

WINTER 2024

News & VIEWS

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CENTER

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Four Pillars for Success

Springer School and Center has expanded in both the school and center to include Springer High School and Springer Diagnostic Center. With these additions, Springer's scope of service is best understood through what are now four pillars of service:

- Springer Lower School and Middle School,
- Springer High School,
- Springer Learning Center,
- Springer Diagnostic Center.

The two new pillars, Springer High School and Springer Diagnostic Center, were developed based on community needs for obtaining diagnoses and extending services for students through the age of 18. Great impact is already seen by the many families who have benefited in the months since opening. **Read more inside!**

► Letter from our President

Some of you may recall that I grew up in a beautiful little village town in Southern Maine. The town was also a summer home to world-renowned author Steven King. Although he is known best for his fiction writing, there is a quote from King that is far more aligned with non-fiction writing which has stuck with me for years: "What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work."

At Springer we pride ourselves on helping our students get on the path to success. What we don't talk about much is just how much work success is for our students. The work ethic that they develop at Springer is at the core of what brings out the very best in each of them. On their path to success they learn how to build trusting relationships and gain confidence. In time they start to see a future they never could before. What they don't realize is that we see a successful future the first day we meet them.

Dyslexia, ADHD and challenges with executive functioning can be embraced, built upon and celebrated as long as you have the right people helping guide the path within the right system. In the pages that follow you will find countless stories of Springer's impact. The stories are powerful and the successes are many. We are reaching more students today than any year in our history, and we know we can do more.

There are thousands of children and families in our region who need Springer but know nothing about us. We often hear stories about connectors: Friends who glow about Springer over dinner, family members

offering reminders of Springer's impact on their lives, and neighbors pointing out a billboard or sharing a story in the news about a Springer student's success. Thousands of people spread the word about Springer every year, and we need more.

Please become one of our thousands of connectors. There are so many students in our community who are ready for success, but they are not in the right system or with the right people. At least not yet. Help them find Springer. Together there is no stopping them on their path to success!

Sincerely,



Brett T. Marcoux
President



► Two Retire from Board

Springer expressed gratitude for two exiting board members at the close of the 2022-2023 school year, honoring both at the Annual Dinner held in May.

Dr. Battinto L. Batts, Jr. departs the board after a three-year term lending his expertise to Springer through his work on the Resource Committee. Fellow trustee Matt Gockerman sheds light on the significance of his membership: "Battino joined our Board with no direct relationship to Springer outside of a heart for children with learning differences. His auspicious start, just as COVID took off, and his prestigious appointment, mid-way through his term, as the Dean of the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University, did not dampen his enthusiasm. Battino is missed, but is now our champion for those Springer Eagle High School Students who apply to ASU!"

Kate Nourse Walker served two terms on the Board. Her daughter Charlotte attended Springer for nine years before the family relocated out of state in 2023. Kate served as Board Secretary and was part of the Resource Committee and also Annual Fund Chair. President Brett Marcoux notes, "Kate was passionate about helping every child in Cincinnati that we could! She challenged us to push our limits in support of our mission." He adds, "Her support will have an impact for children and families in our region for decades to come."



> *Battinto Batts and Kate Walker retire from the Board of Trustees*

“ Dr. Batts has always been a champion of Springer and the work we do. When he was appointed Dean of the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State he took his passion for our work out west to extend his impact in our country. We will always be appreciative of his work with Springer!” ~ BRETT MARCOUX, Springer President

“ Kate, always with good humor and positive energy, brought a passion for Springer and deep human resource professional experience to her Board service ... From day one Kate challenged us with a vision beyond 8th grade.” ~ MATT GOCKERMAN, Trustee

► Springer Welcomes Seven to Board of Trustees

Springer is pleased to welcome seven new members to the Board of Trustees with the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

Together they are a passionate group of alumni and alumni family members who feel strongly about Springer's mission, each bringing a great deal of experience from community endeavors and careers in various sectors.

