

# News & Views

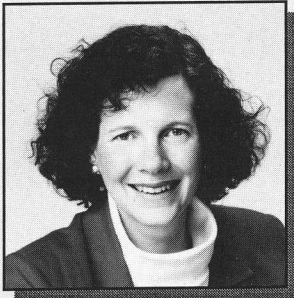
*of The Springer  
School*

SUMMER 1998

## 1998 Graduates



Jaman Bennett.....	Purcell Marian High School	Mica Leighton.....	Turpin High School
Cory Biehl.....	Bridgetown Junior High School	Tammy Mazuk.....	Purcell Marian High School
Clara Boesken.....	St. Ursula Academy	Michael McKenna.....	Elder High School
Zachary Calardo.....	Summit Country Day School	Michael McMullin.....	Greensview Elementary School, Columbus, OH
Patrick Daunt.....	Undecided	Jimmy Muzquiz.....	Home School
Andrew Dober.....	Summit Country Day School	Peter Niehoff.....	Bethany School
Emily Duffy.....	Terrace Park Elementary School	Meg O'Brien.....	Indian Hill High School
Meara Edwards.....	Purcell Marian High School	Greg Rhodes.....	McNicholas High School
Jesse Eustis.....	McNicholas High School	Sienna Smith.....	St. Vivian School
Lee Fjord.....	Mariemont High School	Elisa Tatham.....	Cincinnati Country Day School
Ellie Ford.....	Summit Country Day School	Trevor Taylor.....	Ridgeville Christian School
Jack Gardner.....	Indian Hill Elementary School	Anna Tepe.....	Sterling, MA
Chrissy Goldcamp.....	Summit Country Day School	Whitney Tolliver.....	Anderson Junior High School
Aaron Gould.....	Winton Woods High School	Jacob Unger.....	Campbell County High School
Michael Harris.....	Purcell Marian High School	Christopher Walker.....	Purcell Marian High School
Patrick Hawksley.....	St. Henry High School, KY	Charles Weber.....	Indian Hill Elementary
Spencer Hennigan.....	McNicholas High School	Kevin Weil.....	Sycamore High School
Tom Holm.....	Summit Country Day School	Mark Weinkam.....	Sycamore Junior High School
Johannigman.....	St. Ursula Academy	Spencer White.....	Anderson Junior High School
Andrew Kessler.....	Reading Junior High School	Michael Williams.....	Indian Hill Middle School
Erin Knecht.....	Purcell Marian High School	Katherine Wones.....	Purcell Marian High School
Thomas Kutney.....	Purcell Marian High School		



## Executive Director's Message

Shelly Weisbacher

While the term learning disabilities has been in use for more than thirty years, misunderstandings and misconceptions are as common now as ever. There are even people who continue to believe that learning disabilities do not really exist, rather that they are a convenient excuse for simply not trying one's hardest.

For those who spend each day teaching or nurturing children with learning disabilities, we understand through direct experience that the term learning disabilities covers a wide range of learning issues. Problems of memory, language, and attention often coexist. Even mild difficulties can have a major impact on an individual's ability to succeed at school, at work, on a team, or in social situations.

Significant research continues to shed new light on the causes of learning disabilities and effective remediation strategies. However, public perception is not easily changed. Many well-meaning teachers, coaches and relatives have far too limited an understanding of these very complex issues, yet they know just enough to feel they do understand. Their limited knowledge translates into children and also adults with learning disabilities feeling defensive; being expected to perform at levels they cannot because of learning issues; and being vulnerable to messages such as, "If you would only concentrate," or, "Those directions couldn't have been clearer. What's the problem?"

Teaching compensatory strategies and self-advocacy skills to children with learning disabilities is only one part of the equation. For a child to succeed, the adults surrounding the child need to understand what learning disabilities are and how they impact each child differently depending on a wide range of factors. Realizing the importance of educating families and professionals, the Board of Trustees of The Springer School has approved an expansion of our outreach services and the formation of the *Springer Center for Learning Disabilities*.

We are still in the planning stages for the Center, but we anticipate offering courses on all aspects of learning disabilities. While many of the programs will be directed to parents and professionals, the Center will also offer programs for individuals with learning disabilities who may or may not have been enrolled at The Springer School.

Through the Center, we hope to increase the understanding of learning disabilities and in so doing enhance the lives of children and adults with learning disabilities.

## Magnolia Goes West a Success!

Friends and family of The Springer School donned their party duds and headed into a Wild West "town" for the school's 15th annual Magnolia Time on April 25th. Once again, the dinner and auction were great successes, raising \$68,000 for the school's Financial Aid Program.

