



News & Views of The Springer School

Winter 1990



Executive Director's Message

GREETINGS to our many friends! The news from our school this year is exciting and extensive. Under the leadership of Tad Lawrence, our current president, the Board completed a successful capital fund drive and the remodeling which took place over the past two summers is also complete. Our beautiful facility, which was built as an all girls high school, is now fully converted for use as a co-ed elementary school. Keeping with our policy that no classroom will have more than 12 pupils, we now have space for 195 students. This year's enrollment is 183. As is indicated throughout this edition, we added new positions and fourteen new people to maintain our program quality. Springer has certainly experienced significant growth in the last five years. We do not know if growth will continue, but we are none-the-less busy with the refinement of our program. This work is exciting as it not only benefits our students, but we hope it will add to the knowledge of successful measures for all students with learning disabilities.

Some of the program refinement efforts undertaken by Springer staff over the past year include specific instruction in study and work habits; a social skills/language program; a more focused library usage program, wider use of computers for learning; and a Ropes Course for our Junior High students. One of the joys of Springer is that the title of your position does not limit your role. Thus, classroom teachers, motor therapists, oral communication teachers, special subject teachers, psychologists, secretaries and administrators all participate in the development, implementation and

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Annual Fund Drive Tops Goal

UNDER the leadership of Springer Trustee Stephen Allen, a committee of 45 volunteers began telling the Cincinnati community in October that "Every Child Deserves a Chance to Learn." Obviously, the community agreed because shortly after the New Year, Allen was able to report to Springer's Board that the school's Annual Fund Drive had gone over the top of its \$100,000 goal. The Drive, which solicits

community and corporate leaders, as well as current and past parents, supports the school's scholarship program. Springer's program is costly and without its fundraising efforts, many families would not even be able to consider Springer as an option for their learning disabled children.

Joining Mr. Allen in leadership roles during the Drive were Carter F. Randolph, Ph.D., another Springer

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Springer's Annual Fund Drive general chairman Stephen Allen works on phone at Merrill Lynch offices. Five nights of calling parents, alumni families and Springer friends helped push Drive over the top.

Citicorp/Citibank Funds Video

THE need for an audio-visual presentation for use by Springer administrators and trustees has long been high on the school's wish list. Although Citicorp/Citibank has been supportive of the school's scholarship program for several years, Norita Aplin, Springer's executive director, was thrilled to learn last summer that the company's priorities were shifting toward funding special projects which support the continuing education and development of children with special educational needs. A proposal was

submitted and in November the school received \$8,000 for the development of a promotional video tape.

Bids for the project were received from four local production companies. After review by the school's Development Committee, the job was awarded to Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company.

The video will be used to promote an understanding of learning disabilities, the significance of the Springer Program and the importance of community and national support.

Magnolia Time Goes Oriental

This year's **MAGNOLIA TIME** will blossom with an Oriental flair. The theme of Springer's 7th fundraising gala on April 28 is "Oriental Expressions." Pagodas, temple portals and dragons dramatically suspended over the gym will bring a glimpse of the Far East to Cincinnati. Volunteer auctioneer, Jay Karp of Main Auction Gallery, will arrive in a rickshaw!

Janice and Jack Cook, parents of John, a Springer Intermediate student, have assembled a team of dynamic committee chairs who are busy working to insure a beautiful and fun evening of fund and friend raising. Invitations will be mailed in March.

Heading key committees are:
Gift Acquisitions — Debby Scoggins and Irene Austin-Gillis;
Theme and Invitation Design — David Millett;
Decorations — Nick and Marilyn Green;
Instant Winner Game — Blanca Risdon and Fran Nordman;
Hostesses — Marlene Baer and Susan Waldman;
Program — Dottie Rockel;
Reservations — Lynn Saul;
Gift Displays — Jennifer Glassmeyer

and Betty Christie;
Entertainment — Carolyn Jeffers.



MAGNOLIA TIME general chairs Janice and Jack Cook invite you to join them on April 28 for an evening of Oriental Expressions.

