



Fall 1998

# News and Views

The Springer School

## Springer Welcomes New Trustees

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

### 1998-99 Officers

**Anthony W. Hobson**, President  
**Richard J. Blum**, Vice-President  
**H.C. Buck Niehoff**, Treasurer  
**Sarah O. Steinman, Ph.D.**, Secretary

### Welcome to the following new Trustees:

An alumni parent, **Andrew C. Eustis, Ph.D.** is the Executive Director for the Center for Adaptive Management in Blue Ash. Dr. Eustis is also an adjunct professor at Xavier University. His son, Jesse is a 1998 Springer graduate. He will serve on the Resource Management Committee.

**Charles H. Gerhardt, III** is the Manager of Public Strategies at CInergy Corporation. He was recently named Bid-development Coordinator for Cincinnati 2012, Inc., a non-profit agency that is seeking to bring the Olympics to Cincinnati. Mr. Gerhardt will serve on Springer's Strategic Planning Committee.

**Donna Hartman**, Communications Officer at the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, will lend her talents to the Development Committee. Ms. Hartman's community volunteer experi-

ence includes terms on the boards of the Leukemia Society and the Cincinnati Preservation Society.

**"The Board is very excited about the launch of the Outreach Center. We believe this will be a tremendous benefit and opportunity for students, parents, alumni families, professional staff and, in fact, all of Greater Cincinnati."**  
**Anthony W. Hobson, Board President**

**Lydia Jacobs-Horton** is Manager of the Real Estate Department at Procter and Gamble. Ms. Jacobs-Horton will serve on the Resource Management Committee.

**Stephen T. MacConnell** is the Senior Vice President for Legal Affairs and Human Resources at Student Loan Funding Resources, Inc. Mr. MacConnell brings his talents to the Resource Management Committee.



Springer students enjoy themselves at the Annual Bike Hike and Family Picnic on October 2. Chaired by Springer parent Julie Rugh, the Bike Hike is always a great time for Springer families. Students raise money by gathering pledges for biking the trail. Proceeds are allocated by S.P.A. for special programs and materials. In addition to biking and rollerblading, students, parents, and staff enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs, the Upper School Bake Sale, and crafts for all ages. Thanks to all that made this year's Bike Hike a great success!

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*Executive  
Director's  
Column*

*Shelly  
Weisbacher*

This is an exciting and busy time at The Springer School. We have welcomed new trustees, staff, and 46 new families, kicked off the Annual Fund Drive, showcased our students' talents at the Hyde Park Art Show, and enjoyed the annual Bike Hike and Family Picnic. Following are some highlights of current projects and activities.

Last spring, we announced plans to expand our outreach services and create the **Springer Center for Learning Disabilities**. At this writing, we are just weeks away from opening the Center. Outreach Director Ms. Sandra Kohn is finalizing the program schedule; the Center space has been renovated and furnished; and the phone is already ringing with requests for information and presentations. Schools have inquired about faculty workshops and families have phoned seeking referrals and resources. When the Center opens this winter, programs will be in place for parents, professionals, and students. For more information, call the Center at 871-9174.

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Springer is accredited by the Independent School Association of the Central States (ISACS). The accreditation process follows a seven year cycle. Last year, we completed the year one steps which included surveying parents, trustees and staff about all aspects of the school. Survey responses were tabulated, analyzed, and compared to other ISACS K-8 schools. We are pleased to share that in all areas, the responses were very positive. Currently, we are engaged in an extensive self-study process that requires us to assess current programs and practices, and to develop plans and priorities for the future.

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Our faculty and administrators continue their outstanding commitment to professional development and training. This summer, seven staff members attended week-long workshops sponsored by Dr. Mel Levine's "All Kinds of Minds" Institute; another five staff spent a week studying math strategies at the Marilyn Burn's Math Solutions seminar; and three participated in a conference on fine and gross motor issues that impact school functioning. We have all benefited from the influx of new ideas. Further, our staff led three workshops at the recent Ohio Association of Independent Schools Conference in Columbus and presented two workshops on reading decoding and comprehension strategies to parents at Springer.

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Finally, the children repeatedly impress us with their insights. Recently, intermediate students generated strategies for working together in the classroom. Some of their ideas included:

- \*Help others if they are struggling*
- \*Be responsible for your own behavior*
- \*Show your peers respect*
- \*Share your ideas*

What good advice for all of us!

## New Faces at Springer

**Springer is pleased to welcome the following new members to our staff:**



*Shelley Ball*, the Upper School reading teacher, has seven years experience teaching fifth grade Language Arts and Social Studies at Cardinal Pacelli School in Mt. Lookout. She is currently completing a Master's Degree in Special Education at Xavier University.



*Jeanine Flores* joins Springer as a teacher in the Intermediate Department. Her background includes a Master's Degree from Fordham University and four years experience in a residential setting classroom. Jeanine was also employed as a Program Coordinator for the inclusion curriculum at Gila Vista Middle School in Yuma, AZ.



*Mandy Geil* received her Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Cleveland State University in June, 1998. Mandy brings her skills to the Intermediate Department as a Language Therapist.



