

WINTER/SPRING 2022

News & VIEWS

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SCHOOL AND
CENTER

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► Explore, Engage, and Empower

These are the key ideas behind the new class which has become a favorite among students this fall. To prepare students for their future academics and to support the development of life-long critical thinking skills, Springer has incorporated a STEAM class into Lower School Blue and Gray (grades 4-5) academic schedules.

At this age students are ready to use their science and engineering minds to tackle questions posed in content areas. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) is the avenue for this to occur intentionally, so that students can be thoughtfully guided through their challenges and encouraged by their successes. With STEAM, students are using their hands in a way that hasn't always been a priority in academic settings. Curriculum Director Dr. Diane Houghton explains, "They are building coordination using their hands and brains to put structures together--they're always collaborating and testing to see function ability." Coupled with the physical pieces of the projects are the planning and design processes, determining what comes first, then next. STEAM teacher Kelly Gallant explains that through their projects, the students are "learning by discovery" rather than being told exactly what to do.

Finding time in the school day for this new offering resulted from looking with a new eye toward whether the time was being utilized most efficiently already. While Technology class had long been part of students' weekly afternoon rotations, those lessons became integrated in other content areas for more organic, meaningful applications. For example, students learned PowerPoint-style presentations in their literature classes to prepare for a presentation already required for that class.

Continues on next page.

▶ Letter from our Executive Director

The celebration of Springer's 50th anniversary has brought a great deal of excitement to our community! Over the past five decades, Springer has built, developed, and adapted academics and programs that have firmly situated us as one of the finest schools of our kind in the country. Throughout the pages to follow you will read about success stories proving that Springer's impact reaches far beyond our walls!

Each year we have a variety of visitors to campus who come back to share the successes they have had in life. Notably pictured alongside this text are two visitors from this past fall, who were far more interested in understanding Springer's success than sharing their own. Sister Mary Ann Van Verst and Dr. Norita Aplin, both former Executive Directors at Springer, helped to develop the foundation on which Springer's program currently stands. These women toured the building, spoke with students, and took pride in being important leaders in helping guide Springer to what we have collectively become.

To that end, Springer's Board is planning a 50th anniversary event this May as a means of intentionally celebrating Springer's past, present and future. Part of that celebration will be dedicated to reliving the contributions of legacy leaders that have made a tremendous impact on Springer in each of the past five decades:

- 1970s: Oliver Gale
- 1980s: Eric Yeiser and Chuck Yeiser
- 1990s: Daniel and Susan Pfau
- 2000s: Kate Lawrence
- 2010s: The Schiff Family

As part of our celebration, we will also be offering impact awards to express a heartfelt thanks to those who have supported Springer most recently, as well as a host of fun events and experiences that will round out an evening of celebrating successes much like those outlined in these pages. Anyone interested in attending is welcome to contact Advancement Director Kirstin Eismen at 513-871-6080 x213. Seating is limited for this May 5th event so if you are interested in attending a Celebration to remember, make your call soon!

In closing, I am amazingly thankful for all of the people who have and continue to support our mission and our work, this year and for the past 50 years. The Springer community is one of dedication and commitment. Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting our cause!

All my best,

Brett T. Marcoux
Executive Director



EXPLORE, ENGAGE, AND EMPOWER (CONTINUED FROM COVER)

In this way, students learn technology that immediately applies to academic content, which means there is never a time that learning becomes disconnected. After building STEAM skills in the Lower School, students will continue to use their skills in Middle School, where content areas will include more advanced opportunities with 3-D printing and other new technologies.

Another addition to the 2021-22 curriculum is showing marked growth in students. Eagles READ (Read, Enjoy, and Discover) is a daily school-wide moment lasting 20 minutes during which each individual at Springer reads a self-selected book. Even staff have taken this charge to stop everything and read. Why is this so significant? It has long been known that daily reading is necessary for progression, but in most settings reading is assigned as homework. For parents of children who struggle with reading, making a child read in the evenings is easier said than done. Many did not read, struggled, or ended up having a parent read to them as an alternative. The Wilson Reading System has been successfully used at Springer for 3 years, but even though proficient reading is achieved, it is common for readers who have struggled in the past to lack a passion for reading. Eagles READ was developed in hopes of gifting that passion back to these students.