Laura Becker is a Springer alumni parent. Her son Brad graduated from Springer in 2015. Laura is President of Global Business Services at Procter and Gamble. She joined P&G in 1990 and during her tenure has had extensive experience in Finance and Accounting Practice areas including business operations, business development, mergers and acquisitions, treasury, and capital markets. Her outside affiliations include 3CDC and GS1. Laura is a graduate of The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Eva Gilkey Booher is an alumni parent of Jack Booher, who attended Springer from 2010-2012. Currently, Eva Gilkey Booher is founder and President of Rookwood Wealth Management. She is a native Cincinnati who attended St. Ursula Academy and Miami University. Eva is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and started her firm in 2007. Prior to opening her firm, she was a Managing Director and Senior Portfolio Manager at Bartlett and Co. Eva has volunteered in many capacities but primarily on the Board of Trustees at St. Ursula Academy where she served for 10 years and as Board Chair in 2006-2007.

Joshua Smitherman is the sibling of Springer alumna Jade Smitherman. Josh grew up working office and field professional jobs for Jostin Construction. After graduating from Xavier University, he spent eight years at Ford Motor Company in New York City. He returned to Jostin in 2022 as the firm's Business Development Manager and is responsible for growing Jostin's primary service lines in emerging markets. Josh brings a wealth of expertise in cultivating trusting client relationships, managing high-performing metric driven teams, brand positioning, digital marketing and client experience consulting.

Carrie Gould is a current Springer parent. Her son, Aston, is in Springer's Middle School and her daughter, Emberlyn, is in the Lower School. Carrie holds a position on the Board of Corry Manufacturing Company. Additionally, she has been active in several community organizations, including Seton High School, Elder High School, Bethany House, Queen City Book Bank and St. Aloysius Gonzaga School. During her tenure at St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Carrie held a full-time volunteer position as their



> Left to right, top to bottom: Laura Becker, Eva Gilkey Booher, Josh Smitherman, Carrie Gould, Cindy Shetterly, Tom Garber and Sam Cooper.

Development Director. Carrie is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati with a Master's in Education.

Cindy Shetterly is an alumni parent. Her daughter Mihkalya commenced in 2014. After 17 years as a flight attendant with Delta Airlines, Cindy retired and became a Realtor with Keller Williams. Cindy currently has a team of 14 real estate agents on The Cindy Shetterly Team. Since 2005, Cindy and her team have sold more than 2,500 homes in Kentucky and Ohio.

Tom Garber is a Springer alumnus having commenced in 1991 and his daughter, Aubrey, is a current Springer student in the Lower School. Tom is a Project Manager at CCI Design. Currently Tom is a board member on the Music Hall Revitalization Company and the Seven Hills School as Chair of the Facilities Committee. He has previously served on the Board for the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. During his tenure he held the position of Gala Chair in 2016. Tom graduated from DAAP at the University of Cincinnati.

Sam Cooper is a Springer alumnus having commenced in 1997. Sam is the fifth generation to work at The Myers Y. Cooper Company. During his time with the company, Sam has acted as the property manager, director of construction, leasing agent and personnel manager. He recently became an officer of the company as Secretary Treasurer. A few of Sam's affiliations include the Clermont County Chamber of Commerce, the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, and Cincinnati Area Board of Realtors. Sam studied at Wittenberg University.

► Faculty Milestones Honored

Eight staff members were recognized for their years of Springer service during the Annual Dinner in May.

With the longest tenure, **Terri Moorhead** was celebrated for her fortieth anniversary, retiring at the close of the 2022-23 year. Terri has worked with hundreds of families in her varied roles as teacher, middle school team leader, principal and placement director. In her most recent years at Springer, she served as a team lead and consultant for ISACS accreditation, guiding Springer through a third cycle of accreditation. Her daughter, a Springer alumna, shared these words to commend the occasion. "In her role here and outside Springer, she wants everyone to find a path that creates positive outcomes and is the first to help create that path." Terri has helped to lead hundreds of students, families and professionals through their educational journeys. The Springer community will benefit from her

(Continues on page 6)



Left to right: Terri Moorhead, Mark Phelps, Carol Shumrick, Mark Priest, Diane Houghton, Kathleen Miklius and Tony Barone.

► Introducing Springer High School

“My children love coming to school every day and are learning not just in content areas but about themselves and how they learn.” ~ MELANIE DEBROSSE, Springer Parent

Springer High School became a reality this fall with a unanimous vote by Springer’s Board of Trustees. After a two-year-long study and a successful ninth-grade pilot program, Springer High School will become the third fully accredited school in Ohio that exclusively serves students with learning differences such as dyslexia, ADHD and other specific learning disabilities. Response to the announcement has been overwhelmingly positive.

