



News & Views

of The Springer School

Summer 1990

Congratulations Class of 1990



Brian Anderson
 Patrick Angel
 Todd Ayers
 James Baechle
 Adrienne Bauman
 Jeff Bausch
 Arun Bhardwaj
 Eve Brown
 Lee Cliffe
 John Cook
 John Crawford
 Preston Dohan
 Peter Frey
 Tom Garber
 Julie Gervers
 Lori Green
 Beth Gureasko
 Mark Haap
 Jenny Hanekamp
 Melissa Hill
 Patrick Kallaher
 Andrew Lange

Cline Middle School (KY)
 St. Bernard School
 To be determined
 LaSalle High School
 Purcell Marian High School
 Fellowship Christian School
 St. Francis de Sales
 The New School
 Mother of Mercy High School
 Bethany School
 Kenton Elementary School (KY)
 Glandale Elementary School
 St. Mary School
 Seven Hills Middle School
 St. Martin School
 St. Thomas More School
 St. James School, White Oak
 Bridgetown Junior High School
 Delhi Junior High School
 Batavia Elementary School
 Turpin Junior High School
 Beechwood Elementary School

Mark Leisen
 Rachael Lipka
 Brian Loeb
 Michael Marshall
 Greg McIlhaney
 Jeffrey McNamee
 Christopher Mercurio
 Chris Miceli
 Chris O'Driscoll
 Christopher Ollier
 J.J. Owezarek
 Samuel Pastor
 Gen Peters
 Deborah Pope
 Michael Randolph
 Douglas Rockel
 Justin Schaffer
 Timothy Schnurr
 Todd Stanford
 Nick Tuttle
 Christopher Voorhis

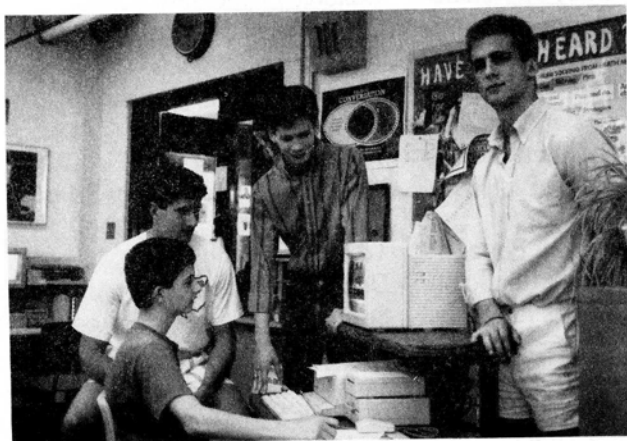
To be determined, Atlanta, GA
 Indian Hill Middle School
 To be determined
 Purcell Marian High School
 Princeton Junior High School
 Oakdale Elementary School
 Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
 The Phelps School (PA)
 Purcell Marian High School
 Bethany School
 Trident Academy (SC)
 Montgomery Elementary School
 Purcell Marian High School
 To be determined
 Doherty School
 Summit Country Day School
 Ross High School
 Tomlinson Middle School (CT)
 St. Louis School
 Anderson Junior High School
 Purcell Marian High School

U.C. Students Adopt Springer

Early last winter, Shelly Weisbacher, Curriculum Director, received a call from U.C.'s College of Mechanical Engineering asking if the school might be interested in participating in the senior project of three of its students. After further discussion and a visit to the school, Shelly introduced three dynamic young men to the Junior High math classes.

The plan called for these college seniors to design a supplementary software package to assist our students in understanding and successfully completing selected portions of the Math Shop software program. Math Shop is a program whereby the user/student becomes a shopkeeper's assistant in charge of servicing customers of the shop. To serve these customers properly, the student/shopkeeper's assistant must exercise important mathematical skills and develop effective problem-solving strategies.