A key part of the success of Eagles READ is a result of behind-the-scenes preparation work of collecting each of the more than 4,000 books on campus, assessing, and labeling them with an accurate reading lev-

el. Because all Springer students are assessed frequently, books with the ideal combination of appropriate reading level and high-interest subject matter may be selected for reading time.

While it is not surprising that the program has nurtured growth, what has been a pleasant finding is how much the students and staff are genuinely enjoying this time each day. Dr. Houghton and the faculty are thrilled at the enthusiasm they've seen in students, noting "There are students who had never finished a book before, who have finished and are asking for another," and "They're looking forward to the next book in a series." One Lower School student shared, "Eagles READ is the best!"



► Lynwood Battle Remembered

This fall, Springer joined with all of Cincinnati to mourn the loss of Lynwood L. Battle, Jr., who lived a life of service and leadership until his passing on August 29. To Springer, he was a beloved alumni grandfather, dedicated board member, and partner in our mission to help children succeed.

Lynwood joined the Board of Trustees in 2014, after his granddaughter Bella enrolled in the Lower School. He was a tremendous asset as a leader, bringing with him a wide breadth of service and leadership experience ranging from his early service in the U.S. Army in the Panama Canal Zone and Vietnam, to his 28 years as Manager of Diversity at Proctor & Gamble, to serving on the boards of the Cincinnati Zoo and Cincinnati Public Schools to name just a few. In his passing, he was honored in Cincinnati with the renaming of Rockdale Avenue in Avondale as Lynwood L. Battle, Jr. Place.

In addition to his well-earned accolades, his achievements are underscored by the integrity and values by which he lived. Former Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher recalls, "I had tried to get him to join the board years before his granddaughter enrolled." He declined so that he could dedicate his time to tending to his wife in the time of her declining health. "It was precisely because of this, the type of person he was, that I wanted him on our board even more."

Lynwood served on the Springer School and Center Board of Trustees from 2014 until his passing, serving on the Resource Committee and in the role of Board Secretary. Staff and faculty were acquainted with Mr. Battle through his involvement in his granddaughter's education, as well as his interest in being an active participant in the diversity and equity initiatives of the organization. Executive Director Brett Marcoux shares, "Lynwood offered valuable insight into every conversation. His wisdom was a gift to us all."

He applied his insight and experience ceaselessly toward the service of his community, and for his leadership and fellowship here at Springer, we are thoroughly grateful.

He made a point of getting to know people and letting them know how much he appreciated them.

SHELLY WEISBACHER



Pictured above: Lynwood L. Battle, Jr. Below: Music Teacher Judy McMahon, Lynwood Battle, and Lower School Division Director Carol Shumrick at the 2021 Annual Dinner.

& Memorials & TRIBUTES

(AS OF 7/16/2021)

In Honor Of Ben Mendelsohn
Marsha and Alan Levy

In Honor Of Brett Marcoux
Cynthia Marcoux

In Honor Of Cecily and Doug Fassler
Joelle and Howard Ragland

In Honor Of Daniel Zimmer
Barbi and Greg Sherman

In Honor Of Eden Arvay
Heidi Jaccaud and Jeff Arvay

In Honor Of Mark Wilkison
Brett and Elizabeth Joseph Giving Fund

In Honor Of Robert Stroehlein
Duffy and Don Petersman

In Honor Of Samantha Evans
The Anness Family Charitable Fund
Sarah and Thomas Evans

In Honor Of Slicer Family
Barrett Evans

In Honor Of Thomas Youtsey, III
Beverly Johnson

In Memory Of David West
Patricia A. West

In Memory Of Jacques (Jock)
Cari and Ron Kelly

In Memory Of JoAnn Janszen
Linda M. Bradley
Crystal and Vince Catalfu
Corry Manufacturing Company
Brenda and Scott Donaldson
Michelle Guenther
Constance and Robert Janszen
Sue A. Rachunok
Sherry and Thomas Wright

In Memory Of John N. Frey, Sr.
Julie Baughman
Kathy and Thomas Sperber
Marilyn Wannemacher

In Memory Of Lynwood Battle
Carole Barnhart
Kirstin Eismin and Ian Henry
Heather and Matt Gockerman
Robin and Stephen MacConnell
Gail and Jim Piraino
Shelly and Ken Weisbacher

In Memory Of Marilyn Hopkins "Lyn" Shimp
Robin and Stephen MacConnell

In Memory Of Robbie Dimling
Robert Dimling

► Be Your Best Self Week

October brought the annual "Be Your Best Self Week" dedicated to exploring physical and social-emotional topics to support wellness.