One father shares why Springer has meant so much to his son, saying “Coming in here [our son] was no longer the one who was different...To hear him say my favorite part of the day is school, or I'm good at school, are things we didn't get to hear in the previous ten years.”

Springer High School offers a program different from anything else in the region. “Our small class sizes provide students with the opportunity for personalized instruction and allows teachers to really know their students,” explains Head of High School Tara Willig. Part of that system is the daily schedule. Springer ninth-grade students are taking college preparatory courses in core content areas (Algebra 1, English 9, World History and General Science). Additionally, every student takes three hallmark courses: Learning Lab, Quest and SOAR.

Learning Lab, the first period of the day, focuses on word study, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and written expression. Students explore phonology, morphology and orthography in a direct way, leading to an in-depth understanding of our language.

Midway through the day, Quest class provides instruction and experiences that help build self-awareness, explore college and career paths and develop a clear plan for their future. Goal setting, service-learning and technology tools are all components of this unique class that prepares students for the next phase of their development. Ninth graders visited



Running Club participating in the Hunger 5K in Blue Ash on November 4

the University of Cincinnati this past fall where they attended a basketball game and toured parts of campus. A surprise encounter with Springer alumna Cassidy Crenshaw (now a UC student and cheerleader) was a bonus!

SOAR (Springer Organization Advocacy and Responsibility) is held at the end of the day and is a time for explicit instruction in executive function strategies and effective study skills. Making a schedule and learning prioritization, for example, are skills that become ingrained and prepare students for more growth and independence. Many of the study tools are those used at the college level. Assistant Director Julie Marcoux explains, “I give the students tools that have been successful for my college students, so the ninth graders know that they are utilizing effective strategies that can help now and in the future.”

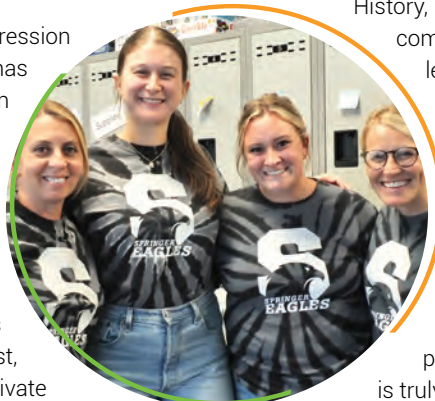
Along with the intentionality behind class offerings, Springer High School is committed to keeping core classes at fourteen or fewer students to foster a sense belonging and provide a safe space for academic risks.

► Small & Mighty Team

Springer ninth grade is staffed by four full-time educators this year. Head of High School Tara Willig, and Assistant Director Julie Marcoux provide leadership for the program while being fully integrated into the school's daily activities.

Initiating Springer’s high school is a natural progression of both their impressive careers. Tara Willig has several years of experience as an intervention specialist and special education coordinator and spent six years as principal at Delshire Elementary in the Oak Hills School District. Her passion is high school and, in 2022, she joined Springer to lead our High School Exploration Study before transitioning to Head of High School this past fall.

Over the course of her career Julie Marcoux has held roles such as child development specialist, master teacher, and learning specialist in private schools across the country. More recently she was an academic coach at the collegiate level before becoming Assistant



Director of Springer High School.

Teachers Megan Sheanshang and Kendra Sprague eagerly joined the team to teach academics. Kendra, who teaches Literature and World History, appreciates the small class sizes and tight-knit community at Springer. She shares “I decided to take the leap and pioneer this brand-new high school because I believe in how special, powerful and transformative it can be for students to engage in a setting specifically designed for them.” Megan is also pleased with her experience teaching the first class of Springer High School speaks highly of her students. She teaches science and math and comments, “I have seen tremendous growth in their math abilities during this school year. I appreciate their constant hard work, persistence, and positive attitudes.” She adds, “Springer is truly a special place.”

