



# News & Views of The Springer School

Summer 1993

## *Congratulations to Our Graduates!*

Josh Adam	Purcell Marian High School	Becky Knoblaugh	Doherty School
Andy Bauer	Sellman Middle School	David Kohls	Purcell Marian High School
Meryl Bendon	Summit Academy (Louisville, KY)	Phillip Kramer	Robert E. Lucas Middle School
Dan Burkhardt	McNicholas High School	Brian LeFevre	St. Ursula Villa
Garrett Chunn	Terrace Park Elementary	Anna Levin	Wyoming Middle School
John Collier	Summit Elementary School	Kevin Lonneman	Turkeyfoot Middle School
Alex Comisar	Doherty School	Michael Maldarelli	To be determined
Daniel Cunningham	Summit Elementary School	Monica Miele	Covedale Elementary School
Josh Deckard	Indian Hill Middle School	Tom Meyer	Turpin High School
Jessica Earley	Seven Hills Middle School	Kari Mount	Purcell Marian High School
Kelly Eichmann	Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy	Gordon Narburgh	Turpin High School
Justin Ellis	Summit Country Day School	Patty Orr	Bethany School
Amanda Fields	Vanguard School (Florida)	Trevor Orr	Purcell Marian High School
Starr Fischer	Cincinnati Country Day School	David Pordy	Sycamore Junior High School
Randy Fisher	Georgetown High School	Morgan Rich	St. Ursula Villa
Lindsey Franklin	Summit Country Day School	Pam Rockenfield	McNicholas High School
CeCe Gehrig	St. Ursula Villa	Brandon Rutledge	Sycamore Junior High School
Kirstin Gerhardt	Purcell Marian High School	Sammy Schottenstein	Indian Hill Middle School
Amanda Gillman	Purnell School (New Jersey)	Joe Shipley	Purcell Marian High School
Billy Golub	McNicholas High School	Michael Slack	Bethany School
Keith Gormley	Covington Catholic High School	Louis Sonne	Lakota High School
Corey Hall	Purcell Marian High School	Rachel Summe	Beechwood Junior High School
Meg Hartings	Summit Country Day School	Carl Thompson	St. Francis De Sales
Rosie Herman	McNicholas High School	Jim Toon	Purcell Marian High School
David Hildebrand	LaSalle High School	Chris Wiehe	Winton Woods Middle School
Cassie Jacobs	St. Ursula Villa	Ronny Williams	Sycamore Junior High School
Matt Klopp	St. Antoninus Elementary		



## Executive Director's Message

Norita Aplin, Ed.D.

At any year's end the sense of appreciation is strong. Reflecting on the contributions of so many people causes me to appreciate how outstanding a year we have had.

To highlight a few —

Our trustees, led by *Michael S. McGraw*, raised enough money to award \$195,000 to 53 students. They also spearheaded a special "challenge campaign" in order to receive matching funds which will bolster our financial aid resources. Implementation of our Strategic Plan was begun; at the same time continued leadership was provided to assure that our ongoing mission remains solid.

Our instructional staff is selfless in their efforts with the students; and in addition to facing this challenge, they implemented a revised reading instructional plan and a new social skills curriculum.

Our maintenance staff supported our commitment to the community by accommodating a wide range of requests to use our facility: from basketball practices in the gym (Summit Country Day and Cardinal Pacelli) to monthly meetings of the Attention Deficit Disorder Council, the Orton Society's weekly adult literacy tutoring sessions as well as Saturday workshops for several organizations.

Our secretarial staff not only provides those services necessary for communication and program demands, but is tireless in their work to maintain a nurturing and open climate in the school.

Our parents are just wonderful partners in helping us understand and support their developing children. Additionally, their volunteer efforts, under the fine leadership of *Kathy LeFevre* as SPA President, enabled us to continue over fourteen on-going projects and add two new ones — a parent support group and a parent-buddy system.

And the incredible success of *Magnolia Time* under the fine leadership of *Paula Comisar* and *Kate Lawrence* raised over \$75,000 which will enable us to increase the amount of Financial Aid available for 1993-94.

Finally, I am so appreciative of the outstanding administrative team at Springer who always meets whatever challenge we face with energy, professionalism and creativity.

Thank you for a grand year!

## Springer Gains Exposure

### Sharing Conservation Ideas with Warner Cable

A group of Springer students is finding out what it means to be environmentally conscious as their worm compost pile and solar clubhouse become public on cable access channels this summer.

Upper School teacher *Terry Moorehead* organized the effort with the Warner Cable sponsored "Earth Buddies" to expose their method of composting with worms and discarded food items. Intermediate teacher *Karen Nagel* helped coordinate the project and explained that this process demonstrated how to create better fertilizer from food items. "It has been fascinating to see how it works, it was like a treasure hunt to find the fruit scraps and see that they were gone," added Karen.

