



News & Views

*of The Springer
School*

Summer 1991

Congratulations to the Class of 1991



Tracey Abraham
 Brendan Altman
 Tom Aubrey
 Eric Bockhorst
 Andrew Brinkman
 Katie Connelly
 Mimi Cooper
 Sara Cronin
 Benton Dammel
 Tracy Deckter
 Kelly Denney
 Jenny Diesel
 Nick Dinsmore
 Matthew Elicker
 Jason Eyer
 Betsy Findlay
 Justin Fink
 Jamie Frey
 David Fraser
 Adrienne Gillis
 Michael Glassmeyer
 Elizabeth Goldcamp
 Adrienne Gray
 Megan Griffith
 Emily Hawkins
 Kevin Helmick
 Brad Hemphill

Sycamore Junior High School
 Roger Bacon High School
 Purcell Marian High School
 Moeller High School
 Blanchester High School
 Sycamore Junior High School
 Indian Hill High School
 Dixie Heights High School
 Cardinal Pacelli School
 Indian Hill Middle School
 St. Lawrence School
 Anderson High School
 Indian Hill Elementary School
 Beechwood Elementary School
 Clermont-Northeastern High School
 St. Ursula Villa
 Indian Hill Elementary School
 To Be Determined
 Seven Hills Middle School
 The Vanguard School
 Turpin High School
 St. Mary's Elementary School
 Anderson High School
 St. Ursula Academy
 Indian Hill Middle School
 Doherty School
 St. Louis School

Emmett Johnson
 Jaynee Keuffer
 Nicholas Kleinhaus
 Andrew Laskey
 Miriam Lipson
 Peter Lynch
 Adam McCort
 Garren McDowell
 Nicholas McCoy
 Mark Millett
 Adam Morris
 Neil Petsche
 Matthew Pfeffer
 Matthew Ries
 Brian Risdon
 Steve Robbins
 Brad Rybak
 Kristen Saul
 Steve Scroggins
 Adam Sherman
 Rebecca Steffen
 Sean Sweeney
 Nicky Valentino
 Tim Verdin
 Kate Wenz
 Tom Young
 Dan Zuk

Indian Hill Elementary School
 Purcell Marian High School
 Annunciation Elementary School
 Montfort Heights Elementary School
 Doherty School
 Roger Bacon High School
 LaSalle High School
 Purcell Marian High School
 To Be Determined
 Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy
 Pace Private School, Florida
 Robert E. Lucas Intermediate School
 Lincoln Elementary School
 Elder High School
 St. Bartholomew School
 Purcell Marian High School
 Indian Hill Elementary School
 Seton High School
 Doherty School
 Maple Dale Elementary School
 St. Mary's Elementary School
 Turpin High School
 McAuley High School
 Norwood City Schools
 Wilson Elementary School
 Glen Este Middle School
 McNicholas High School

A Special Springer Thank to 5 Very Special Volunteers

Springer has been blessed and enriched by the dedicated voluntarism of people whose wisdom and life experiences have been invaluable to our children.

Willard Kahn, who just celebrated his 85th birthday, loves to think of himself as an adopted grandfather to Springer students. He has been a volunteer since 1973 and boasts a longer tenure than any present staff member.

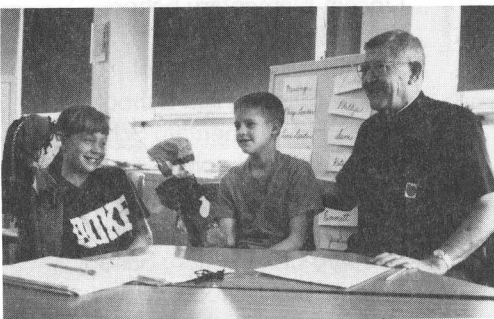
Mr. Kahn first worked in what was called the Sensory Motor Integration Program (now Motor Coordination) where, at 72, he engaged in extensive physical activity with the children. After six years of crawling around on the floor he decided the time had come when he'd be better off sitting in a chair, so he moved into a Primary classroom. After some time he went to the Intermediate Department where he has remained ever since. He enjoys working with children in this age group because they generally have reading, writing, and math basics and are still curious and open to building on these skills. Mr. Kahn, with his insight and appreciation for children, is able to understand each child's personality and needs and to respond on a warm personal basis. True and lasting friendships developed.