Left to right: Tara Willig, Kendra Sprague, Megan Sheanshang and Julie Marcoux

► Beyond Academics

The Springer ninth grade experience has included a myriad of co-curricular and extracurriculars. Students began forming close bonds early in the school year when they attended a three-day Leadership Camp at YMCA's Camp Campbell Gard in August. Jake, a ninth grade student, shares what he felt was best about the camp, saying "I liked the high ropes course and being with my friends." Carter also enjoyed tackling the ropes course for the first time: "I got to the top in twenty minutes."

Each Friday students attend Club Bell for the last hour of the day, collecting a variety of experiences on a 4-6 week rotation. The first project was big! Cincinnati Artist Michael Thompson led the development of a one-of-a-kind mural which represents the students and their school and creates a positive vibe for their common space.

After school, students can stay for a selection of activities that have included pickleball, running club, basketball, dance, art, engineering and film. All students have participated in monthly social events on and off campus like the Pickleball Tournament, Fall Fun Fest and Pins Mechanical Night.

Athletics and extracurriculars will continue to be a central part of the Springer High School experience as the program grows. More opportunities, including Track and Field, are in development for spring.



Above left: Leano helps visiting artist Michael Thompson paint a mural in the 9th Grade Lounge. Right: Carter climbs the high ropes course at Camp Campbell Gard.



Bennett and Mir pose at the Fall Fun Fest photo booth.



Ninth-grade students have a chance encounter with Springer alumna and University of Cincinnati cheerleader Kassidy while attending a UC basketball game.



A COMMUNITY FOR PARENTS, TOO!

Partnership with and among the first class of high school parents has made it possible to build a robust selection of social activities for students.

Melanie DeBrosse, a new Springer parent explains how valuable these events are, saying, "Being a new family to Springer it has been so helpful to have social events where my children can interact with their classmates outside of the classroom environment and it

builds a sense of community among the parents and families."

Parent volunteers decorated for the Fall Fun Fest dance in October and helped with the Winter Exam Celebration. They've also participated in a Family Cookout, Pickleball Tournament and Pins Mechanical Night.

When local news reported on the new Springer High School, several parents and students eagerly shared their stories

with local reporters. We're also thankful to everyone who has attended admissions events to be a resource for other parents. Laurel Conrad is one of these volunteers. She says, "I'm grateful to contribute my time to Springer. The Springer High School community is wonderful. Their enthusiasm and involvement are a reflection of everyone's passion for Springer High School."



Melanie and Dan DeBrosse talk about their Springer experience for a feature on WKRC.



Katie Hinshaw, Whitney Plummer, Whitney Hollingsworth and Andie Bernard have fun while volunteering at the Fall Fun Fest.

contributions for years to come.

Psychologist **Tony Barone**, a listening ear to students for decades, was honored for his thirtieth anniversary and for his retirement at the conclusion of the year. A confidant and guide for students navigating social complexities and coping with emotional effects of learning disabilities, his retirement was bittersweet for students and the many faculty who collaborated with him throughout the years. In his honor, the entire campus participated in "Dr. Barone Day" donning mustaches and recording words of thanks in a short video screened at the Annual Dinner. Tony expressed gratitude for the Springer community and shared, "I will miss the kindness and caring of everyone as well as the enjoyment of seeing the positive results with so many children and families. The teamwork of the many dedicated people here was always greatly appreciated."



Mrs. Geiger's class sends their congratulations on "Dr. Barone Day".

Physical Education Teacher **Mark Phelps** was recognized for thirty-five years of service. Mark has a special knack for providing quality PE in a way that both respects and challenges students at their various competency levels, including motor and attention challenges. Teaching sportsman-like conduct is the through line in his method, and his care makes him loved even by those for whom PE does not come easy. His decades-long tenure makes for special reunions with visiting alumni who are thrilled to stop by and chat with him.

Carol Shumrick, Lower School Division Director, was honored for thirty years as a teacher, team leader and division director at Springer. Her steady leadership and expertise have been the guiding light for many teachers, especially those in their beginning years, who could look to her professionalism and steadfast passion for teaching.

Lower School Assistant **Kathleen Miklius** celebrated ten years of service as an instructional assistant in the classroom and a brief time assisting Springer's Peterson Scholarship team. Today she provides reliable support and assistance with nearly every aspect of the lower school, from planning activities, subbing in classrooms and problem-solving with students. Her breadth of capabilities and good nature has made her an invaluable team member.