One highlight was a visit by world-famous jump roper David Fischer, who taught students creative jump roping tricks. Mr. Fischer also showed off the unique technique that earned him a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. Morning Zumba (led by Springer's own Marika Huelskamp), an all-school walk, and Play Day with Faculty and Staff rounded out an active week.

An opportunity for students and staff to play games together during recess, Play Day, was made more thrilling by the addition of new playground equipment donated by a generous friend of Springer. Students were obliged to demonstrate how to use the new pieces. By far, their favorite was to get staff onto the new orb spinner to see how long they could last!



Above: Lower School students spin Mrs. Mendoza on the new orb spinner. Above right: David Fischer teaches a creative jump rope maneuver to Lower School Green students.



► Be Our Guest

A long-running tradition returned to campus in November when students invited special people in their lives to Be Our Guest Day.

Grandparents, family members, and friends were treated to a school tour by their student, and spent time in classrooms enjoying activities and games, and learning about a day in the life as a Springer Eagle.

Pictured right: Colin and his mom Tayna Burbrink pose for a photo at the selfie station.



► A Springer Celebration 2021!

Springer's second online event co-chaired by Peter Frey and Cecily Fassler kicked off September 30th and ran through the end of October.

Families, friends, and generous community members donated an array of fantastic items for guests to bid on. Raffles included a split-the-pot, fine jewelry, and collectible rare bourbons. Participants felt great knowing they help make it possible for children with learning disabilities to get the specialized education they need to achieve their full potential.

During the livestreamed video program, Springer Celebration 2021: The Giving Tree, two of Nick's former teachers reflect on their memories of him as a student and the work ethic he displayed. Nick, like all Springer students, was encouraged to recognize and capitalize on his strengths and learn strategies to support and grow his competence.

A spirited wrap-up show attended by a select group of guests including the Springer student council officers and Mr. Redlegs of the Cincinnati Reds, was streamed on Facebook to end the online auction and thank contributors. Student council did an excellent job of bringing the Eagle Spirit to viewers and The Giving Tree raised \$72,000 for financial aid and school and community outreach programs.



Pictured: The Giving Tree wrap-up celebration attended by Springer student council officers, Executive Director Brett Marcoux, Nick Lefke, and Mr. Redlegs.



STUDENT COLLECTION IS LARGEST OF THE YEAR

Contributory activities are woven into the fabric of student life at Springer. This year students and advisors selected Sweet Cheeks Diaper Bank as the focus of their charitable efforts.

At an all-school assembly students learned from Sweet Cheeks representatives what diaper need is and why it is of pressing concern for families. They showed a keen interest and sympathy for the difficulties caused by lack of clean diapers. Springer students took this call to

action very seriously and set a goal to accumulate 8,000 diapers before their Winter Break. Student Council led the initiative and on December 17th revealed a 24-foot wall of diapers constructed with a goal-busting 11,912 diapers! Sweet Cheeks Founder Meghan Fischer accepted the donation and told students, "This is one of the largest collections received all year, and the largest collection from a school this year."

► Musician In Residence Program in its 25th year

In a melodious quarter-century, the Norita Aplin Musician in Residence Program has acquainted students with a wide range of musical styles and instruments and has become a staple of student life.

Because of generous supporters, the residency has been hosted every year since 1997. This has become a beloved tradition and rite of passage of sorts for the fifth graders who apply and are invited to study in small groups with the musician.

For its silver anniversary, Springer was very pleased to bring back the musician who led the program during its inaugural year, Dr. Chris Tanner. Dr. Tanner is the founder and director of Miami University Oxford's Steel Band, and founded the National Society of Steel Band Educators, a non-profit dedicated to advancing steel band education in the United States.