In 1986, Willard Kahn was awarded the "Volunteer of the Year" award by the Cincinnati Community Chest. Springer, represented by Nancy Ike, nominated him for this honor, and both he and the school felt enormous pride when he was announced the winner. Teachers, staff and students all gave heartfelt testimony in support of his nomination. Mr. Kahn says he is as gratified by that honor as he is by anything else he has been able to accomplish in his 85 years.

Also in 1986, Mr. Kahn gave the commencement address to that year's graduating class. He called upon those graduates to persevere, to use the learning skills Springer had taught them, to be disciplined, patient with themselves, and to accept and compensate for their learning differences. These powerful words still stand as a model for our students to follow.

Mr. Kahn says, "Springer has meant life to me because I have been able to contribute to children in a small way for 18 years through affection and understanding." His way has certainly not been small!

Father Sanford Lindsey, a volunteer in Janet Lind's room, has just finished his first year at Springer. His sparkling eyes belie his 77 years and his enthusiasm for our school and our program is obvious.



Father Lindsey enjoys watching as Julia Rogers and Phillip Mitchell use handpuppets to tell a story

Since he lives across from Springer in the Grandin House where he



Willard Kahn poses with Springer director Norita Aplin during recent birthday celebration

A teacher by profession, Father Lindsey discovered that the small Episcopalian parish he serves Wednesday and Sunday was not enough to fill the void in his heart - he missed being around children!

would often look out at our children on the playground, it was a natural for this energetic man to call the school and offer his services as a classroom volunteer.

What a fortunate phone call! We have what appears to be a perfect match: Father Lindsey says he loves his time at Springer and feels completely gratified by the work and interaction he experiences in Janet's room, and Janet is quick to say how very much she appreciates having Father Lindsey, "a very special person," as a volunteer.

Interspersed between spelling tests, math games, and oral reading, friendships have developed between Father Lindsey and each of the students. He comes two mornings a week - enough time to allow this personable man to come to know and delight in each child and for each child to know and enjoy being with him. There have also been birthday celebrations, tree plantings, and overseas postcards sent to each class member when Father Lindsey took a trip to Germany. He also accompanied the Intermediate Blue Department on a field trip to Caesar's Creek, where they were doing research on their unit on fossils and dinosaurs. He was an interested and interesting member of the group. The bonds between the man and the class go far beyond the usual or expected.

Charlotte Lieter has been volunteering at Springer since the school's final year on Summit Road eleven years ago. She has worked with several teachers throughout her career, generally with Intermediate aged children. Occasionally she has worked with the same child from one year to the next and has really enjoyed seeing the progress made.

Charlotte was a nursery school teacher before her retirement and found that she wanted to continue working with children. She appreciates the warm and friendly atmosphere which supports the children in a non-intimidating fashion so that they are free to learn without anxiety. Springer, she says, has the ability to allow each individual child to reach his or her own full potential.

One morning a week Charlotte spends her time doing spelling review, math drills, and individual reading with the students. She says she has felt enormous satisfaction through her work at Springer.

Trudy Oppenheimer boasts well over ten years of volunteering in Springer classrooms. Years ago she used to work in a program called VIPS - Volunteers in Public Schools - where she taught remedial reading to students who were about to enter Junior High and needed extra help to take that step. She moved to Springer with the encouragement of a friend who had a grandchild at the school and thought she would enjoy the work. The friend was right! She was immediately impressed by the friendly atmosphere and well behaved children. She says the children "cannot help but learn" since there are two caring teachers and sometimes a volunteer in each classroom and because hard work and good behavior are the expectation of every child.

Trudy started her volunteer career at Springer working with Primary students, but most recently she has been with Anne Vuotto in Intermediate. She has enjoyed all of her years working at the school. "I love the place!" she announces with enthusiasm.

Margaret Culken has been volunteering at Springer for over a decade. Never trained as a teacher she was unsure whether she would be able to be effective working with children. Her many years of return service have dispelled any doubts she may have had.