Not least of the staff anniversaries given recognition were Dean of Academics **Diane Houghton**, Business Director **Mark Priest**, and President **Brett Marcoux**, who were honored for their five-year milestones. A list of accomplishments for each of them would belie their short tenures and

► Ceremony a Time to Reflect

Thirty-three of the thirty-eight students transitioning out of Springer last May elected to deliver speeches at their Commencement Ceremony. The commencing group is made of mostly eighth graders but is also open to younger students if they are moving to a new school. Commemorating student growth is an important tradition that creates a space for reflection and closure for both students and faculty.

Students leave Springer equipped for success in a variety of ways, a message that was echoed in their speeches. Charlie, an eighth grader, shares "Springer did a lot for me. When I first got here I was so nervous and scared that I barely talked at all. But thanks to everyone's warm smiles I felt more comfortable and now I talk normally." Students thanked their parents and their teachers and expressed confidence in their future. Eighth grader Barret stated "Next year I will be prepared for all of the challenges I will face. I will still be using strategies I have learned at Springer." Springer is proud of all of our new alumni and holds great confidence in them.

The Bolan Scholarship Award was bestowed upon eighth grader Natalie O'Rourke after she was selected by faculty for demonstrating an understanding of her learning disability, applying strategies learned at Springer, displaying a positive attitude and demonstrating leadership and a concern for others. The award provides a scholarship to offset future educational costs and is available through a fund established in memory of Mr. Peter Bolan and Mrs. Momi Bolan Springer alumni parents and great supporters of the school. The 2023 award was presented by three generations of alumni, Mr. Peter M. Bolan Jr., Ben Shurmer and Peter Wittekind.



Peter Bolan Jr., Peter Wittekind and Ben Shurmer with 2023 Bolan Scholarship recipient Natalie O'Rourke

includes major feats beginning with leading an organization through a pandemic, honing curriculum to provide most-effective outcomes, and spearheading a major capital campaign and subsequent campus renovation. Their dedicated leadership is evidenced in Springer's strength and continuing value to the region.

Springer is as strong as its staff and these milestones demonstrate two of our core values: stability and staff expertise. Our dedicated faculty and staff are living these values and creating an excellent platform for the success of our students.



Cari Kelly, M.Ed., W.D.T., W.D.P. with Julie Flowerdew, Sam Tolbert, Jen Brooke, Diane Houghton and Miranda Miller, certified Wilson® Dyslexia Practitioners

► Six Earn Wilson Credentials

Springer is proud to recognize six educators who have earned credentials through Wilson Language Training®.

Springer has used Wilson® programs for many years finding them to be the most effective structured literacy programs for struggling readers. Under the leadership of the Dean of Academics Diane Houghton, all Springer Lower School and Middle School teachers have been trained to use the Wilson Reading System and now six teachers are Wilson® Dyslexia Practitioners.

Becoming a credentialed Wilson® Dyslexia Practitioner is a rigorous process for teachers with bachelor's degrees or higher. Each teacher must complete a comprehensive six-step course for instructing non-responsive readers, be observed several times by a Wilson® Credentialed Trainer, demonstrate mastery of Wilson® lesson plan procedures, and demonstrate an understanding of language concepts through accurate teaching with multi-sensory procedures among other requirements. The credentialing is renewed every five years so when families work with a credentialed practitioner, they know that their teacher or tutor is meeting the highest

standards for instruction and is current in their knowledge of implementing Wilson® programs.

Springer educators are all trained to instruct using the Wilson Reading System and in addition to these first six, others are working toward their own practitioner certifications.

► Outstanding Student of the Year Awarded by Hyde Park

The Hyde Park Neighborhood Council awarded Cole Hardin with the Outstanding Student of the Year award for 2023. The award recognizes one well-rounded student who stands out in academics, character, leadership, community awareness and citizenship. Cole was joined by Division Director Kristy Ilg when he accepted the award on May 10 at the Council's annual meeting.

► Favorite Private School

We're honored to have been voted Family Favorite K-8 Private School by Cincy Magazine last Spring! We certainly think our faculty, staff and program are the very best, and it makes us proud to know you feel the same. Our pride in the students we serve inspires us to do all we can in the service of an important mission: To empower students with learning disabilities to lead successful lives!



