



# News & Views of The Springer School

Fall / Winter 1990



## Executive Director's Message

Norita Aplin, Ed.D

This issue of News and Views says it all. Article after article speaks of the talents being shared at Springer. Each student, each parent, each trustee, each member of the staff enriches the Springer experience and we are what we are because of it. How exciting to be part of such a broadly owned program. And that is one of the underlying values at Springer. Our best happens when we use processes which allow participation.

Last summer the administrators shared a delightful two-day planning retreat at Murphin Ridge Lodge in Adams County. One of our activities was to clarify the basic values which guide us in our decision making and leadership. It was an exciting and easy activity. Our values were easily articulated and strongly embraced:

- Children's needs are our priority
- Process is an important as product
- We are committed to quality, excellence and professionalism
- We demonstrate high respect for individual and group contributions
- We practice partnership and ownership

As you explore this issue of News and Views, I hope you see evidence of these values.

## Annual Fund Drive Off to a Good Start



Annual Fund Drive General Chair Steve Allen makes a point about personal follow-up during solicitation of donations at kick-off breakfast hosted by the Bankers Club.

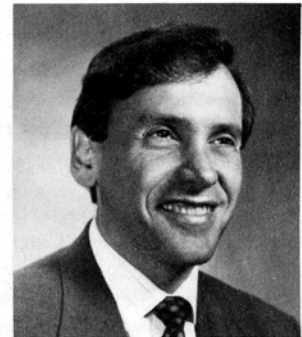
"Every Child Deserves a Chance to Learn" remains the theme of the school's Annual Fund Drive. Under the leadership of Trustee **Stephen Allen**, we are well on our way to reaching our goal of \$125,000. The Drive, which solicits community and corporate leaders, as well as current and past parents, supports the school's scholarship fund. Springer's program is costly and without its fundraising efforts, many families would not be able to even consider Springer as an option for their learning disabled children.

Joining Mr. Allen in leadership roles during the Drive are Trustees **Anthony W. Hobson** and **Carter F. Randolph**, co-chairmen of the Business and Community Leadership Committees, respectively. **James P. Orr** is co-chair of the Pacesetters, **Mary Ann Heekin** is Present Parent Campaign co-ordinator, **Gail and J. Alan Lips** are Alumni Parent Campaign co-ordinators and **Phyllis Breen** is chairing the Friends of the Board Campaign.

A sincere thanks goes to all our fund drive volunteers for their hard work and long hours of phone calls, letter writing and follow-up.

## Springer Hosts Renowned Psychologist

The Springer School was pleased to host **Dr. Robert Brooks** as its first Annual Distinguished Speaker. Dr. Brooks is Director of Psychology Training and Community Liaison at the Hall Mercer Center for Children and Adolescents of the McLean Hospital and a faculty member of the Harvard Medical School.



Dr. Robert Brooks

Dr. Brooks gave an inservice for faculty and staff on Monday, November 12. That evening he addressed parents and interested community members following a banquet at the Omni Netherland Hotel. His topic was "Fostering Self Esteem in Children and Adolescents: The Search for Islands of Competence."

The core of Dr. Brooks' message was that any child, though he may be frustrated by his inability to learn some skills easily, has his own peculiar strengths which educators and parents need to identify and use as building blocks. Development of the "islands of competence" is a critical part of building self esteem, and once a child feels good about himself he is freed to fully learn and grow.

Magnolia Time co-chairs Chris Orr and Sam Altman review committee lists for this year's event.



## Save This Date

On Saturday, April 27, Springer's annual dinner-auction moves south of the border. "La Fiesta de Magnolias" will feature a \$10,000 cash grand prize in addition to the lively, colorful fun that every fiesta brings.

## New Staff

### **Shelly Burkardt - Intermediate Department**

Shelly comes to Springer after teaching for four years at St. Ann's School and five years at Assumption School. As a parent of a former Springer student, Shelly has first-hand understanding of an LD child's struggles, fears and feelings of inadequacy. Shelly student-taught at Springer.

### **Fran Cohen - Primary Department**

Fran has been teaching for the past two years at LaValle School. Before that she worked in the Hamilton City Schools and at Vanderbilt Child Psychiatry Medical Center.

### **Susan McKnight - Primary Department**

Susan is a recent graduate from Ohio University. She majored in Special Education LD/DH. She has been very involved in the Council for Exceptional Children in a leadership role, and has written a proposal which was accepted for the International CEC Convention.

### **Vikki McKoon - School Nurse**

Vikki comes to us from the Indian Hill School district where she was involved in vision, hearing, and motor testing along with band-aid care and distributing medications. She has many wonderful ideas for developing health / safety units with the staff.

### **Judy McMahon - Music**

Judy joins the staff as the new music teacher. Judy comes to us from Lavalle School. Judy received her B.S. degree in Elementary Education from Miami University.