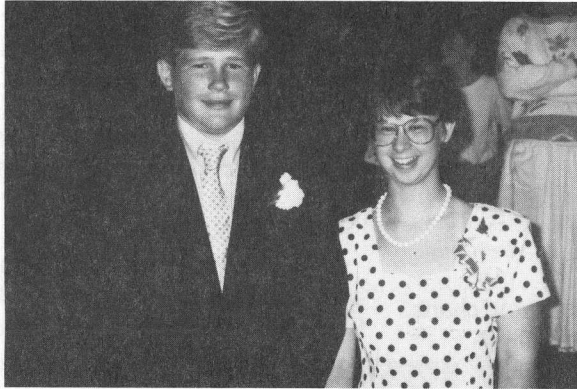
She has been helping out in two different Primary classrooms while the children have been involved in Writing Workshop. Young children require as much one-on-one help as they can get while they are learning the basics of writing, so Margaret's help has been invaluable to both the students and their teachers.

Margaret has thoroughly enjoyed her volunteer work at Springer. "It's given me lots of satisfaction" she says happily.

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 **Jenny Diesel** and **Mike Glassmeyer**. Jenny will be a freshman at Anderson High School and Mike will enter Turpin High School.



Mike Glassmeyer and Jenny Diesel

Congratulations to both of these fine young students.

Special Remembrance and Memorial Programs

A meaningful way to celebrate special occasions or to express your sympathy at the time of a loss is with a gift to The Springer School. These gifts are used for the enrichment of the school's program.

In the past year, gifts were given in . . .

Memory of

Peter Bolan
Dan Corbett
May Bell Finn
Barbara Frey
LaVaughn Garrison
William Grau, D.M.D.
Betty Hoppenjans

Neal A. Klump
Susan Levine
Gertrude Matheny
Emily Matthews
Anne McConnell
David McConnell
Robert McGraw

Thomas I. McTernan
Yolanda McTernan
Edward O'Connell
Cheryl Sakson
Ralph Schilling
Bill Vilter
Maureen Wenker

Honor of

Tracey Abraham - in honor of his graduation from Springer
Peter Ike - to celebrate his marriage
Willard Kahn - for his 85th birthday



Executive Director's Message

Norita Aplin, Ed.D.

This year we realized the completion of a plan developed during the 1986-87 school year which called for continued careful growth of the school up to the capacity of the facility. A renovation program was begun which would allow enrollment to reach approximately 200 students. It was estimated at that time that we would reach that number by the 1992-93 school year. We began this school year with 195 students - a 74 student increase over the 1986-87 enrollment - and the school was at capacity. And, in contrast to the 32 graduates of 1987, this year 54 students graduated and will enroll in traditional independent, parochial and public schools.

The continued demand for Springer's program prompted our trustees and staff during this past year to embark on a visioning exercise to prepare for the school's future.

Springer's vision is based on our commitment to provide both direct and indirect service at the earliest possible time to children in our community with diagnosed learning disabilities. Thus, we are beginning a new adventure. We plan to expand the number of students and possibly even who we will serve in our day school program. We will develop clear goals and formal plans for our indirect services from a long list of possibilities - adult education, professional training, product dissemination, workshops, summer school, tutoring, diagnostic strategies, mainstreaming strategies, and others.

It is a grand opportunity to be part of this dynamic organization, directed by an outstanding board, implemented by a wonderful staff and supported by a caring community. I thank each of you for your interest in Springer School.

Department Studies Dinosaurs

The Intermediate Blue Department worked all year on an exciting, interdisciplinary unit focused on dinosaurs. Every teacher in the Department used the dinosaur theme to introduce and reinforce information on this subject. Teachers and students alike were extremely enthusiastic about all their activities and accomplishments. Every part of the program was influenced by dinosaurs.



These young scientists knew exactly what to look for as they dug for fossils at Caesar's Creek.

In MATH the students learned to use double bar graphs by measuring both the size of their dinosaurs from charts and also noting whether they were meat or plant eaters and then plotting these two reference points.

Measurement information also came from answering creative questions like, "If we could get him through the door, could a Triceratops fit in this room?" Other measurement activities included using a Tyranasaurus Rex tooth as a unit of measurement and thinking up questions which could be answered from information provided in graphs the students made.