Eighth grader Cole Hardin with Kristy Ilg at the Hyde Park Neighborhood Council meeting

► Four Pillars and a New Look

Along with the distinction of Springer's four pillars of service has come a new visual brand. Sarah Gebhart Design and Mike Taylor Consulting are responsible for the new look unveiled in late September. Our re-brand emphasizes each of the four pillars by giving each its own logo color consistent with the organization's new overall logo, and characterized by an iconic Springer "S". The new logos and brand look are intended to increase awareness for the expanded array of services offered to the community, or the four pillars.

As the name Springer School and Center indicates, Springer serves the community through *school* and *center* offerings. Both have expanded. Springer School now includes the Lower and Middle School, on which Springer's reputation has been built, and now a High School so that students who learn differently can continue to learn in an environment designed specifically for them. Springer Center now refers to not just the learning center, where adults can learn tools to support the struggling students in their lives, but also the Diagnostic Center, which provides diagnostic evaluations key to empowering families with answers about their child's learning.



Each color in the Springer "S" represents one of Springer's four pillars.

► Bold New Colors

Smart, confident and curious. Straightforward and steadfast. Unconventional and independent. Empowering! The Springer brand look was developed with words used by our community of students, alumni, families, faculty and staff to describe themselves, each other and the Springer Experience. The words also inspired Springer's new organizational colors. Each relates to one of the important ways Springer serves students with learning differences.

Lower School and Middle School are represented by the lighter, brighter **Sky is the Limit Blue** to symbolize the newly found potential and hope that characterize the elementary and middle school experience. High School is represented by **Be Seen Blue**, a color that evokes strength and responsibility. **Grow Together Green** perfectly symbolizes Springer Learning Center, whose aim is to share knowledge and resources with parents and professionals throughout the community. Finally, Springer Diagnostic Center is represented by **Reach Your Potential Purple** because of the empowerment felt by families receiving answers to set their child on a path toward fulfilling their potential.

► Construction Update

Construction at 2121 Madison Road has officially begun. A groundbreaking ceremony held May 18 marked the occasion with board, staff, students and supporters present.

Demolition of the old Reuben Hall building and preparation of the parking lot began on the first day of summer vacation and continued with very little interruption to campus activities. Students arrived on the first day of school in August to see a brand-new parking lot. They attended a special assembly to meet construction leaders who provided video footage of the construction sights and sounds. Previewing helps greatly to reduce distraction that can be caused by hearing unfamiliar sounds. Our enlarged parking lot has eased traffic on Madison Road during busy afternoon hours and expedites dismissal for families.

The Springer construction team, Brett Marcoux, Mark Priest, Kirstin Eismis, Shanda Arthur and Jeff Reichard, meet with the teams from HGC and SHP architectural firm weekly to review construction updates. They review timelines, communication needs, priorities and areas of focus. The teams are excited about the progress of the foundation and the blacktop at the entrance and look forward to seeing light poles go up in the parking lot soon.

Improvements in the existing building included the installation of attractive new sound panels in the gymnasium. Thank you to Holt & Reichard, Inc. for their work over winter break!

Once completed, the new addition will provide space for our new Diagnostic Center and Learning Center offices, testing spaces and gathering areas. You can watch construction progress online at [Youtube.com/Springer-LD](https://www.youtube.com/Springer-LD).



► Diagnostic Center Providing Answers, Sooner

Families are finding answers and feeling the relief that comes with learning there are options available for their children. This is thanks to Springer Diagnostic Center, where children in K through grade 12 can receive psychoeducational evaluations and consultation in Springer's comfortable, personal setting. Families have appreciated how quickly they have been able to start the evaluation process at Springer. The diagnostics team includes Dr. Mary Ann Mulcahey and Molly Bernosky, Ed. S., M. Ed., and Carmen Mendoza, M. Ed.

Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, and psychologists from Springer also consult as needed, resulting in a holistic evaluation that draws upon the expertise of several experienced staff members at one location. "Springer Diagnostics is in a unique position being able to utilize the strengths of the team that's already here," explains team lead Molly Bernosky. "We can make a direct impact on the community because there is such a need to get students evaluated."