Intermediate teacher *Cari Kallaher* is a 1996 Muskingum College graduate with a degree in Elementary Education and Specific Learning Disabilities. Before joining Springer's staff, Cari taught at Assumption School. Cari's brother Patrick is a 1990 Springer graduate.

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## Springer Students Receive Honors

Several Springer students recently received honors for their pieces at this year's Hyde Park Art Show. Joey Adler, a primary student, received a first place award for his watercolor entry. Bradley Ann Wertepny, an Intermediate student, and Tim Bigner, an Upper School student, were both awarded an Honorable Mention for their watercolors. In addition, 1998 Springer graduate Kim Johannigman provided the poster art for this year's show. Her ceramic 3-D cat was a first prize winner last year. The show, held on Sunday, October 4, exhibits artwork from Greater Cincinnati students in grades 1-12.



*L. to R.: Bradley Ann Wertepny, Joey Adler and Tim Bigner*

# New Faces at Springer

**Sandy Kohn** joins Springer as the Outreach Director for the newly-established Springer Center for Learning Disabilities. Sandy is a licensed social worker with a Master's Degree in Special Education from the University of Cincinnati. She has worked in a variety of therapeutic settings with children in Cincinnati and Florida. Sandy's son Jonah is a 1994 Springer graduate.



**Susan Novik** is an Instructional Assistant in the Intermediate Department. Susan has Master's Degrees in both American Studies and Psychology from the University of Minnesota. Prior to joining Springer, Susan was an instructor and administrator at the University of Cincinnati.



After her first job as an advertising copywriter, **Kathy McMillin** returned to school and earned her Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Cincinnati. She joins Springer's staff as the Upper School Language Therapist.

**Angel McQuaig** received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Cincinnati and then taught in the Forest Hills and West Clermont School Districts. She has also taught preschool and has worked as a nanny. Angel is an Instructional Assistant in the Intermediate Department.

**Karen Short** returns to Springer as the Language Therapist for the Primary Department. She holds a Master's Degree in Speech Language and Pathology from Miami University.



Cincinnati native **Diane Temming** comes to Springer after a position as a teacher assistant at Immaculate Heart of Mary School. Diane is an Instructional Assistant in the Upper School.

not pictured: Karen Short

## Science, Science, Science!

As Co-chairs of Springer Grandparents' Campaign last year, John and Ruth Sawyer gave donors the opportunity to designate their gift to the Science Program Fund. Proceeds to this fund totaled over \$14,000 and helped make many exciting and enriching changes to Springer's science rooms and curriculum.

The Primary and Intermediate science room has been reconfigured to accommodate large and small group projects, and areas for individual exploration. Each corner of the room contains interactive displays focused on a different aspect of the Science Curriculum. The Upper School room has been arranged to provide more space for independent study activities. New lab tables were also



Springer students enjoy their new science room.

purchased for both the Primary and Intermediate and the Upper School rooms.

Not all the changes have been physical, however. For example, six new units have been developed to complete the renovation of the Science Curriculum. These units include such topics as "Motion and Design" and "Organisms." Primary and Intermediate students' opportunities for hands-on learning have been increased through expanded

displays and materials. Upper School students are enjoying more computer-based activities through the addition of more curriculum-related software.

Thank you to all who supported the Science Fund! We hope you will come by and see first-hand the changes you have made possible!

SPRINGER GRADUATES.....Keep us updated! We want to let you know about your classmates' achievements and happenings. Send us your news and address changes. We can't wait to hear from you!

## THE SPRINGER SCHOOL

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## Annual Fund Drive Underway

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Springer's 1998-99 Annual Fund Drive has kicked off with expectations of another highly successful year. Board President and Fund Drive Chair Anthony W. Hobson has set this year's goal at \$190,000.

All proceeds from the Fund Drive benefit the school's financial aid program and allow 50 families each year to enroll their children at Springer.

Lending Mr. Hobson a hand this year are: **Julie and Russell Wilson**, Present Parent Campaign Chairs; **Andrew C. Eustis, Ph.D. and Richard J. Blum**, Alumni Campaign Chairs; **John and Ruth Sawyer**, Grandparents' Campaign; and

**Richard P. Meder**, Graduates' Campaign Chair.

Gifts are already starting to come in, and we're on our way to meeting this year's goal. But we need still your support to ensure that every child who needs Springer will be able to attend. Providing financial aid is a vital part of Springer's mission; you *can* make a difference in the life of a child with learning disabilities. Thank you for your support!



*1998 Annual Fund Drive Chair  
Anthony W. Hobson*

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## Nominate an Outstanding Achiever!

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Do you know a graduate of The Springer School who should be recognized for her/his achievements? If so, nominate her/him for Springer's **Outstanding Achiever Award**. This yearly award honors Springer grads who have been successful in academics, the arts, athletics, or other areas and have demonstrated a commitment to community service.

Recipients are honored at Springer's Annual Dinner in early May. Please call Stacy Chmura in the Development Office at 871-6080 ext. 232 for a nomination form and guidelines.