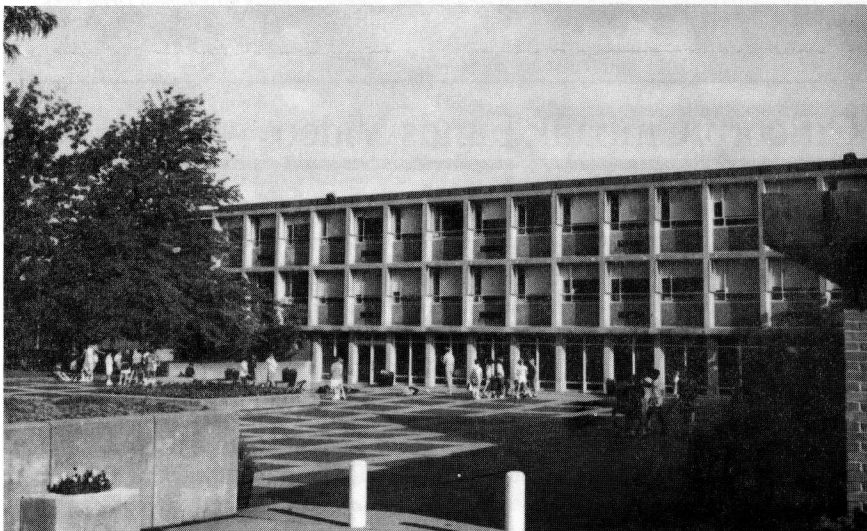
The evening will begin at 5:30 with an open bar and hors d'oeuvres during the Silent Auction. Dinner will be served at 7:15 followed by the Live Auction. The evening will end with dancing to music provided by **Sounds Unlimited**.

For more information about **MAGNOLIA TIME**, please call Jeanne Rolfes, development director, 871-6080.

Serving Springer

Springer Trustees serving in leadership positions this year include

- President:** John T. Lawrence, III, senior vice president of Prudential-Bache Securities;
- Vice President:** Stephen Allen, president of CTS Manufacturing Co., Covington, Kentucky
- Treasurer:** Michael S. McGraw, Robert G. McGraw & Company;
- Secretary:** Mary Ellen Slauson, (Mrs. John), executive director of the Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky Chapter of the National Hemophilia Foundation.



*The Springer School
"Where Learning Disabled Children Achieve"*

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evaluation of these projects.

Two program refinements which merit more detailed description in this newsletter are our written expression program and the development of a new math curriculum. Written expression is often difficult for many of us as we combine thought organization and vocabulary selection. It is especially so for most children with learning problems. And, a recent conclusion by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics suggests that math curricula have emphasized computation at the expense of math reasoning. Committees were formed to wrestle with both of these issues as they relate to Springer's program of special education for children with learning disabilities.

I am especially proud to say that the results of their efforts are a powerful testimony of the talent and dedication we have in our staff. There is enormous satisfaction in these refinement efforts as we increase the power of our program. I see this year as one of continued growth, refinement, and most importantly, success for students. I look forward to sharing progress on all counts as the year progresses.

Norita Aplin

Special Grants Fund Math Program

Grants from two foundations and an employees' group contributed to the development of a model math curriculum for children with learning disabilities.

A grant of \$8,100 was received from the Exxon Education Foundation. Springer was the only independent school, the only special school, and the only school from Ohio in the group of 50 schools selected by Exxon.

The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation of Cleveland, Ohio also responded favorably to Springer's request for funds with a grant of \$7,500. The MHJ Foundation provides a means for greater accomplishment on the part of Ohio's teachers.

The Evendale Employees of the General Electric Company contributed \$1,500 to the project. There are both current and former parents who work at G.E. and their help in championing the school's cause is greatly appreciated.

The funds will be used to hire a curriculum consultant and for in-service training and materials for use in the classrooms.



Insights Into The Springer Program

by Shelly Weisbacher, Education Director

A New Approach To Math

IF you peeked through the door of a classroom at Springer during math time, you might be surprised to see students linking chains of clips together and using them to measure various things. Or maybe you'd see students working in groups to solve the problem of the day: "If you have seven coins in your pocket that total exactly \$1.00, what are the coins? Others might be using calculators to verify the accuracy of an estimate.

These activities are the result of a change in the way Springer's math teachers are approaching the subject.

Two years ago, a committee of Springer teachers began addressing the issues surrounding math education for our students. The committee concluded early on that the emphasis needed to shift away from computation toward development of broader mathematical concepts. During this exploration period, support for our premise arrived in the form of the Standards for School Mathematics published by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).