> Above: Molly Bernosky, Diagnostic Center Lead Psychologist

► Reading Aloud Again

Fifteen professionals including teachers, SLPs, OTs and counselors have become part of Springer's first formal tutoring program conducting weekly 1:1 sessions with students on campus. Tutoring is available for students from across the region, not just to enrolled students, who may utilize services in the summer if desired. Diagnostic Center staff facilitate the sessions and will match each student with an expert Springer tutor that can support academic content, study skills and more depending on request.

Educators with a wide range of expertise are becoming part of our caring community of professionals. Their contributions are life-changing. Barbara Marsh, a tutor, reading specialist and Wilson Dyslexia Practitioner recently shared, "Just two weeks ago, a parent called me early on a Saturday morning. She was thrilled to report that her daughter voluntarily asked to read aloud a story to the family. This student has not read aloud with her family in three years!"

For students, tutoring can be hard work, but it should also be fun! Additionally, students will begin to see real progress, and that success is motivating. Therapy and tutoring are available for students in grades 1-12. Families can learn more by visiting Springer-LD.org/tutoring.



> Barbara Marsh and Lucia play "spelling tic-tac-toe" to reinforce recently learned vocabulary.

These services can be a great relief for parents whose children are facing challenges due to undiagnosed learning disabilities. When parents get answers, they become empowered to make the best decisions in the interest of their children. Diagnostic services have been used steadily since opening with more than sixty families having received professional consultation and/or evaluations since July. Springer Diagnostics will be housed in the new addition upon completion in late 2024. Parents can visit Springer-LD.org/diagnostics to sign up for an appointment.



> Reading Specialist Cari Kelly prepares faculty to use the Wilson Reading System®.

SPRINGER LEARNING CENTER

is hosting several Wilson Professional Learning® sessions between February and June 2024. Virtual and in person sessions draw educators from the Tri-State region and far beyond.

New this year, Springer Reading Specialist Cari Kelly will host three of the seven workshops. Her credentials and experience make her an incredible resource for all schools with teachers working to earn Wilson® credentials or simply training to use the curriculum.

Cari is a Wilson® Credentialed Trainer, Therapist and Practitioner. As a trainer she is highly qualified to supervise individuals in WRS professional learning programs that prepare educators to teach students with a language-based learning disability, such as dyslexia. She is also qualified to teach the WRS Advanced Strategies For Multi-Sensory Language Instruction Course for WRS Level I certified teachers.

More information about workshops can be found at Springer-LD.org/professional-programs.

Adventures

IN SUMMER LEARNING



Adventures in Summer Learning is enrolling now for June & July 2024! New this year, courses are available for grades 1 through high school. Plus, college students can sharpen their study skills with a new course designed for young adults! **Scan the QR code to learn more.**



"It changed the trajectory of his life."

WENDY BONOMO

► A Story Worth Sharing

Alumnus Dominic Bonomo and his mother Wendy shared their personal Springer story with Venue Magazine's Lindsey Himmler for LD and ADHD Awareness Month in October.

Dominic was struggling. He was a very smart little boy, but even in kindergarten, he was not meeting academic standards. Dominic couldn't read but had learned to memorize his books, "hiding" his disability. But it was taking a toll on him.

"His lips were chapped, and his fingernails were bitten off. He was so stressed," says Wendy Bonomo, Dominic's mother.

After multiple meetings and several rounds of testing, Dominic was diagnosed with ADHD, a severe processing disorder, and anxiety. Springer was recommended to the family.

Wendy wasn't sure about switching schools. It would mean sending her

two boys to different schools and would be an adjustment for the family. So, Dominic tried the summer learning program, "Adventures in Summer Learning," at Springer. After a great experience, Wendy knew that Springer School and Center was the right place for him.

Dominic started second grade at Springer as a nonreader.

"His teachers were amazing," Wendy says. "They figured out a way to reach him. Within a month, he was reading!"

For children like Dominic, Springer is a place where magic happens.

Dominic is now a sophomore at Xavier University, taking a full course load and living in a dorm on campus. "His journey through life has been amazing to watch," Wendy says. "He's had so many hurdles to overcome. I'm so impressed by him."

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& Memorials & TRIBUTES

AS OF 12/18/2023

In Memory of Jack Benmayer

Greg Sherman

In Memory of Anthony (Augie) Geraci

Sally and Edward Kamphake

In Honor of Ben Mendelsohn

Alan and Marsha Levy Charitable Foundation Inc.