At Springer, Tanner met with all students during their weekly music classes, introducing them to the history, physiology, and of course the sounds of the steel drums. They learned that steel drums in fact are not drums at all but are steel pans, as they are called in their country of origin, Trinidad. As a college professor he states working with the younger students at Springer is rejuvenating, adding, "It's always a fresh experience."

Dr. Tanner has enjoyed his time at Springer and states that he has been here several times in the past 25 years working with different groups of students. While each year is a unique experience, "What hasn't changed is the mission of the school." Dr. Tanner added, "All employees are focused on and aligned with the mission. That's impressive."

Fifth graders learned holiday-themed arrangements on the steel pans and memorized their parts within a week's time to be prepared for the ensemble performance. All staff and students as well as family members were in attendance for performance on December 17th, which concluded with a sing-along medley of holiday favorites.



Above: Colin and Michelline during the final performance. Below: Peter enjoys the daily steel drum practices.



► Faculty Always Learning

One of Springer's core values is Staff Expertise and Development, which is key to providing research-based education to our students as well as supporting whole-child development. Two esteemed professionals have presented remarkable programs already this year.

A longstanding commitment to equity and multiculturalism continues to be a theme in Springer-sponsored professional development offerings to staff and faculty. On November 8th, all staff participated in a moderated conversation with Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum on the topic of racial identity development in children. Dr. Tatum is President Emerita of Spelman College and in 2014 received the Award for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to Psychology, by the American Psychological Association. The focus of her discussion surrounded her National Bestselling book *Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race*. All staff and faculty were gifted a book ahead of the program and met in groups to discuss questions for the author. Teachers were able to reflect on their experiences and to view them through the lens of identity-forming stages in children and adolescents. Professional development opportunities like this one provide time for faculty and staff to learn about one another and share their experiences to gain meaningful insights.

Another fall program focused on Sketchnoting, a technique developed by Tanny McGregor, local educator and author of several books including *Ink and Ideas* and *Comprehension Connections*. Sketchnoting is founded on the premise that information that is stored as both image and words strengthens memory. Sketchnoting is a way for students to record their thoughts about source texts, and to use it as an aid for retelling. All of Springer's classroom teachers are taught how to sketchnote and to teach this method to become a strategy for learning. This kind of note taking helps students to summarize and retell, which is also an important component of the Wilson Reading program. Tanny McGregor visited the campus in person to present her training to teachers and instructional assistants.



Pictured: Professional development for Springer faculty. Photo by Tanny McGregor.

► Center Expands Outreach

Programming by Springer's Center continues to reach those in need of guidance and LD services in the region. This fall, in a first for Springer, actress, YouTube host, and ADHD expert Jessica McCabe served as one of two distinguished speakers presented in the annual Distinguished Speakers Series.

As the pandemic continued to prompt caution around large gatherings, the second speaker in the series, Dr. Andrew Johnson presented in an interactive online format as well. Online access to his program will be available via Springer's website this spring.

More than 35 registrants signed up for the online presentation of a Book Club for parents and caregivers on the topic of dyslexia held in January. The benefit of consuming the material at one's convenience is an added draw for some, while in-person sessions are still a preference for many others. The Center continues to plan in-person events when possible, while also advancing the quality of online offerings to expand reach.

Recorded webinars continue to be available online at Springer-LD.org/center-webinars. Topics range from ADHD and LD understanding for parents and caregivers, to strategic teaching for educators, and a selection of recordings from previous Distinguished Speaker Series events.



Adventures

IN SUMMER LEARNING

June 13 – July 15, 2022

Visit www.Springer-LD.org/summer for more information

"This was the top camp activity last summer! Looking forward to sign-up."

— SUMMER PARENT

For students who struggle in school, Springer's Adventures in Summer Learning program provides strategic instruction in language arts, math, writing and problem solving. New this year, add on one or more of the mini-camps designed to build confidence, discover strengths, and learn new skills. **Registration is open now!**

► Power of the Pen

When the Cincinnati Bengals outscored the Kansas City Chiefs to become Champions of the AFC North, the entire region celebrated and quickly began plans for watching the big game.