The theme "Magnolia Goes West" was evident everywhere from the wagon wheels and saloon under the stars (thanks to the magic of Decorative Rentals and Glen Goodwin Lighting Services), to the "grub" rustled up by Elegant

Fare. There was even a horse (no, not a real one) presiding over the Silent Auction. Steve Early once again donated his services as Auctioneer for the evening. Springer was also fortunate to have several area personalities on hand to auction off some Live Auction items. Channel 9 was represented by **Pete Delkus, Dennis Janson and Carol Willams**; **Jim Scott** from WLW Radio also lent his

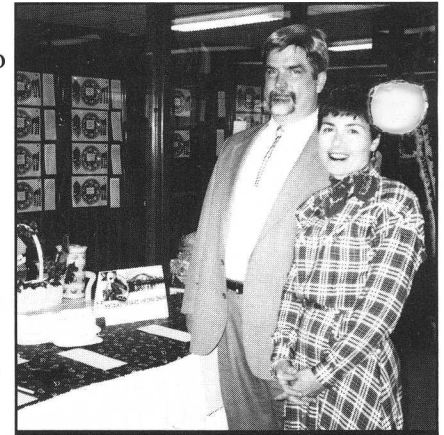


Springer staff member Jill Johnson and husband, Bob Bonnici sold Saddle Bags filled with goodies.

talents to the

evening as a guest auctioneer. Some of the great items offered in the Live Auction this year were: trips to Florida, Hilton Head, Colorado, Cleveland and North Carolina; Bengals season tickets; a "Dream Trip" for two; original cartoons by Jim Borgman and two

puppies. In addition to the Live and Silent Auctions, this year's Grand Raffle was also successful. Five "Early Bird" winners took home \$200 each, while a wonderfully generous Grand Prize Winner gave the \$10,000 back to the school. "Magnolia Goes West" could not have happened without the dedication and efforts of the wonderful volunteers who did everything from gather gifts to help decorate the gym. Thanks to **Bill and Kathie Templin** (Gift Acquisitions), **Pam Gardner** (Dinner and Entertainment), **Nancy Johannigman** (Decorations), **Elizabeth Schar, Hallie Goldcamp, and Kate Lawrence** (Hosts and Hostesses), **Kim Haaff** (Reservations), **Lydia Michels** (Saddle Bags), **Linda Lovett** (Class Baskets) and **Sara Morgan** (Painted Glass Sales). Springer staff members and friends of the school also contributed by working as bartenders, ticket sellers, auction helpers and other jobs too numerous to list. Thanks to all!!



Springer parents Julie and Russell Wilson take a moment from the Silent Auction to smile for the camera.

## LD Specialist Visits School

In May, Dr. Mel Levine gave an evening address to almost 300 parents explaining how attentional problems can cause children to underachieve, display behavioral difficulties and have trouble making friends. The following day, he presented a workshop for Springer's staff and 52 area education professionals where he shared his model of Attention Controls for behavior, learning and social interaction.

An internationally recognized researcher and educator, Dr. Levine is Professor of Pediatrics and Director of the Clinical Center for the Study of Development and Learning at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine at Chapel Hill.



Dr. Mel Levine shares impressions of his two-day visit to Springer.

## Staff Members Celebrate 10 Years at Springer

Robbie Dimling, Meg Konerman, Mark Phelps and Mary Lou Tepe were all recognized for their ten years of service to the school at the Annual Dinner on May 12th. Thanks and congratulations!!



l. to. r.: Robbie Dimling, Mark Phelps, Meg Konerman, and Mary Lou Tepe

## Thoughts from our Graduates....

Thanks to those who have returned their Graduate Census. The response has been great, and we love to hear what you are doing now. Here are a few updates:

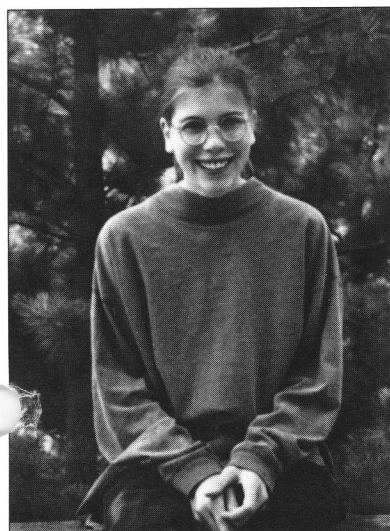
"After my graduation from Yale University with a degree in Physics, I plan to work toward a Ph.D. at MIT, Stanford or UC Berkeley. Like many dyslexics, I am very visually oriented. After Springer taught me to read and learn in a regular classroom, my visual skills carried me a long way. Thank you!" - 1986 Springer graduate