Richard Kmiecik, Ray Casanta and Brian Lowe designed several technical support materials for use by Springer students. Included are worksheets which can be used individually, in small groups, or as a class, and audio tapes which are helpful to students who are unfamiliar with the Math Shop program or who need additional reinforcement of the written instructions. Using these tools, the student is better able to develop his own problem solving and math skills.



U.C. College of Engineering students Ray Casanta, Brian Lowe and Rich Kmiecik show Springer Junior High student Peter Lynch some of the fine points of their Math Shop enhancement program.

Magnolia Time: A Grand Success



Norita Aplin discusses school's Wish List with Ruth and Bob Conway. Their generous support has allowed the school to purchase new cafeteria furniture and audio-visual equipment for the classrooms.

Under the very capable leadership of **Janice and Jack Cook**, Springer's 7th Annual **Magnolia Time** set new records for being an outstanding fun party and very profitable fund raising event. After all the bills were paid, the school netted almost \$65,000, an \$8,000 increase over last year! Funds raised will be used to offset the difference between tuition and actual costs.

Many, many thanks go to Janice and Jack and everyone who worked so hard to make Magnolia Time's "Oriental Expressions" so wonderful. Special, well-deserved kudos go to: **David Millett** for his design of the invitation, table center pieces and overall development of the theme and color scheme; **Balloon-It** for their spectacular dragon balloon sculptures; **Sounds Unlimited** for great music; **Robert Dressler Catering** for a delicious, well-served

dinner (and especially for the customized fortune cookies); **Jay Karp** for being Jay Karp, a great auctioneer and true friend of the school; **Ammon Nursery** who worked with **Nick Green** in making the lobby a beautiful oriental garden; and last, but certainly not least, **Debby Scoggins** and **Irene Austin-Gillis** for their undying gift-gathering efforts.

The almost perfect evening ended on an absolutely perfect note when the winners of the \$10,000 Grand Raffle, **Ruth and Bob Conway**, declined to accept the prize, but insisted that the school use the money for needed program and building improvements. What friends they are! As parents of two children who graduated from Springer, they know the meaning of the school's slogan: "Where learning disabled children achieve."

The project involved visits to the school to learn how learning disabled students learn and then, when the materials were designed, to teach the Spring students how to use them. The results were very positive. Not only did our students learn new ways of problem solving, but the college seniors were very positive role models for our kids. Additionally, Springer's teachers and staff were left with a challenge — that this package would serve as an impetus to further software enhancements and aids created by teachers, administrators and/or outside sources. In the cover letter with their project, they say, "It is in this way, through the application of creative problem solving techniques and attention to individual students' needs that an efficient, up-to-date learning process will



Executive Director's Message

Norita Aplin, Ed.D.

This year, 43 students graduated from The Springer School. As I shared the evening with them and thought of the challenges they had met successfully, I was struck again by the complexities of learning disabilities.

Some of the graduates had academic problems only when they enrolled. They needed help with breaking the code of learning. And as they understood how to read, how to compute, and how to communicate, they became ready to return to more traditional schools.

Some had their learning problem compounded by problems with social and emotional development. In their efforts to understand their world and its reactions to them, these students came to question their worth and value. Helping them is complex. The challenge is that of getting them to take risks — of being willing to be incorrect, embarrassed, teased or even rejected. The most powerful learning occurs when these risks are taken and ideas are affirmed or challenged. This group of graduates may always carry a nagging doubt or two, but their success as learners and worthiness as people have been restored.

The third group of graduates is the most complex for their learning problems are such that they will require intense intervention for as long as they are in school. Learning is so hard for them. A moment of reflection leads to an awareness of the impact Springer has had on their personal and educational development. They are the most challenging — to themselves, their families and their teachers. By coming to Springer, they have future options. Choices still exist, but the challenges they face are still great and will remain so.

This graduation represents a wide range of successes. Reflected in each graduate was determination, belief in self, and loving support of family and friends. How proud and rewarding it felt to have been a partner in this adventure.

From the Principals . . .