Announcements online revealed that a number of schools would close for the "holiday" the day following the Super Bowl. However, the original 2021-22 Springer calendar indicated that school would be in session. It wasn't very long before Executive Director Brett Marcoux began receiving formal correspondence from the students regarding the matter.

Lower School Teacher Shelby Chamberlin explains, "Our first trimester writing unit was opinion writing, followed by 'present your opinion' and then letter writing. The students used the skills they learned throughout the school year to develop their letters. They had also learned about the power of language through *The Mind That's Mine* and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in our Black History Month curriculum. The students gathered that MLK made a difference with his voice and his opinion, and they connected that another type of expressive language was writing so they chose to write letters expressing their opinion to Mr. Marcoux!"

Middle School Literature Teacher Emily Kimble was approached on the morning after the big win by a student who was disgruntled Springer had not yet cancelled. She brainstormed with him ways he might "catch more flies with honey" and he developed the idea of writing a letter. "I thought

that was the end of the conversation, but he came to me in sixth bell with a letter in paragraph form." Mrs. Kimble and another faculty member worked with him to edit the letter and it was delivered to Mr. Marcoux who described it as "very compelling." When a student takes lessons from the classroom and applies them meaningfully it is very rewarding. Mrs. Kimble reflects, "I am thrilled for my students to know that their words can make a difference."

Mr. Marcoux addressed parents in an email, urging, "Please be proud of your children for their eloquent writing and appropriate expressions of self-advocacy." Students were thrilled to learn that school was ultimately cancelled on Monday, February 14, 2022.

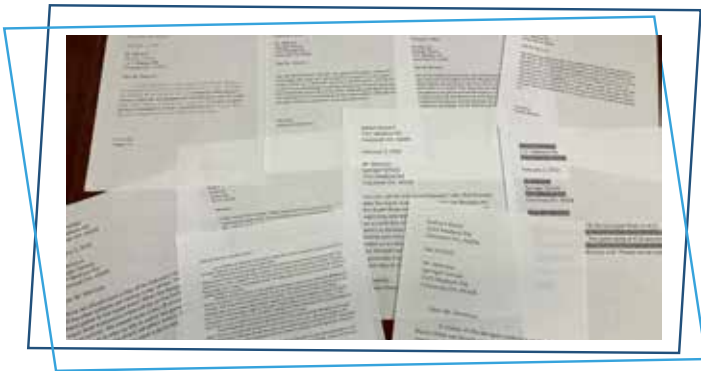
“
#IStandWithSpringer
”



► Think Different, Learn Different

Friends of Springer are expressing what it means to think differently by participating in the new campaign to raise awareness and support for Springer.

Faculty/staff, Board of Trustees, families, and alumni are joining together while also competing in a friendly competition to outraise each other in their peer-to-peer campaigning. It's fun and easy to join in by making a donation, help an existing participant reach their goal, or create your own page to inspire friends to donate to the cause. The \$50,000 goal is ambitious, and will go a long way toward providing funds for school and center programs and financial aid, and most importantly, spreading the word about how Springer can help children with LD achieve their full potential. Check out Think Different, Learn Different by scanning the QR Code above.



YOUR LEGACY, a child's future

Springer is proud to have served children with learning disabilities for 50 years, providing a state-of-the-art education in which students become empowered to realize their full potential. We could not have done this without you.

We share with you a belief in the importance of education and dedicated support for students with learning disabilities. Families, educators, and supporters including yourself, have worked with one another throughout the past half-century to nurture the growth of Springer School and Center, which has been a wellspring of hope for thousands of families relying on our resources.

With an eye on the future, some

have committed to extend their support further by leaving a legacy in their will. As a loyal supporter of Springer School and Center, we want you to know the immense impact that a legacy gift has on ensuring that Springer's resources are available into the years in which our children's' great-grandchildren will grow and thrive in.

We are honored to invite you join Springer's Legacy Society and want to answer any questions you may have about how to participate. Please email keismin@springer-ld.org or call to speak with her directly at (513) 871-6080, ext. 213.