Also featured in the taping was *Pattie Hericks'* idea, a clubhouse made of solar panels and builders' plastic. It was constructed by Springer alumni parent *Clifford Born* who facilitated the assembling by using wooden pegs so that the house could be used again. The purpose was to show how to solar heat using certain materials and placing the transparent side to the south.

Both of the projects were part of a series of topics focused on during the Friday afternoon periods shared by Upper School teachers. Six Intermediate students also participated in the environment segment.

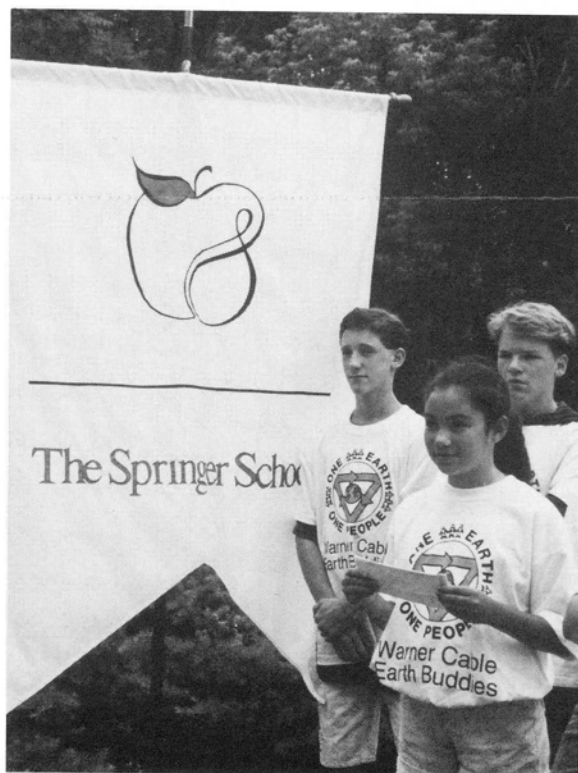
This is the third year for Warner Cable to offer a program like "Earth Buddies," a videotaping project focusing on the studies of six area schools for future public service announcements. *Keith Norman*, a design drafter for Warner Cable, volunteered to act as the liaison for Springer's taping. Norman, who hand-picked Springer because of his special interest in the school, assisted in selecting a script and stage to set the scene.

According to *Leslie Bailey*, Manager of Public Relations at Warner Cable, "Earth Buddies" is under the umbrella of "One Earth, One People" - a project led by *Jane Church* and supported by local education, business and corporate sponsors. There are several projects going on as part of "One Earth, One People," some of which involve pen pals, art projects displayed at the Museum Center and an international teleconference between selected American and Brazilian children. According to Bailey, the teleconference will involve sharing environmental concerns and "be the culmination of all these activities."

"Earth Buddies" PSA's will run twice a day on a rotating basis starting in mid-July until the teleconference occurs. They will be randomly placed from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m. depending upon the amount of unsold advertising slots. Ten major cable channels including CNN, ESPN and A&E will feature the public service announcements.



Wearing the shirts they received for being "Earth Buddies," *Dan Burkhardt* (left) and *Patrick Gilpin* pose as *Jessica Earley* describes the compost pile process for Warner Cable videographer.



## Keeping Current is Important Goal for Springer Staff

by Shelly Weisbacher, Curriculum Director

Each year the Springer staff continues to expand their knowledge of current theories and practices in education through in-service training. Training programs are carefully selected to match current curriculum goals. This past year, staff participated in a number of very exciting programs. To highlight a few:

*Mark Phelps*, our physical education teacher, attended a three day national conference in early August which focused on helping children set and achieve personal physical fitness goals. Using information gained from this conference, Mark worked closely with *Marcia Goldsmith* and *Jane Williams*, our motor coordination therapists, to develop and implement a program called Personal Best. As part of this program, the students were individually evaluated and then the students set personal physical skill development goals. During the year, activities were tailored to help students achieve their goals, and progress was assessed in an on-going manner.

*Dr. Jill Johnson*, an oral communications teacher, participated in the New Tools seminar during July at Harvard University. At this week-long conference, she learned ways to use computers and other technological tools for enhancing the curriculum, and engaging students in cooperative learning and active problem solving. Jill shared this information at a faculty in-service, and began using these new ideas with students in the Intermediate Gold department. In the future, she plans to lead a series of workshops for a pilot group of staff members.

Before school began, classroom teachers, classroom assistants, and the oral communications teachers attended a three day in-service focused on techniques for teaching word identification and decoding skills. As a result of this training, a new word identification program was implemented at the Intermediate and Upper School levels, and use of the Project Read decoding program was expanded at the Primary level.

All members of the Springer staff attended the national Orton Conference in November. The conference sessions covered a wide range of issues and we were able to gather many ideas. Some of the information collected was presented to the various curriculum committees for further consideration while other ideas were informally shared among staff members.