Reflections of a First Year Principal Mary Inkrot Schroder Primary Principal

Where has the year gone? As I review my first year as a principal at Springer I celebrate the connections I've had with parents, children and staff. The accomplishments at Springer this year are not achievements realized by one person, but rather by parents, staff and students working together.

During one of the last days of school, I spent some time walking through the halls listening to the excited voices in the classrooms. I was struck by the wealth of solid achievement around me. In Math, students were using manipulatives to demonstrate the meaning of $3 \times 4 = 12$. On the playground, boys told me about the principles of rocket propulsion and shared their success in launching the rockets they had built. As the day ended, a parent shared with me how she had come to really understand her child's language difficulties. Through the activities her child's oral communications teacher sent home on the monthly calendar, she now felt better equipped to help her child overcome his language problems.

I, too, have learned throughout the year. Thank you for the contributions you have made. The children, as well as each of us, have grown and developed through your sharing of talents and support.



Principal's Homework Club

In an effort to reward students' exemplary work habits, special activities were planned for students completing their assignments on time over two 3-week periods. These Junior High students enjoy an afternoon off at a local Putt Putt golf course.

New Activities Emerge Melody Goodwin Upper Level Principal

During the past school year I would often hear the words "leadership" and "responsibility" used when discussing students. Several staff members decided to explore ways in which responsibility and leadership qualities could be fostered in our students.

Understanding and accepting responsibility is a prerequisite for developing leadership. While some students only need opportunities to demonstrate emerging leadership abilities, others need guided activities to cultivate and practice skills necessary for developing leadership qualities.

This past year a fledgling Big Brother/Big Sister program was launched. Junior High students were given the responsibility for planning and implementing orientation activities for students new to the Junior High Department. Big brothers and big sisters will continue to offer support to new students during the 90-91 school year. The program has been received with great enthusiasm by parents and students.

The development of a student advisory committee is currently in the discussion stage. Students serving on this committee would be involved in planning student activities and community service projects. Students, with guidance from staff and administrative advisors, would learn how to problem-solve, establish goals for the committee and assume responsibility for planning, implementing and evaluating activities.

By offering these new activities students will have opportunities to develop leadership skills and good citizenship.



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 available through a fund set up in memory of Peter Bolan, a Springer alumni parent who died suddenly in 1988. The award is to be used to help defray educational costs during the first year after Springer.

This year the prize is shared by Lee Cliffe and Jeffrey McNamee. Lee will be a freshman at Mother of Mercy High School. Jeff will attend Oakdale Elementary School. Congratulations to both of these well-deserving students!



Bolan Scholarship winners Lee Cliffe and Jeff McNamee proudly smile for the camera.

Alumni News

Bryan Finn, 1985, and Michael Wenker, 1988, shared the Citizenship Award given recently at St. Ursula Villa.

Randy Wayand, 1985, now a Florida resident, recently graduated from the St. John's Greek Orthodox School in Tampa and has been accepted at the Tampa Preparatory School.

First-Ever Alumni Reunion

How long has it been since you've seen anyone from your class at Springer? Well, come to the "First-Ever" Alumni Picnic and Reds' Game and renew old friendships and catch up on all the news.

When: Wednesday, August 29.

Where: The picnic will be at Springer and transportation will be provided to the Reds' game against the St. Louis Cardinals. A block of 100 tickets has been reserved in the lower red seats along the 3rd base line and the school's name will be shown up on the big scoreboard.

Organize a group now! What a great way to end the summer! For more information, or to receive an invitation with all the specifics, call the school, 871-6080.

Save Your Cash Register Receipts

Like so many other schools throughout Greater Cincinnati, Springer is also saving register tapes from Kroger's and Thriftway to earn new computers for our classrooms. We're well on our way to earning 1 new Apple and possibly 2 IBM personal computers.

Could you help? Computers are such a help to students with learning disabilities — they are used daily in math class and writing workshop. Thanks!

Send receipts 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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