In SCIENCE pairs of students did research papers on the particular dinosaur assigned to them. They used whatever resources they could find and were encouraged to share information back and forth with each other. The students loved working together and felt they learned much more than they would have if they had been working alone.

There was an entire unit on dinosaurs in READING, so here again was in-depth reinforcement of everything the children were learning in other classrooms.

In LANGUAGE the Dinosaur Unit was adapted to reinforce

the language goals of specific students. The measurement activities in Math and Science were used as a base for conceptual vocabulary and relationships such as "more/less than," "fewer than," "taller vs. larger." When writing their dinosaur reports, the students worked on identifying the main idea and supportive details, organization and exposition of information. Separate activities for communication therapy included using the students' new knowledge about different dinosaurs, their names and appearances, to play communications barrier games in which they had to give and follow clear directions.

An activity everyone loved was actually making fossils. First, the students made molds from seashells and clay. Next, they painted them with soap and then added plaster of paris, thus producing a cast. When the children went to Caesar's Creek on a field trip they knew exactly what they were looking for when they hunted for fossils because of the work they had done making fossils themselves.



Making "fossils" takes a lot of concentration

The response from the students in Intermediate Blue to their work on dinosaurs and fossils was very positive. **David Pordy** loved going to the Dinamation exhibit at Union Terminal where he enjoyed seeing the dinosaurs to scale and watching their moving parts. **Patty Orr** liked the Dinamation exhibit too, especially the lifelike sounds and movement of the big animals and the opportunity she had for hands-on control. Patty also enjoyed doing research on her dinosaur, the Triceratops, and drawing a picture of him with the help of a book on dinosaurs she has at home.

Jennifer Watson and **Matthew Krug** were especially enthusiastic about making clay dinosaurs in Art. They spent nearly a month in the process and produced figures they were really proud to claim they had made.

In Memoriam

It was a day of great sadness when we learned that Maureen Wenker was killed in an auto accident earlier this spring. Maureen and her husband Paul were very much a part of the Springer Family, having had all three of their children attend the school.

Maureen was never one to let an opportunity to get involved go by. During the time her children were students here, she would often be seen pitching in to help in a wide variety of school activities. She served as president of the Springer Parent Association during the 1983-84 school year.

In her letter to the many friends and relatives who have made contributions to the school in Maureen's memory, Norita Aplin wrote, "Maureen was the ideal parent to have as a partner in our program. She knew her children and their talents and needs at a level that awed us. Their successes are such a tribute to the wonderful parenting she and Paul have provided."

There are many of us who have lost a true friend. We offer our deepest sympathy to Paul, Joseph, Peggy and Michael.

From the Principals . . .

Reflections on the 1990-91 School Year

By Mary Schroder - Lower School Principal

During the past school year I was often struck by the innovative minds of our students at work. One Primary class, after reading a news story on the environment, wanted to know, "What can we do to save our environment?" Soon these students were collecting pennies to save the Rain Forest and recycling scrap paper, bottles and cans. They also began encouraging others to do the same.

Another group of students created their own math story problems. They wanted to write equations for the problems they had formulated. Using pipe cleaners, candy corn and pumpkins, they illustrated their problems. Of course, in the end, everyone enjoyed eating their math equations!

The Intermediate students decided it would be great to have a party for the Primary students. These young party planners developed a schedule, organized games, gathered materials, and even wrote and practiced giving their game directions. Both the planners and the parties had a fabulous time!

A moment of reflection on these events leads to an awareness of how exciting it is to have ideas from the children evolve into such enriching experiences. It is very rewarding to be a part of an organization which engages both the children and the adults in the lifelong process of learning and encourages them to have fun while doing it!



Springer Lower School Principal, Mary Inkrot Schroder, is shown with seven Springer students who were enrolled in the Eric Davis Outfielders Club at the Spring Falcon Club Assembly. Membership is awarded to those students who display determination and perseverance in their efforts to achieve success in school. Shown from left rear are: Mrs. Schroder, Jenny Diesel, Sara Cronin, Curtis Hudson; front, Matt Pfeffer, Adam Morris, Tom Monnig and Kevin Helmick

Melody Goodwin - Upper School Principal

The development of a child's self concept goes hand in hand with academic growth: if a child is to realize his or her full potential, one cannot be developed at the exclusion of the other.