Thanks to these standards, math education has found a new direction. This is not a revisiting of "new math" from the early '70s. Rather, it is a shift in priorities. The new standards emphasize math literacy — the ability to communicate and reason mathematically. Computation skills, while still taught, will receive less emphasis. Students will use calculators and computers where appropriate.

Implementation of these standards began during the 88-89 school year with the development of special measurement units for all levels. These units included activities and manipulatives. Teachers used the materials to plan twelve to fifteen measurement lessons for their classes. All classes participated in a culminating measurement challenge activity.

Based on the success of the measurement unit, we have embarked on a plan which calls for developing four units each year for the next two years. The units this year are problem solving,

estimation, patterns, and geometry. Dr. Bob Drake, from the University of Cincinnati, is providing staff in-service for each unit and Springer has purchased a series of materials and manipulatives to be used with the students.

Writing Workshop

DEVELOPING communication skills is a major cornerstone of the Springer program. To this end, we implemented a new writing program three years ago. Today, students who previously balked at the thought of writing anything are publishing stories, plays and poems.

Changing student attitudes toward writing meant changing the system of instruction. Through considerable in-service training, the staff was introduced to the Writing Workshop approach. This approach encourages students to draw on personal interests and experiences as a basis for writing. Students compose their stories, seeking input and instruction from their teachers and peers as the need arises. The program is designed to allow students to develop at their own rate.

An observer during Writing Workshop might find several children clustered together reading their rough drafts and giving each other feedback. Another student might be editing a draft at the computer, while others participate in a teacher-led conference on some aspect of the writing process such as topic selection or idea development. An Author's Chair brings the group together to listen to finished stories or works in progress.

Student enthusiasm for the program has been tremendous. Reports Andy Brinkman, from the Junior High Department, "If you're writing a good story, you get really excited and full of energy."



Mary Inkrot Schroder, left and Melody Goodwin are welcome additions to Springer's administration.

Springer Welcomes Principals

THE INCREASE in enrollment that the recent remodeling allowed is seen as a very positive accomplishment and tribute to the excellent program offered at Springer. However, executive director Dr. Norita Aplin soon realized that the growth meant that some changes in the school's administration were necessary if the program was to continue to focus on a strong partnership among parents, teachers and administration. Therefore, beginning last September, two positions were added to the administrative structure. Mary Inkrot Schroder, a teacher at Springer since 1979, was promoted to Principal in charge of the school's Primary Division and half of the Intermediate Division. Melody Goodwin was hired to serve the rest of the Intermediate classes and as Junior High Principal. Both women have brought a wealth of experience in the field of special education for the learning disabled.

Mrs. Schroder, who has her Bachelor's degree in Special and Elementary Education from Wittenberg University and a M.Ed. in Education Administration from Xavier University, has been an active staff member during her 11 years at Springer. She has

worked on many staff inservice programs, developed an Adult Education Program on Attention Deficit Disorders, and coordinated the school's Artist in Education Program for two years. Last summer, Mary was Summer Camp director for the Issac M. Wise Temple. She and her husband Mark, a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology, are expecting their first child in April.

Melody Goodwin, a resident of Lebanon, Ohio, comes to Springer with more than 15 years special education experience. A graduate of Maryville College in Tennessee, Melody also has her Master's degree from Xavier University. She holds Principal Certifications for both elementary and high school. Before coming to Springer, she was Special Education Supervisor for the Warren County Office of Education. She is currently president of the Ohio Association of Supervisors for Learning Disabled. She was attracted to Springer because of its "comprehensive program, its team approach to teaching and because each child is treated as an individual."

Melody and her husband, a history teacher with the Mason Local Schools, are parents of two daughters and a son.

Welcome New Trustees

John T. Lawrence, III, President of Springer's Board of Trustees, recently welcomed five new members:

PHYLLIS BREEN (MRS. PHIL)

Phyllis is the mother of three daughters, two of whom are handicapped. She is employed by the University of Cincinnati as a Speech Pathologist and Clinical Supervisor. Her volunteer involvement has included 12 years on the Cerebral Palsy Services Board, the Cincinnati Health Department Volunteers and the Board of L.A.D.D. Phyllis was honored by *The Enquirer* as a "Woman of the Year" in 1989.