### **Steve Ploetz - Jr. High Department**

Steve comes to us from the Cincinnati Public School system where he has taught behaviorally handicapped students for the past 10 years. For several summers Steve has served as the summer camp program director for Pathways and the Children's Psychiatric Center. Steve received his B.G.S. degree from McMicken College of Art and Sciences and his M.Ed. degree from the University of Cincinnati.

### **Maria Ryan - Jr. High Department**

Maria comes to us from Boston, Massachusetts, where she taught math and science to behaviorally handicapped students. Maria is originally from the Cincinnati area and attended Summit Country Day and Indian Hill Schools. She graduated from Peabody College with a B.S. in Special Education. Maria is not new to Springer. After graduation, Maria worked as a substitute teacher's assistant here.

### **Marti Mote**

Marti Mote is our new Business Director. She is a graduate of Marian High School and has her degree in Accounting from Xavier University. Before coming to Springer, Marti was the accounting consultant for the Mental Health Board and the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board. She has two beautiful, lively daughters who keep her busy when she's not adding up numbers and doing payrolls.

### **Barb Kuvshinoff**

Barb Kuvshinoff is working at Springer gathering dissertation data for her doctoral degree in Speech Pathology at UC. Her area of interest is the connection children make between writing and speaking. The students wear little microphones as they participate in writing workshop or write in their journals, and Barb collects her data from what they say. She also serves as an Oral communications instructor in the Primary Department.

### **Ellen Linz**

Ellen Linz is a classroom assistant in the Jr. High. Ellen has been a teacher in the past, and, as a parent of children in or approaching Jr. High, she brings the happy combination of good professional and intuitive skills. Her special focus has been computer instruction.

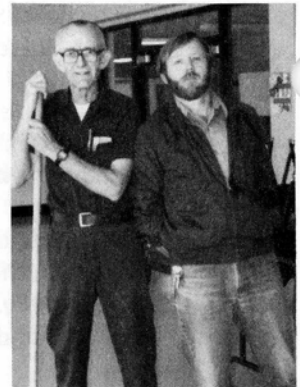
Springer is fortunate to have a new maintenance staff who do a great job of keeping our lovely building and grounds clean and in good operating order.

### **Jerry Kerr**

Jerry Kerr, who began working here last fall, is now our maintenance supervisor. He's been busy learning all the ins and outs of our wiring and plumbing, as well as keeping our halls clean, our supplies ordered, our meeting rooms arranged properly, and our grass mowed. He starts his day at 5AM!

### **Walter Houze**

Walter Houze has just joined us this year. He had been the maintenance supervisor at St. Luke West Hospital. Walter says he enjoys his job making sure Jerry does things right; and, from the twinkle in his eye, he must.



## New Members Elected to Board of Springer School

John T. Lawrence, III, President of the Board of Trustees of Springer School, recently welcomed three new members to the Board.

**Jerome C. Randolph** is married and the father of three children, two of whom are graduates of the school. He is an attorney with Keating, Muething & Klekamp, and is a graduate of St. Xavier High School, Xavier University, and the University of Chicago Law School. He has been a neighborhood coach for youth basketball and baseball, and a fundraiser for Xavier University.

**Michael K. Keating**, Senior Vice-President and General Counsel

for Fifth Third Bank is returning to Springer's Board. He formerly served as Board President and is a past chairman of the Fund Drive. He is on the Cincinnati Historical Society Board and is a member of the Local Government Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. He is married and the father of three children.

**Gregory Fritz** is with AGT, Ltd., a manufacturer's rep organization. He is the outgoing Chairman of the Gentlemen's Committee and remains on that board. In addition, he is on the boards of Stepping Stones and the University Club. Mr. Fritz is married and has one child.

## From the Principals . . .

### Tricks of the Trade

by Mary Inkrot Schroder - Primary Principal

In the age of VCR's and video games we may forget how much we continue to rely on the written word. Here at Springer, learning to read is not a simple task for many of our children, but some creative "learning tricks" going on in the classroom have brought about good success in this area. The following anecdote draws a parallel between what happens in the story and what happens in the classroom.

Illustrator Ed Young has created a beautiful version of a classic Chinese tale very much like the folktale Little Red Riding Hood. Lan-Po-Pa, a wolf disguised as an old woman, tries to trick three children whose mother has had to leave them alone. The children prove, however, to be more clever than the wolf could ever imagine. In the same way, our children's learning problems, like the wolf, get in the way of what they want, which is to read. But, through clever learning tricks, they find they can read better than they would have thought possible.

This story came alive for the children in one Primary classroom. Their teacher read the children the story and then allowed them to use puppets to discuss and act it out. Later the students wrote their own versions of Little Red Riding Hood with some unique ways to trick the wolf!

In another classroom a child was tracing the letters "ck" before making the "ck" sound. The child seemed to remember that sound as she felt those letters being formed with her fingers. Her daily practice of hearing, feeling and saying the sounds are now helping her to form words and open the door of reading for her.