In Honor of Jim Katsanis

Deborah Polard

In Memory of Jon Cline

Erin Alderson
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Lisa and Kirk Banta
Timothy Besl
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Diane and J.B. Buse
Stacy and Ross Bushman
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Kirstin Eismen and Ian Henry
Fesenmeier Family
Emily Gehring
Candace Gillespie
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Michael Grimme
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Allison Kahn
Kentucky Thoroughbred Association Inc.
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Kinsman Farm
The Klekamp Family
Joe Lanni
Stephanie Malechek

Sarah Freedman McCoy
Carmen and Steve Mendoza
Mandy and Ken Oaks
Kyle Otting
Cynthia L. Petrie
Jenny and Jim Price
Beth and Philip Rielly
Chris Robichaud, Forum L - YPO Cincinnati
Kitty Strauss Rosenthal and Dick Rosenthal Ashley and Joseph Rozier IV
Jill and Rick Sawyer
Cristeen and Michael Scherer
Elizabeth Weaver and Michael Marek
Jill Wiegung
Mary A. and John Worley

In Memory of Albert J. Teramana, Jr.

Pamela Babel
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In Honor of Thomas Youtsey

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ALUMNI CONNECTIONS



OWEN BOONE '21 In September, Owen began school at Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, one of the nation's premier boarding arts high schools. Owen was a student at Interlochen's camp program over this summer, where he was invited to apply to the full year program and offered a sizable merit scholarship. Now he is a first-year junior majoring in dance, and enjoys new friendships with classmates from across the United States and 27 different countries. Owen is expanding his executive function skills by managing his daily routine, homework, and a weekly volunteer job.



ROSALYN JOHNSON '01 graduated from Wesley Academy High School in 2005 and embarked on continuous learning, attending Beacon College, where she graduated in 2009. Having spent time as the Clinical Mental Health Director at the Regional Juvenile Detention Center in Jacksonville, FL, overseeing vital services in mental health, substance use, and crisis intervention, she now embraces a new role as Chief Clinical Officer (CCO) at a non-profit community mental health center in Jacksonville.



ANNA KIRKS-MCFADDEN '19 graduated from Lebanon High School with a 3.5 GPA in 2023. Anna participated in sideline and performance cheer for three years at LHS. She danced on the inaugural Lebanon Dance Team in 2023. She was honored as Lebanon Athlete of the Week in the spring of 2023 and won the "L" Scholastic Award in 2022. Anna attends the University of Cincinnati. "Springer helped me to learn to advocate for myself in and out of the classroom and set a strong foundation for high school."



HUDSON ROEBKEN '14 Hudson Roebken is currently a junior at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana where he studies Business. Off campus, Hudson stays busy as a valued member of the Earlham golf team. Although Hudson faced struggles Springer students often face, feeling

anxious about school and shy around others, his mother, Dr. Marni Teramana, said "the end result is beautiful".



AMANDA (MANDY) MILLER '12 graduated Cincinnati State with an Early Childhood Education (ECE) degree. Today, Mandy works with infants at Learning Grove. Mandy shares, "Springer really gave me the tools to be able to succeed in high school and college! Thank you to all of the teachers at Springer who truly believed in me and helped me be successful!"

► **A STORY WORTH SHARING, CONTINUED**

And while Dominic certainly did the work, Springer was the foundation of his current success.

"He would be a totally different young man if he hadn't gone," Wendy says. "It changed the trajectory of his life. He's successful because of the interventions he had at Springer."

The Bonomo family believes so strongly in the mission of Springer that Wendy is now a member of the Board of Trustees.

"I'm so proud he's an alumnus of Springer," Wendy says. "More children need Springer in their story."

Dominic agrees. "Without Springer, I wouldn't be where I'm at right now. You won't find people more capable of helping your children succeed anywhere else than at Springer."

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With your help, Springer is building great things! Join us on April 18 at Cincinnati Music Hall for our annual fundraiser, A Springer Celebration 2024. The event includes dinner, drinks and live and silent auctions. Guest speaker is alumnus Chad Linz, class of '95. Want to sponsor the event or host a table? Learn more at Springer-LD.org/celebration2024

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