SUSANNE DAVIS

Susanne is a licensed Clinical Psychologist who received her Ph.D. in 1977. She is currently employed by Procter & Gamble as Associate Personnel Manager of the Paper Products Division. Her volunteer experience has included work with the Community Chest, New Life for Girls, and Hamilton County Diagnostic Center.

ANTHONY W. HOBSON (TONY)

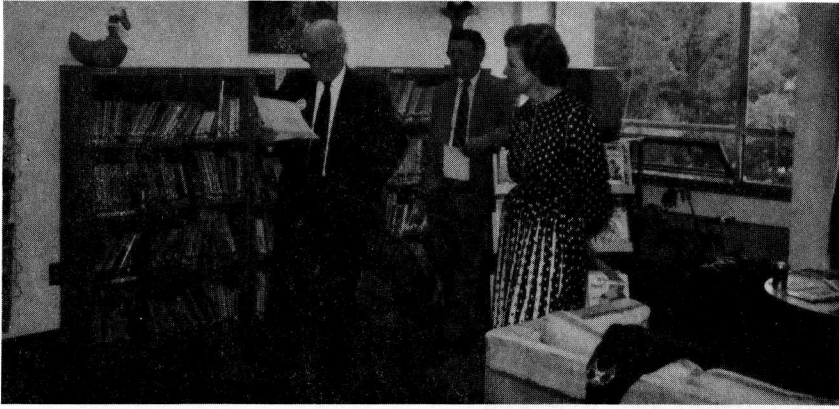
Tony, a lawyer by education, is employed by North American Properties where he works in the real estate law area. He is married and has two small children. His past volunteer work includes the United Appeal, Fine Arts Fund and the Board of the Boys' and Girls' Clubs.

DON NEYER

Don is a building contractor and developer. He is married with eight grown children and 14 grandchildren. His volunteer activities include Stepping Stones, Friar's Club, Easter Seals Board, Community Chest Asset and Allocations Committee, Rotary and the Xavier University Alumni Association.

CAROLYN JEFFERS (MRS. GLENN)

Carolyn has two daughters, one who graduated from The Springer School in 1989. She has worked on Springer's Fund Drive Business Committee and helped with acquisitions for Magnolia Time. Currently she is working on fundraising for the Ballet, Juvenile Diabetes Research, The Cincinnati Zoo, Cincinnati Country Day School and the Junior League.



Springer Library Dedicated to Barbara Frey

Springer Trustee Paul Niklas, left, recalls the many accomplishment of Barb Frey during dedication ceremonies in September. Mrs. Frey, who lost her battle with cancer in 1988, was actively involved as a library volunteer since the early 80's. Her husband John requested that memorial gifts be used to enhance Springer's library program. As a result, many new biographies, reference books, magazine and book racks as well as bean bag chairs were purchased. Springer executive director Norita Aplin thanked the more than 50 friends who attended for their support.

Local Artist Shares Work With Springer

Louise Aug Niklas is a very busy artist who found that she was running short of display space for her work. At a suggestion from her brother-in-law, Paul Niklas, a Springer Trustee, Louise visited the school and offered to display some of her work throughout the school. "I believe art should be seen, not stored in a studio," Mrs. Niklas told Springer's executive director, Norita Aplin. A visit to her studio resulted in 19 of Mrs. Niklas' works being chosen for permanent display at Springer. Subjects range from scenes of Cincinnati's Ault Park and the Charleston, South Carolina coastal area to imaginative floral and abstract designs.

Louise, a native of Cincinnati, studied art at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana and Xavier University. She has produced works for many local corporations and community art shows. Her work is distinguished by a strong sense of design and color and is intuitive, fun and provocative in expression.

Consider A Bequest To The Springer School

YOUR ATTORNEY can advise you as to how to do this, but you may find useful the following form which our attorney suggests:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to The Springer School, a charitable, non-profit organization located in Cincinnati, Ohio, 45208, _____ dollars (\$ _____) or _____% of my estate to be used by its Board of Trustees in carrying out its objectives and purposes."