The oldest Intermediate class is incorporating literature into their reading program. Recently The Enormous Crocodile, by Roald Dahl, was presented. Word searches for vocabulary development, character maps and designing bookcovers were just a few of the activities the students engaged in.

In each of these learning experiences the students seemed to be on a mission to learn to read. They were using tricks which worked for them. How exciting it is to see the children discover the thrill of reading!

### Student Council Formed

by Melody Goodwin, Upper Level Principal

On Friday, October 26, the first Springer Student Council meeting was held in the library. In attendance were 23 representatives and alternates and four officers: President - **Mimi Cooper**, Vice-President - **Mike Glassmeyer**, Treasurer - **Nicholas Kleinhaus**, and Secretary - **Pam Rockenfield**. Students were appointed to Student Council through a nomination process which involved students and staff.

The purpose, duties and responsibilities of Student Council were shared with the council. They are as follows:

1. To encourage or promote a positive attitude toward others, our community and ourselves.
2. To provide a means of communication between faculty and the students.
3. To initiate, organize and complete activities (for the students, the school and / or the community) which would promote school spirit and unity.
4. To encourage student involvement through homeroom representatives and activities.
5. To promote leadership qualities and responsibilities and activities.
6. To support or carry out activities planned by the faculty when called upon.

## Exxon Continues Math Program Funding

**Shelly Wiesbacher**, Springer's curriculum director, recently learned that the Exxon Education Foundation awarded a second grant to the school to allow the continued development of a new math curriculum for our primary level classes.

This was really good news because Shelly has seen exciting changes occurring since the decision to move math instruction away from a computation based model to one where the child is encouraged, through the use of manipulatives, calculators and computers, to explore new and broader mathematical concepts he would ordinarily not be introduced to. Four units of study were selected for the first year of the program: problem solving, estimation, patterns and geometry.

The year ended with a marvelous display of geometry projects lining the main hall of the school. The very youngest class created a jungle filled with geometric animals. Other classes made geometric shape mobiles and stained glass symmetry designs.

Springer's math teachers were also busy during the transition with ongoing inservice training and constant evaluation of the new approach. "Math became fun and real — not just moving numbers on paper," is how one teacher summarized her impression of the new approach. Another teacher was most impressed with the change in the children. They began to display excitement over the ability to interact with materials and see math as a part of life, not just routine computation.

This year, the math program will focus on statistics and probability, whole number computation, algebra and decimals.

Good job, Shelly and teachers, and a big THANKS! again to Exxon.



Student Council Officers Back row from left: Mimi Cooper, President; Mike Glassmeyer, Vice President  
Front row from left: Nick Kleinhaus, Treasurer; Pam Rockenfield, Secretary

## News of Springer Grads

Look at what some of our graduates are doing:

★ **Michael Bernardino**, 1987, a senior at The Gow School in upstate New York, won the 1990 Citizenship Award given at Parents Day. Mike was co-captain of the school's soccer team which won their conference championship.

★ **Darrell Hooker**, 1980, is now enrolled at Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama. He is a Lance Corporal with the Marines and has applied to their Officers Candidate School.

★ **Chris McKinley**, 1980, is a senior at Western Kentucky University where he is a Broadcasting major. He does local radio work too.

★ **Gene Saenger**, 1985, has just returned with his family to Cincinnati from California. Gene is a sophomore at Anderson High School.

★ **Shawn Fucito**, 1985, attends Cincinnati Technical College and is studying Small Business Administration.

★ **Chelsey Schneider**, 1988, is a freshman at Highlands High School and is getting A's and B's.

## Springer's First Alumni Reunion

Almost 100 Springer alumni and former and present staff members attended the first Springer School Reunion on August 29th at Springer School. Representatives were present from most of the twenty-one classes who were invited. Those present enjoyed a picnic supper and shared experiences with former classmates. Fifty attendees went on to Riverfront Stadium to enjoy a Reds-St. Louis game.

The alumni planning committee for the reunion consisted of **John Baele**, **Katie McTernan**, **Joe Wenker**, **Amanda Arent** and **Chris Lewis**.



Getting caught up at the Alumni Reunion - Michael Bernardino, Josh Deutsch, Anna Seymour, Dana Wullenweber, and Jim Rieder

## Register Tapes

Our families have provided wonderful support for our collection of grocery store tapes for computer equipment. We have installed our first IBM system (\$200,000 worth of Kroger tapes) in the library and added a new printer (\$45,000 worth of Thriftway tapes) to a classroom system.

Keep saving your tapes. Send to the school - Attention: Grocery Receipts.

## Planned Giving

In addition to annual giving and supporting special events, you can ensure The Springer School's future by making a long-term gift. Two ways to do this are:

1. Remembering The Springer School in your will
2. Naming The Springer School as beneficiary of an insurance policy

For more information about making a deferred gift to the school, please call the Development Office, 871-6080.

Thanks again for your support of The Springer School.

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