At Springer, teachers and staff are always seeking out opportunities to develop confidence and self esteem in children. Personal goal setting, praise and success are experienced daily in the classrooms. Falcon Club, VIP awards, Principal's Club,

Student Council, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, sports activities and the Art Show are only a few of the opportunities provided for children to grow in self concept.

This past year, Springer sponsored a Distinguished Speaker Banquet with Dr. Robert Brooks as the featured speaker. Dr. Brooks' topic was "Self Esteem in Children," and he often referred to a child's "island of competence." Indeed, at Springer many opportunities exist within the reach of our children's islands of competence.

I have often wondered, how do we as educators measure a child's growth in self esteem and confidence? There are instruments on the market which purport to measure growth in these areas, but I am skeptical about their ability to do so.

As I reflected on the school year, a reliable measure became evident for me - observable behavior. Observe the children at the beginning and at the end of the school year across the settings I mentioned earlier, and you will see observable growth.

For many children Student Council became the catalyst for leadership. In the beginning members were often hesitant to express their ideas, but by the end of the year, every child participated, taking the risk to openly express ideas that were not necessarily popular. As one child wrote me, "Student Council helped me to know that my ideas are important," and, as a Council officer wrote, "I didn't think I could be an officer, but I did and I know I can!"

Throughout the year older children were given the opportunity to read to younger children. Even older children with severe reading problems experienced success and a sense of accomplishment and pride by reading to younger children. As younger children would sit close to an older child with bright eager eyes I could see the older child grow in confidence and self worth. The younger children were made to feel important by the fact that an older child was taking the time to read to them.

On the night of graduation, 33 of the 55 graduating students voluntarily stood before their parents, staff, and friends and delivered speeches and remarks with confidence, pride and courage - a real testament to their growth in self concept.

For me, these observations are true measures of a child's growth in confidence and self esteem during their years at Springer.



Melody Goodwin, Upper School Principal and Student Council Moderator, recognizes this year's officers: Mimi Cooper, president; Mike Glassmeyer, vice president; Pam Rockenfield, secretary; and treasurer, Nicholas Kleinhaus.

Springer Grads Who Are 1991 High School Grads

Nationally, fewer than 64% of students with diagnosed learning disabilities graduate from high school and of that group, fewer than 9% enroll in post secondary programs. In tracking our graduates through high school, we know that 90% of them complete high school and 51% enroll in post secondary academic education. The following impressive list of former Springer students who graduated from high school this year and have plans for college or employment is once again strong testimony to our outstanding program and our supportive parents.

High School

Christine Babb
Michael Bernardino
Nicole Contadino
James Duggan
Becky Boehler
Robert Connors
Joshua Deutsch
Dan Frey
Darren Gilbert
Steven Hill
Aaron Korb
Andrew Lockwood
Nicholas Insko
Samuel McAlister
Steven Rafalo
Matthew Ryder
Christopher Miller
Christopher Potter
James Rieder
Jonathan Walson
Joseph Wenker
Cynthia Winstel

Purcell Marian High School
The Gow School
McNicholas High School
Purcell Marian High School
Fairfield High School
Summit Country Day School
Wyoming High School
Purcell Marian High School
Purcell Marian High School
Newport Catholic High School
Forest Park High School
Turpin/Scarlet Oaks
LaSalle High School
Seven Hills School
Purcell Marian High School
Summit Country Day School
Turpin High School
Summit Country Day School
Elder High School
Colerain High School
St. Xavier High School
Mt. Notre Dame High School

Future Plans

CTC
Wilmington College
looking for clerical job
Kent State University
undecided
Miami University
University of Denver
College of Mt. St. Joseph
undecided
Employed - auto body
Employed - certified mechanic
Culinary Inst. of America
College of Mt. St. Joseph
NYU - film studies
University of Cincinnati
Ohio State University
University of Cincinnati
Ohio State University
Raymond Walter - UC
Hocking Technical College
Skidmore College
Raymond Walters - UC

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