► Prolific Author Shares Storytelling Secrets

In February, students were introduced to a local author who has been published more than 500 times and has written near double that in her lifetime so far.

Dandi Daley Mackall currently lives near Cleveland, Ohio, but she took students back in time by describing parts of her modest upbringing in a small Missouri town where bareback horse riding, baseball, and storytelling provided elements that developed into a love of writing and set her on the path to becoming an author. She also shared that handwriting was difficult for her—she frequently wrote letters backwards, but she found her way around her struggles by telling stories instead.

Lower School students met with Mackall in small groups throughout the



Pictured: Dandi Daley Mackall practices story formation with students.



day to learn tips to improve their own storytelling. She sparked their creativity by challenging them to reflect on “frozen moments” in life, times that one recalls an event in such detail that it seems frozen in time. She also challenged them to practice ways of expressing emotion through description and action rather than telling. Marian, a fourth grader, shared that her class recently wrote a story using frozen moments like those used by the author.

One of the most compelling parts of the day was hearing the true story of how Dandi “Dan” Mackall, used her boyish nickname and skills to write her way into becoming bat boy for the Kansas City A’s—well, almost. Being a girl in the years before Title IX presented heartache for Mackall and as she tells it, “Sometimes failing at something turns you on to something

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► STUDENTS EARN PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS FOR WRITING

It was announced in January that three Springer Middle School students earned Regional Awards from the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. Since 1923, the Alliance has been awarding student work based on originality, technical skill, and emergence of a personal voice or vision. Our Springer Eagles are in impressive company as recipients, which include famous names like Director and Producer Ken Burns, Actress and Director Lena Dunham, and Poet Amanda Gorman, who have all been honored during the contest’s near century-long history.

Seventh grader Sloane Lipson earned a Silver Key for her suspenseful and surreal short story “Shadows”, in which the reader follows the mind-twisting experience Elliot finds herself contending with. Eighth grader Seth Goecke won an Honorable Mention in the Science Fiction & Fantasy category for “A Trifling”, a story full of intrigue in a familiar yet mysterious setting his character must escape. Seventh grader Esme Chacon’s emotional short story “Running to the Light” also earned an Honorable Mention. Her narrative elicits sympathy and causes reflection on one’s own values.



Above: Seth Goecke, Esme Chacon, and Sloane Lipson

It’s clear these writers can tell engaging stories and this award encourages continued development of their writing skills to share their unique voices with the world.

(Continued)

you really ought to do." The incredible story is captured in her children's book *A Girl Named Dan*.

In addition to telling her own stories, Mackall built an original story in real time with Middle School students. They started with developing a character, inspiring the reader to empathize with the character, and then "making the character's life miserable" through challenges and problems to form the plot until the character has an epiphany that changes them. Her fun and easy to understand story structure makes writing more accessible and less intimidating for the student to create their own.

Students were able to ask her many questions about being an author. Mackall poignantly answered one Middle Schooler's question "What motivated you to write?" explaining she believes "people want to hear stories,"

and adding that writing can help you cope with life's difficulties by "helping when tough things are in your head."

Library/Media Specialist Amanda Lim believes "We will see lots of new ideas coming from the students" as a result of the time they have shared together. Mackall is the author of a wide-ranging breadth of fascinating books for children, young adults, and adults on many topics. She has won several awards including the Helen Keating Ott Award and the Edgar Award. After hearing some of the compelling origins behind her books, many students and staff are already adding her titles to their reading lists. Her books are available on dandibooks.com.



Fifty Year Anniversary

Springer School and Center is celebrating fifty years! Although the very start of Springer in its earliest form dates back to 1884, Springer as the independent school dedicated to serving students with learning disabilities began with the 1971-72 school year.

Commemoration of the anniversary launched at the start of the 2021-22 school year, with a special 50-Year Challenge posed each month. We have challenged each other to walk or run for fitness to start the school year in a healthy way. October's challenge emphasized LD/ADHD Awareness month as our social media accounts posed questions and facts to increase knowledge.

