The "family" answered:

*Tim and Kathy Cassady, whose son Paul, was in his first year at Springer, stepped up. Tim, who is Barbara Cassady Frey's brother and a building contractor, not only offered to do the remodeling at cost, but to solicit supplies and materials at either no cost or at cost so the Board's money could go further. Kathy, an interior designer, prepared the drawings.

*Tom and Sherry Farnham, also Springer parents, owners of The Farnham Company, a business specializing in library furnishings, were closely involved in the selection and installation of the furnishings.

*As the start date drew close, Tim Cassady announced that the project foreman would be Dan Frey, Barbara's son and a Springer grad. Dan has worked with his uncle for several years while in college.

*About that time, John Frey, wanting to insure funding was adequate to complete the project, began sending letters to friends who had made memorial gifts to the school in Barbara's name. The response was wonderful!

*Several trustees opened doors to local charitable foundations resulting in grants to supplement the Board's funding.

On November 14, the "family" gathered at a reception to herald the reopening of the new and improved Barbara Cassady Frey Library. The atmosphere was definitely festive as more than 100 parents, children and grandchildren, trustees, funders and staff admired the changes and tested out the new computers.

In her tribute to all involved with the project, Springer's executive director, Shelly Weisbacher summed up the feelings of the guests that night and anyone who had watched the new space take shape when she said, "For many children with learning disabilities who have difficulty with the written word, a library can be a daunting place, but you have made this space inviting and comfortable."

In his comments, Paul Niklas shared a story about his search for an appropriate poem he could use to honor Barbara. He ended up at the the public library and approached a librarian describing the upcoming event. As luck would have it, librarian Donna Monnig's son Tom was a Springer grad! They selected a verse from Carl Sandberg that epitomizes Barbara's unwavering goal of doing as much as she could for the benefit of her children.



Former Springer trustee Paul Niklas, right, a lifelong friend of John Frey, rededicates Springer's library to Barbara with a verse by Carl Sandberg.

*"I love you,"
said a great mother.
"I love you for what you are
knowing so well what you are.
And I love you more yet, child,
deeper yet than ever, child,
for what you are going to be,
knowing so well you are going far,
knowing your great works are ahead,
ahead and beyond,
yonder and far over yet"*

Barbara Cassady Frey

One of five children, Barbara Cassady was born and reared in Cincinnati. A graduate of the Summit Country Day School, she then attended Marygrove College in St. Louis where she majored in speech and hearing.

Shortly after graduation in 1959, Barbara married John Frey and settled in Hyde Park. From that point on, the focus of



her life was centered on her husband and family. She was the mother of nine children: John, Lynn, Michael, Jim, Tom, Katie, Dan, Anne and Peter. Her two

youngest sons, Dan and Peter, attended Springer. Barbara dearly loved her children and was dedicated to them. In spite of the huge task of raising nine kids, Barbara always found time to volunteer at her children's schools. At Springer, she was one of the founders of the school's library, soliciting books and materials, cataloging and acting as librarian several days a week so the students at Springer could have the experience of going to the library in their own school. Even during her treatment for lung cancer, she remained actively involved in her family's activities.

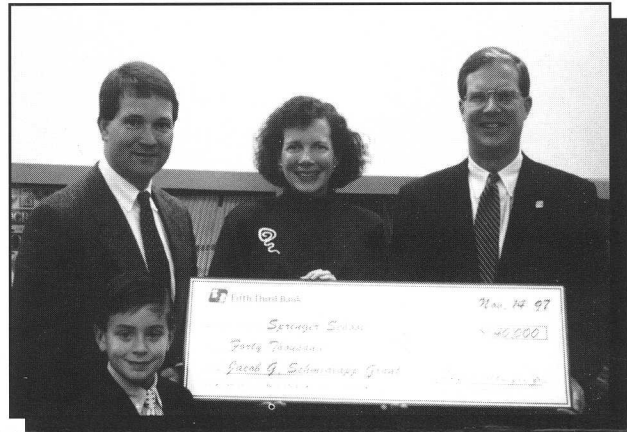
When she passed away in 1988, John asked that memorial gifts be sent to Springer's Library Fund. The library was formally named in Barbara's memory in October, 1988 when friends and family first gathered at the school to celebrate a remarkable woman and her spirit of love-filled giving.

Barbara Cassady Frey Library Reopens

Friends, family and funders enjoyed a gala reception on November 14, marking the reopening of Springer's library. Here are a few highlights.



Remodeling project manager, Dan Frey, listens as Springer's executive director recounts a construction story.



Primary student Paul Cassady, nephew of Barbara Cassady Frey, joins board president Tony Hobson and executive director Shelly Weisbacher as trustee Scott Degerberg, a Fifth Third Bank executive, presents a check for \$40,000 from the Jacob G. Schmidlapp Fund. This generous grant underwrote the cost of new furnishings for the library.