In late winter, classroom teachers, assistants, and oral communications teachers attended an in-service on reading comprehension strategies presented by *Dr. Karin Dahl* from Ohio State University. As a follow-up to *Dr. Dahl's* presentation, several strategies were identified for further study and implementation. Staff members read and discussed articles about the strategies, selected one strategy to implement in their classrooms, and then shared the results of the implementation with their colleagues.

*Dr. Richard Luftig*, from Miami University, addressed the subject of social skill development with the staff in April. His talk focused on developing social skills through role-playing. Following his presentation to the staff, he met with Springer parents to discuss social skills and self-esteem.

## Bolan Scholarship Recipient Finds Her Key to Success

*Pam Rockenfield* of Anderson Township is reaping the rewards of hard work and determination early in life. Not yet college bound, she is a 1993 Springer graduate and this year's recipient of the Bolan Scholarship.

This annually awarded scholarship is made available through a memorial fund set up for Peter Bolan, a Springer alumni parent who died suddenly in 1988. The scholarship is designed for recognizing student(s) who take exceptional responsibility toward his/her school performance and future success. The individual receiving this award demonstrates a commitment to overcoming his/her learning disability so as to prevent it from ever becoming an obstacle in achieving certain lifetime goals.

Pam attended Springer fifth through the eighth grades where teachers worked with her to improve her approach to her language-based learning problems. According to Pam's mom, "She needed to know how to collect her thoughts, write them down and trouble shoot from there." She was also taught that learning doesn't come easy and that asking many questions and using other coping mechanisms can help you to eventually achieve.

While at Springer, Pam was a member of the track team and this year was Student Council President. She also had the opportunity to utilize her art skills, a hobby she intends to pursue at McNicholas High School where she will attend this fall.

Pam has won a position on the school drill team and is the only incoming freshman to do so. Just going out for the team exemplifies what her mother calls, "the edge Springer has given her to stick her foot in the door." Pam agrees saying, "Springer helped me to put more confidence in myself and branch out to other people more."



*Pam received the Bolan Scholarship at Springer's graduation ceremony June 7.*

The school was "a buzz" with excitement one day late in May when a swarm of about 5,000 honey bees stopped by on their search for a new home. The Zoo was called and insect specialist *Milan Bushing* arrived complete with protective clothing and a new home for the bees. With one sharp blow, the swarm dropped into a carrying case. They now reside at The Zoo.



## Graduate Survey Completed

Springer's program includes close follow-up with graduates for the first year after leaving the school. Contact during later years ranges from regular to sporadic. However, a 1988 survey of Springer grads provided valuable information about completion of high school, attendance at college or technical schools and career choices.

Early this year, another graduate survey was undertaken to test whether high school graduation rate and post secondary education pursuit continued at the level identified in 1988.

Of the 199 students predicted to graduate from high school between 1985 and 1991, 178 held diplomas while 6 had completed a GED course of studies for a 92% rating.

25 of those students have graduated from college. One has graduated from law school and another has begun a Ph.D. program in philosophy. An additional 35 students are currently attending some form of post secondary program.

Further details of our survey, led by Graduate Placement Director *Nancy Ike*, will be discussed in the Fall issue of *News & Views*.

## Springer Memorial Cards Now Available

Early this fall, Springer will make available to its friends and families an easy and meaningful way to extend condolences and/or congratulations throughout the year.

Memorial and In Honor cards will be sent to all of the school's supporters as a token of our appreciation and as a gentle reminder that gifts to The Springer school can be sent in lieu of flowers or presents for those special times we all encounter in our lives.

## Dreams Come True at Magnolia Time

*Paula Comisar* and *Katie Lawrence* dreamed that "Once Upon a . . . Magnolia Time" would be the most successful Springer has had. And indeed, these two energetic and creative Springer moms set out to see that their dreams did come true. They wanted the school's tenth annual dinner, auction and grand raffle to be the best attended, have the best dinner and best auction offerings, be the most profitable and of course, the most fun!

They succeed at all levels!

More than 360 guests entered into a forest surrounding a castle in the sky. Fluttering lights and gauzy tulle on the ceiling added to the fairyland quality. A gourmet meal catered by *Chester's Roadhouse*, *The Maisonette* and *LaNormandie* pleased the most discerning palates. And when it was time for auctioneer Steve Early to start the auction, Katie and Paula stood to welcome and thank their guests and remind them why they were there: to spend so children in need of financial aid could benefit from Springer's program. And spend they did! Only a few of the items sold for less than estimated value.

The evening came to an end with the drawing of the \$10,000 Grand Raffle winner. This year, the cash prize went to Jan Fries — another Springer parent.

In addition to Katie and Paula, many thanks go to *Mike and Ann McKenna*, *Lou George*, *Becky Adam*, *Barb Gehrig*, *Dollie Eustis*, *Janet Hunke*, *Bev Narburg*, *Sug Clauder*, *Eileen Barrett*, *Nick Green*, and the more than 75 parents, staff, trustees and friends who worked so hard for the school's benefit.

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Address correction requested