"I received an Associate's Degree in Culinary Arts from the Culinary Institute of America. I now work as a chef at a private resort in New England. As of March 1998, I will be working on a Bachelor's Degree in Restaurant Management at the New England Culinary Institute." - 1982 Springer graduate

"After high school, I want to go to college and study to become a doctor. I love high school so much and have made honor roll at Seven Hills! Springer has made a very big difference in my life and I am very grateful." - 1993 Springer graduate

## 1998 Graduates Honored

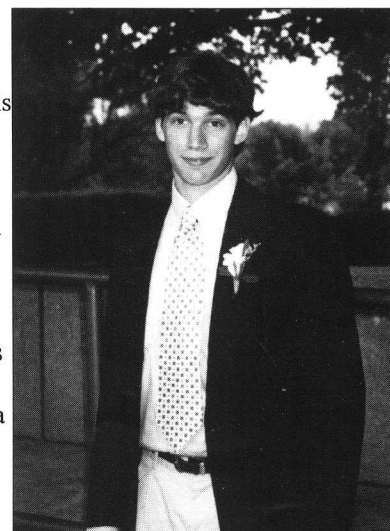
Two Springer grads were honored at the school's Graduation Ceremony held on June 3rd.



**Erin Knecht** received the Education Director's Award. This award is given to a graduating student who has an understanding of her/his learning disability, a desire to strengthen weaknesses and to apply strategies in everyday learning. Erin is committed to her education and is looked to by peers and staff as a role model, mentor and friend.

The Bolan Scholarship was presented to **Jesse Eustis**. This award honors a graduating student who takes responsibility for his/her future success in school, has decided their disability will not limit the future, maintains a positive attitude, and exhibits leadership.

*Congratulations!*



# Outstanding Achievers Honored

Four Springer graduates were honored with *The Springer Outstanding Achiever Award* at the school's Annual Dinner held on May 12th. This award recognizes individuals who have overcome their learning disabilities to achieve in academics, art, sports, music and community service. The 1998 winners are:

**Kevin McLay**, a 1994 Springer grad, uses his musical talents to help others. His passion for music gave him the motivation and confidence to keep trying, despite his learning disability. His hard work paid off when Kevin was chosen as a Golden Galaxy Award winner for the 1997-98 school year. Kevin volunteers through his church visiting nursing homes, helping with community service projects and singing in the choir. After his graduation from Colerain High School this Spring, Kevin plans to major in Music Education at The College of Mt. St. Joseph to become a band director. Kevin thanked his teachers at Springer for giving him the tools to be "very well prepared for high school."

**Eric Shafer** graduated from Springer in 1985. After receiving a BS in Rehabilitation Counseling from Wright State in 1994, Eric worked with the Montgomery County Court as a Juvenile Probation Officer. Now an Adult Probation Officer, Eric has developed programs for probationers at the Dayton Boys' and Girls' Club. He has received the MARC of Excellence Award for his work with the Juvenile Court, and was recently chosen as a member of a special committee to write new training manuals. Eric volunteers in his community by coaching both the West Carrollton wrestling team and the Wright State wheelchair basketball team. Eric told the audience at the ceremony that "I finally realized what school was about when I got to college." Applying the skills he learned at Springer, Eric currently holds a 4.0 GPA at the University of Dayton where he is working on a Master's Degree in Counseling.



1998 Springer Outstanding Achiever Award winners (l. to r.): Andrew Lange, Eric Shafer, Cassie Jacobs and Kevin McLay.

**Cassie Jacobs**, a 1993 Springer graduate, just finished her Junior at St. Ursula Academy. She was recently inducted into the National Honor Society, and is also a member of Ursula's rowing team and Pep Club. Cassie was chosen to participate this summer in a foreign exchange program in Madrid, Spain. To receive this honor, she had to write an essay and submit letters of recommendation. She will be studying culture, history and language at the

International School. Like the other Achievers, Cassie also volunteers in her community. She gives her time to an area soup kitchen and the SPCA's Puppy Love Program, which takes puppies to visit nursing homes. Cassie is considering attending the Cleveland Art Institute after graduation. She credits her success to the teachers at Springer who taught her reading strategies to deal with her dyslexia.