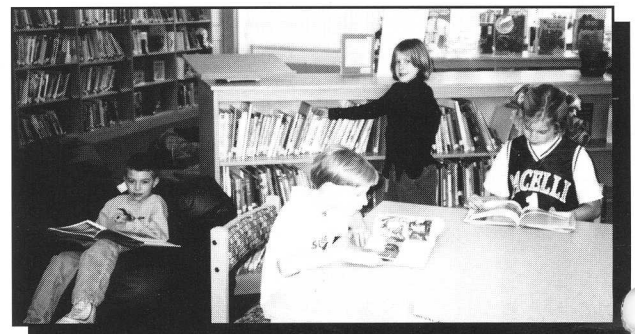
PNC executive Ed Arbaugh, (second from right) also a Springer trustee, represented the PNC Bank Foundation during the ceremonies. Also pictured here are, from left, Robbie Dimling, Springer's librarian, Shelly Weisbacher and Tony Hobson.



Scott Degerberg pays close attention as one of the party's younger guests demonstrates the capability of one of the library's new computers.



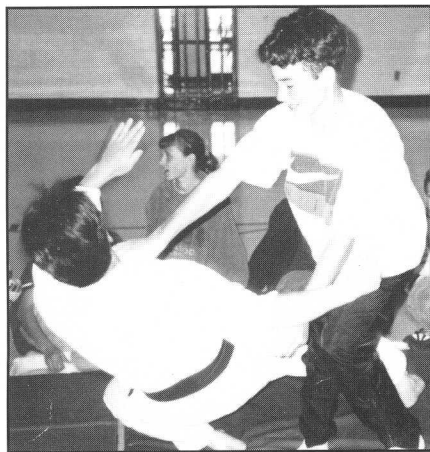
Springer parents Tim and Kathy Cassady (far left and right) and Sherry Farnham (second from right), a Springer alumni parent, spent many hours planning the library renovation with librarian Robbie Dimling. Tim's company, Foxfire Properties, was the general contractor, and the furnishings were ordered through The Farnham Company.



The party may be over, but Springer's students enjoy the beauty and comfort of their new library on a daily basis. Here, four Intermediate students enjoy a free reading period. From left, Matt Prather, Andrew Dober, Christina Ryall, and Meredith Kimbler.

Japanese Educator Visits The Springer School

Shusuke Shinohara was one of 24 Japanese teachers who visited Ohio this fall to learn about our educational system. While in Cincinnati, Mr. Shinohara was the houseguest of Springer faculty member Dr. Jill Johnson and her husband Bob Bonnici. A native of Betsukai, Japan, Mr. Shinohara holds a Bachelor's Degree in Education, and has taught first through third grades. During several visits to Springer, Mr. Shinohara met with various members of the Administration to better understand curricular issues, teaching methods, and how the school is structured and run. He also visited classrooms to talk about Japanese schools and students, as well as life in his hometown. Springer students had the chance to see a video of Mr. Shinohara's class, learn some Japanese character writing, get a demonstration of Kendo (a type of martial arts), and create origami hats out of newspaper. Although Mr. Shinohara saw many differences between Japanese and American schools, he found some things stay the same. "The children are very spirited," he said.



Jacob Unger practices Kendo with Shusuke Shinohara.

SPA News

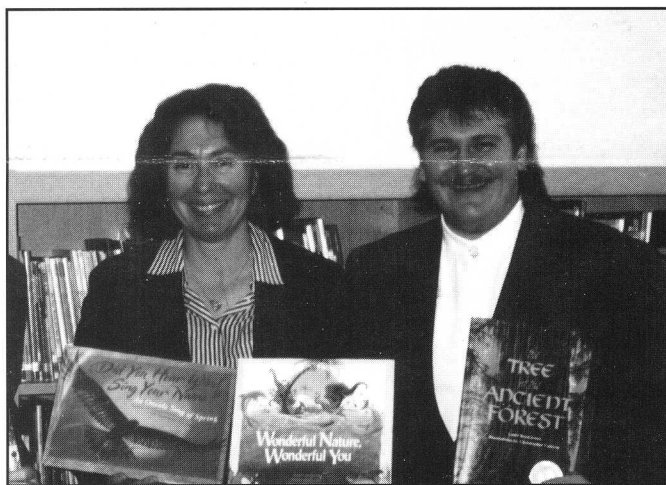
The Springer Parent Association is off to another great start this year, with many fun and profitable activities planned for the months to come. As a forum for parents to share their questions, ideas and concerns with administrators, SPA sponsors programs that enhance both students' and parents' awareness and involvement. These programs are designed to increase school spirit, enrich the children's academic experience and raise funds for special programs, such as the presentation for parents on learning disabilities held in November.

This year, SPA has organized several fundraising activities to benefit the school. The Bike Hike, held in October at Sharon Woods, raised over \$5,700. The Secret Holiday Shop offered students the opportunity to purchase gifts for family and friends. Another highly successful fundraiser this year has been the SCRIP Program. This program allows participants to buy vouchers for their favorite stores while Springer receives a percentage of the purchase price. Finally, SPA has continued weekly Order Out Day for students to enjoy lunches from LaRosa's, Subway and Chik-Fil-A.