November's challenge took a particularly meaningful tone, inviting all students, staff, and families to write a short word or sentence to compile "Fifty things we LOVE about Springer." The challenge was received with more enthusiasm than any prior. More than 200 statements were handwritten with colorful glass-writing markers in the window opposite the gym. Staff wrote their own statements and were especially touched by the carefully written words of the children. Some wrote they liked PE class, or to read, or even that they liked having friends. Landon, a Lower School student, wrote "I like Springer because it helps me read and write." Another student wrote "never feeling left out." Several young artists drew pictures to illustrate their words. With a grateful tenor, another wrote "Springer is a home away from home."

CELEBRATING
50
YEARS



Don't miss this!

A Springer Celebration 2022!

Anniversary activities of the 2021-22 school year will lead up to *A Springer Celebration 2022! 50th Anniversary Gala* on Thursday, May 5th--*Save the date!* The gala will be a reflection on our past fifty years with engaging speakers to honor the

leadership which has been instrumental in Springer's growth for the past half-century. Honorees are Oliver Gale, guiding Springer through becoming an independent school in 1971; Brothers Chuck Yeiser and Eric Yeiser, whose support was instrumental in the acquisition of our current 2121 Madison Road location in 1981; Daniel and Susan Pfau, who in the 1990s solidified the financial aid program with what was at the time the largest gift for financial aid in our history; Kate Lawrence, who lead Springer's first Capital Campaign in 2003-2006, raising more than double the anticipated funds, sustaining Springer well into the subsequent decades; and in the 2010s, John Schiff, III and the Schiff Family, who helped Springer renovate and relocate the library and front entrance in 2017, placing books and reading at the heart of the campus. The monumental leadership of these supporters will be formalized with the presentation of Legacy Awards.

The event, which is co-chaired by Peter Frey and Carrie and Rob Gould, will also include our favorite activities: an amazing auction and delicious fare, as well as an exciting look at the years ahead of us. To be held in person at the Cincinnati Music Hall Ballroom, this will be the party of a semi century!

► Alumni Reconnect Locally

It's an exciting time to be a Springer alum! Whether you graduated thirty years ago or graduated last year, there are many ways to stay connected to Springer and your fellow alumni.

Online, follow Springer on Facebook, Instagram, and/or Twitter. We'd like to follow you, too. Share your updates with Springer! We are proud of you and want to share in the joy of your accomplishments—big and small. Plus, when you reach out to us, we can be sure we have your updated contact information, so that we can invite you to our fun events!

A great time was enjoyed recently at Karrikin Spirit Co., which was co-founded by Jeff Reichard ('87). A group of nearly 30 gathered to mingle, enjoy some spirits, and reminisce. Some took the opportunity to take part in the new campaign **#IStandWithSpringer**.



Pictured: Eric Satterlee ('06) and Ryan Godor ('07).



Left: Guests mingle at Karrikin Spirit Co. Right: Librarian Amanda Lim with Nancy Sutkamp ('18)

Another way to reconnect is to plan a short, casual visit to campus. Nancy Sutkamp ('18) visited Springer to share her senior project book with a couple former teachers. She even donated a copy of her book to the Springer Library. Springer Eagles can be inspired by you! Planning a visit to campus is especially popular among recent alumni. However, if you graduated many years ago, you may be even more curious to visit—perhaps finding that campus has changed a little bit. Call ahead or reach out to our Alumni Relations Coordinator for the best visiting experience. However you like to connect, we want to welcome you!

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

► Meet Marika



Hi! My name is Marika, and I am a Springer alumna.

I am also Springer's Social Media and Alumni Relations Coordinator. I love hearing from other alumni! Please share your news and announcements with me, and don't forget to send a recent photo, too. Use the QR code to the right to share your updates.



HAILEY FIKTUS '21 graduated from Springer School and Center last spring. She is attending Anderson High School and has A's and B's. Hailey is involved in choir and had a blast at her first concert. She also attended homecoming and has enjoyed making new friends.



MIA DINOVO '21 graduated from Springer School and Center last spring. She is attending Purcell Marion High School and earned all A's and first honors! She also joined the Student Council and Art Club. During the student council leadership retreat, Mia had the opportunity to meet Anthony Munoz and hear about his foundation's mission. For Art Club, they helped paint the mural that is on the corner of Woodburn and McMillan. In addition to being a full-time student with extracurriculars, Mia is on the foodservice team for the Sisters of Charity at their Motherhouse.