**Andrew Lange** attended Beechwood Jr. High and St. Xavier High School after graduating from Springer in 1990. He was captain of the track team his Junior and Senior years at St. X, going to the state finals during the latter. Andrew was also active in the school's canned food drive and Big Brother Program. He was selected to be a "Bomber Pilot" his Senior year – a program at St. X which honors Seniors by pairing them with a Freshman as a mentor. Andrew was recruited to play football by the University of Dayton, where he has just completed his first year. He is considering a double major in Secondary Education and Business.

*If you know a Springer grad (or yourself!) who should be considered for the Outstanding Achiever Award, send her or his name, address, phone number and achievements to: The Springer School, Outstanding Achiever Award, 2121 Madison Road, Cincinnati, OH 45208. Attention: Shelly Weisbacher.*

## Leave a Legacy Program

You may have received information from other non-profits or read in the paper recently about a new program in town known as "Leave a Legacy." It's an all-out effort to educate us about the importance of helping organizations like The Springer School, not only during our lifetimes, but afterwards, too. Most people leave an estate when they die even though they may not have a great deal of wealth. Anyone can arrange to leave a charitable gift from their estate when they pass away. When you Leave a Legacy, you make sure the help continues to be there for those who need it.

The most common way to do this is through a will. Without a will, you lose control over your belongings after death. Your property and finances are settled according to state laws, whether or not they coincide with your family's wishes. Many people set aside a certain dollar amount. Others leave a percentage of their estate or any assets left after their family has been provided for. Some people give a charity something they own, like their car or home. Others leave a paid-up life insurance policy.

To name Springer in your will, please talk to a lawyer, financial planner, accountant or insurance agent. When you Leave a Legacy, you make a lasting difference.

An Initiative of the Greater Cincinnati Planned Giving Council



LEAVE A LEGACY

Greater Cincinnati

*Make a Lasting Difference*

# All School Meeting

The school held its first-ever All School Meeting on Thursday evening, April 30. Board President Tony Hobson used this forum as the vehicle for announcing the formation of the **Springer Center for Learning Disabilities**.

While Community Outreach has always been part of the school's mission to provide indirect services to individuals with learning disabilities, the Center will allow an expansion of them. For the past several years, the school has provided indirect services in a number of ways: its summer school program, by presenting at community meetings and by providing training for student teachers.

The Center will provide additional services to our students and their families and new services to others in our community (professionals, non-day students and parents). Offerings will include the current summer school and continuing education programs and workshops for teachers, students and parents. Future plans include a library with LD resources and a Web Page. The current plan is to get one or two new programs up and running and then build on those successes with an expanded program.

Information about the new programs and how to access them will be detailed in future issues of this newsletter.

The All School Meeting also served as the platform to provide a review of the current school year and to share some thoughts and plans for the future.

Springer trustee Mary Moffett shared a handout of a chart developed to define the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, Parents, Students, Staff and Administration. This work was done in response to questions from some parents who did not understand the function of the Board.

Springer Parent Association president Carol Igoe highlighted some of the group's activities to promote and support the school.

Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher announced that it was time to renew the school's accreditation by the Independent School Association of the Central States (ISACS). This three-year process culminates with a team of teachers and administrators from other independent schools visiting Springer to review the school's written plans and documents and conduct interviews with various constituents. Mrs. Weisbacher also gave an update of the school's technology program and announced that the science program at Springer was the beneficiary of funds raised by the Grandparent Campaign of the Annual Fund Drive. The \$14,000 will be used to purchase new curriculum materials and to begin renovation of the two labs.

Upper School Science teacher Christi Utz shared the school's plan to prepare Springer's students for the state-mandated high school proficiency test. The school has made some adjustments in the curriculum and has instituted a pilot program to familiarize students with this kind of test as a way to relieve some of the stress a student feels about this test and test-taking in general. The program includes taking practice tests and using materials provided by the State.

## Primary Poetry Party

Students in Beth Smith's class recently held a reading of their original poems. Here's a poem by Robin Warshaw to get your summer off on the right foot.