The proceeds from these activities benefit student programs like Girls' Club and field trip scholarships, as well as provide the school with educational items.

1997-98 SPA Officers

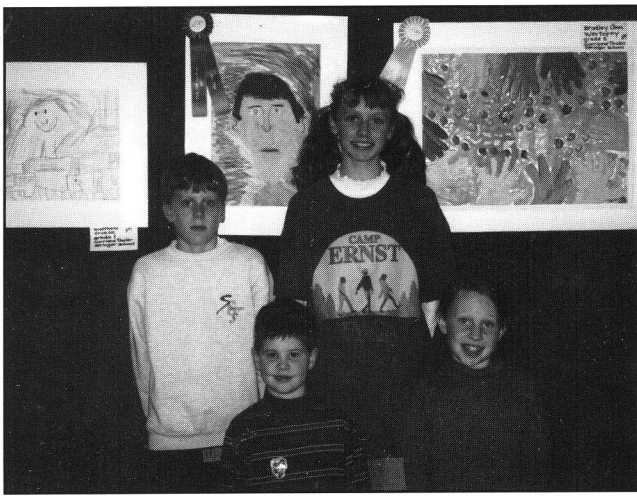
Carol Igoe *President*
Joan Costello
VP of Schoolwide Programs
Amy Duffy *VP of Fundraising*
Debbie Hicks
VP of Classroom Programs
Kim Haaff
Corresponding Secretary
Carolyn Williams *Secretary*
Sharon Kutney *Treasurer*
Shelagh Watson *Past President*



SPA President Carol Igoe and illustrator Christopher Canyon

Illustrator Talks with Students

Students and teachers were treated by SPA to a visit from nationally recognized illustrator Christopher Canyon on September 21. Mr. Canyon, a Columbus, Ohio native and a graduate of The Columbus College of Art and Design, is the illustrator of five children's books. Throughout his day at Springer, he presented a slide show detailing the illustration process and samples of his work. He also met with each Department for smaller, more detailed sessions that provided students the opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Canyon also autographed several books purchased by SPA for the school's library.



1997 Hyde Park Art Show Award Recipients (l. to r.):
Matthew Verkamp, Matthew Froese, Kim Johannigman,
Bradley Ann Wertepny

Springer Students Receive Honors at Hyde Park Art Show

Several Springer students received honors at this year's Hyde Park Art Show in early October. Primary student Matthew Verkamp and Upper School student Kim Johannigman both won First Place ribbons for their drawings. Primary student Matthew Froese and Intermediate student Bradley Ann Wertepny won

Honorable Mentions for their entries in the Drawing Division. In addition, Kim's 3D papier mache cat sculpture was selected as the subject for next year's Art Show poster. This year's Art Show poster was based on 1997 Springer graduate Brandon Shepherd's artwork. Congratulations!!

GRAD NEWS...GRAD NEWS...GRAD NEWS...GRAD NEWS...GRAD NEWS...GRAD NEWS...

1994 Grad Named Golden Galaxy Winner

Having a learning disability will never prevent Kevin McLay from using his musical talents to serve others. In fact, it is his passion for music that has given him the confidence and motivation to keep trying and to reach out to others. Although he has a language based learning disability, Kevin learned to read music at an early age. His high school band instructor didn't even know he had a problem. As one of 11 winners chosen from 274 nominees from 49 area schools, Kevin exemplifies an active concern for humanity. The Golden Galaxy Award, sponsored by the Cincinnati Enquirer, WKRC-TV and the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, honors high schools seniors who have used their talents to serve the community. Last summer, Kevin and members of his church taught songs in Portuguese and English to youth along the Amazon River. They spent eight days on a medical mission boat. Locally, he visits grade schools and nursing homes with his church chorus, plays trumpet in the Colerain High School marching band and Wind Ensemble and is active in the drama club. He spent last Spring Break helping with flood clean-up along the Ohio River. After graduation, Kevin plans to go to college, major in Music Education and become a band director.

1989 Grad Featured Commencement Speaker

As a six year old, Erin Barrett could barely complete a sentence. As a 1997 Finneytown High School graduate, she delivered a flawless commencement address. The journey to the podium was filled with memories of taunts, years of tutors and therapists, hard work and a deep belief that you can accomplish what you really want. In a letter to Springer, Erin's mother wrote that she treasured the four years she spent at Springer because of "the wonderful start it gave her for learning." The end of Erin's speech clearly sums up the attitude we wish for all our students: *"You have to work for your own happy endings. Life is never too easy. It is full of challenges you have to face on your own. Be strong. Believe in the beauty inside yourself."* Erin is currently a freshman at Anderson University in Indiana with plans for a degree in elementary education.



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Cincinnati, Ohio 45208

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NEWS & VIEWS is published by
The Springer School, Jeanne Rolfes, Editor
Telephone: 513/871-6080 Extension 214