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS



OWEN BOONE '21 is a freshman in the honors program at Archbishop Moeller High School. He is enjoying Studio Art class and Honors Algebra 1 this year, along with playing chess in the chess club. In addition to school, Owen dances on the competition team at The Studio for Dance about 12

hours a week, so he uses the study strategies he learned at Springer to manage his homework time carefully. Owen was part of a select group of dancers performing with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra during their holiday concert series. He is having a blast!



GABBY LUCKENBACH '17 graduated from McNicholas High School in 2021. She will attend Columbia College Chicago in the fall, where she will pursue a degree in Film and TV Production.



ANDREW ROELL '12 After graduating from Berry College in 2021, Andrew had an internship with Koch Foods of Gadsden, Alabama. Immediately following his internship, they offered him a job. On September 8, 2021, Koch Foods of Gadsden recognized him on their Facebook Page for being an awesome supervisor.



CAT FOWLER '11 graduated from St. Francis High School in 2018. She is a senior at Miami University majoring in political Science and minoring in Disability Studies and Social Justice. She is employed at the University Onestop.



ALICIA RILEY '10 is a 2014 graduate of Mount Notre Dame High School. She graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a degree in Communication Science and Disorders. Currently, Alicia is in the ACinnD program at UC studying Speech Language Pathology, which led her back to Springer where she is completing student evaluations for part of her program.



JOHN FIGHTMASTER '07 attended Brandon Hall School in Atlanta, Georgia, and graduated college from The University of Cincinnati. Currently, he works at the Netherland Plaza as the Front Office Supervisor.

"I went to Springer for ADHD. I didn't understand the importance of doing well in school until the threat of not making it into college was right on my heels. It took me a little longer than most to "get it." I always felt like I was two years behind. Eventually, I caught up. For me, things became easier when I started embracing who I am as a person and stopped changing that to be liked. Springer surrounded me with peers who were going through the same struggles as me. It helped me embrace my creativ-

ity and praised me for it. I am very fortunate to have gone to such a helpful school."



AMANDA GRANGER (MILLS) '06 is a Retirement Planner for Fidelity Investments. She first became interested in financial planning by taking a Financial Peace program in 2015. In 2019 she passed her Series 7 (General Securities Representative Examination) and Series 66 (Uniform Combined State Law Examination) license. Amanda is currently pursuing her CFP (Certified Financial Planner) designation at Franklin University. She is passionate about helping people reach their long-term financial goals, especially when it comes to saving and investing towards retirement.



NICKY VALENTINO BUDKE '91 has been a dental assistant for over 20 years. Out of high school, she attended a trade school for dental assisting called The Institute of Medical-Dental Technology. After graduation, Nicky worked for Dr. Glueck, DDS, a general dentist in Hyde Park until he retired. Then, she began working at Cincinnati Children's Dental, where she stayed for 10 years. Nicky said, "I loved working with children and learned so much in the hospital dental setting." In 2017 she happily accepted a position as a Certified Dental Assistant and Office Coordinator with Montgomery Pediatric Dentistry in Blue Ash. In 2018 UC Blue Ash began to offer the one-year certificate program for Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary which Nicky was excited about. In 2019 she graduated with the first graduating class during the COVID pandemic from UC BlueAsh EFDA program. She is still employed by Montgomery Pediatric Dentistry as an EFDA and Clinic Coordinator and loves her job. Nicky is also a mom of three boys, ages 12, 18, and 22. She added, "Being a mom is definitely my greatest achievement!"



TOM SCHIFFER '87 graduated from Boone County High School and then went on to the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School. The Ordnance School was part of 4 years of Active Duty with time spent in Germany; Riley, KS; and Saudi Arabia. Post army, Tom attended Northern Kentucky University on the GI Bill to learn drafting skills. These skills helped him get jobs as a manual machinist and then get promoted to engineering departments. He has worked for several companies on many different projects involving gas and oil drilling equipment, defense projects, aviation, and space exploration. Tom currently works for Microtek Finishing as a fixture designer and does freelance work ranging from product design to prototype fabrication.

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