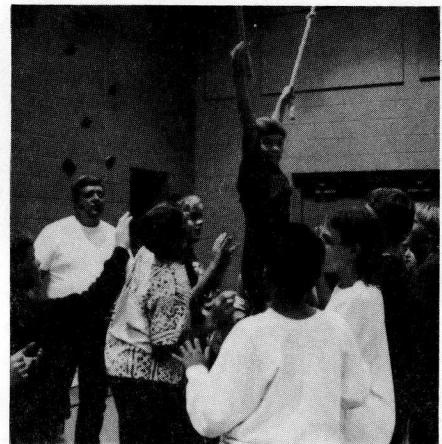
Who can say now how many young lives your generosity may help? Contributions are, of course, tax deductible.

trustee, and Lloyd M. Bernstein. Randolph headed up the Community Leadership Committee. Working as captains of this committee were Irene Austin-Gillis, W. Keith Baldwin and James P. Orr. Bernstein chaired the Business Committee with James Connelly, S. Allen Dohan and Anthony Hobson as team captains.

Springer parent Lynn Saul coordinated the Present Parent Campaign. Alumni parents Georgia and Alan Kightlinger led the alumni effort and Sug Clauder organized a Friends of the Board campaign.

Our heartfelt thank you goes to all the fund drive volunteers for their dedication and long hours of letter writing and telephone follow-up.

And a very special thanks goes to a caring and very generous community for its support of the Springer program. This loving sharing is what makes Cincinnati such a great place to live and work and go to school!



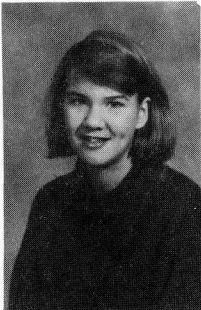
Springer Junior High students recently completed a comprehensive ROPES PROGRAM at Emerson North Hospital. Through participation in this program, the students learned how to work together as a team through problem solving and mutual trust. Springer program and administrative staff who attended with the students agreed that the program provided a positive learning experience for each student. Better communication skills and a clearer understanding of team members' emotional and safety needs were learned by all.

News of Springer Grads

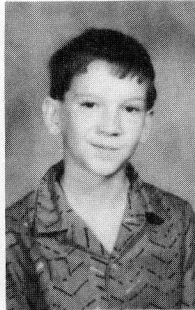
Two Grads Share Bolan Scholarship

EACH year, a \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to a graduating student(s) who has demonstrated a sense of responsibility toward his/her present and future success in school and has decided that a learning disability will not limit this success. The scholarship is funded through a fund set up in memory of Peter Bolan, a Springer Alumni parent who died suddenly in 1988. The award is used to defray educational costs during the first year after Springer.

This year the prize is shared by Anna Seymour and Eric Burkhardt. Anna is a freshman at St. Ursula Academy in Walnut Hills and Eric is in the 7th grade at St. Bernard School in Taylor's Creek. Word is that both students are doing well.



Anna Seymour



Eric Burkhardt

Where Are They?

EACH year during our Alumni Phonathons, Springer alum parents ask about our grads. Here is just a sampling of what's happening in the lives of our grads:

- Greg Arling, 1974, graduated from Miami University and is looking for a job.
- Peter Cholak, 1974, is a grad student in math at the University of Wisconsin. He will have a paper published this spring.
- Fred Costa, 1977, is studying Business and Finance at Ohio University.
- Kathy Hawkins, 1978, is a graphic arts student and works in a dental lab making dentures.
- David Koon, 1980, graduated in the top 10% of his class at Purcell-Marian High School and is now enrolled at U.C. in the college of Design, Art and Architecture program.
- Chris Helton, 1982, is living and working in Alaska.
- Jonathon Walson, 1984, is a junior at Colerain High School.
- Maureen Strotman, 1985, is a senior at McAuley High School.
- Jeffrey Puthoff, 1985, a 1989 graduate of Purcell-Marian, is at Cincinnati Technical College studying Civil Engineering and Construction Management.
- Michael Bernardino, 1987, is cur-

rently a junior at The Gow School in upstate New York. Michael is one of 8 students selected to serve on a search committee for a new headmaster.

- Michael Sperber, 1989, now attends St. Ursula Villa. Mike played soccer this fall on a team which won the State Say Soccer Championship in Middletown.

Springer Grads Surpass National Norms

Everybody likes a success story! Thanks to a comprehensive program and a powerful parent-school partnership, Springer's students learn how to learn! After an average of three years at Springer, our grads return to community schools and continue to achieve academic success. Almost 90% go on to complete high school and 51% of those go on to post-secondary schooling. These figures are compared with national statistics showing only 64% of learning disabled students every complete high school.

Springer School is truly a wonderful and unique community resource!

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