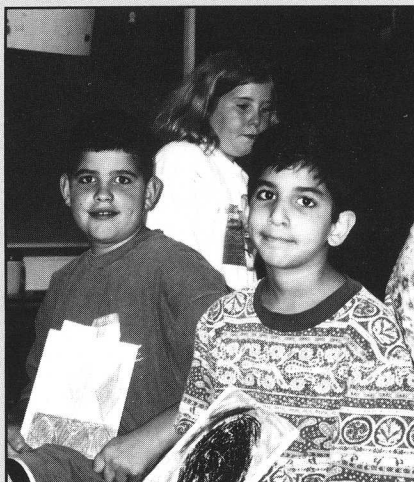
### Beach

Relax sun enjoyable  
exciting

Provides sand water

Happy laying in sun

Myrtle Beach



Primary students Mark Wetterer (l.) and Abdul Mohammed show off their poetry books

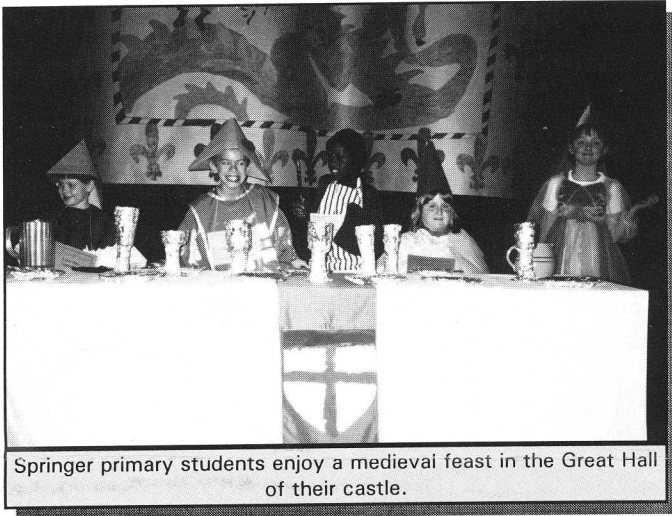
## Thank You...

This issue of *News & Views* will be my last as Editor. After 12 years as Development Director at Springer, I am leaving to accept the position of President of St. Ursula Villa in Mt. Lookout. It is with much sadness that I leave Springer, but with much excitement and anticipation that I approach my new role at the Villa.

It has been a true pleasure and honor to have worked with such a fine array of devoted friends of Springer – staff, parents, trustees and community volunteers. The Springer School is a remarkable community resource that truly does change the lives of those children who have entered. I am proud to have been a part of it and will always remember the school and all who have made it what it is.

Thanks,  
Jeanne Rolfes

# All School Quest Brings Middle Ages to Life

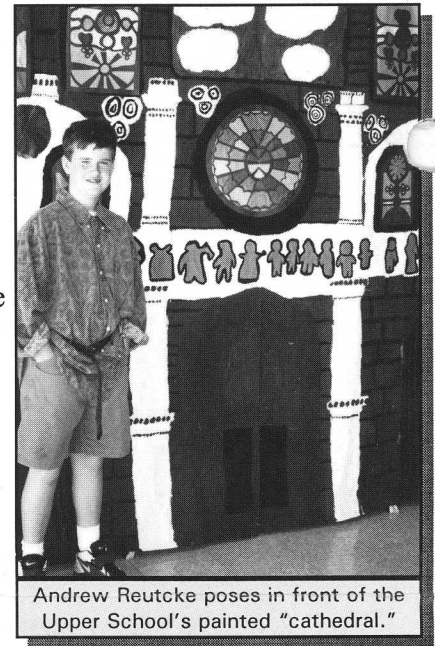


Springer primary students enjoy a medieval feast in the Great Hall of their castle.

The Middle Ages came alive through the hard work of Springer students and staff at the All School Quest on April 1st. Months in the making, the Quest is a way to involve the entire school in a theme that carries through all academic areas. Every Department develops a different aspect of the theme. This year's topic offered many opportunities for learning and fun.

The Primary Department studied castles and castle life. They set up a castle and Great Hall in the gym and assumed the roles of castle dwellers. The Intermediate Department focused on knights and the feudal system. For their part in the Quest, students created games, sketched full-color knights and made

helmets and coats of arms. They also reenacted a knighting ceremony throughout the event. Others wrote stories and explanations of famous people from medieval times. These included kings, explorers and inventors. The Medieval City was the topic the Upper School chose to explore. They researched city life, and students took on the roles of those one would encounter at a medieval street fair.



Andrew Reutcke poses in front of the Upper School's painted "cathedral."

During Art and music classes, the students made three-dimensional helmets and stained glass windows, and learned about Gregorian chants and medieval minstrels. They also participated in activities and games from the Middle Ages.

The Co-chairs of the Quest were Fran Cohen and Margery Kramer. Committee members included Gina Blume, Jill Johnson, Corrinne Thaler and Christi Utz.

Have a great Summer!!  
 See you in the fall!



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