

news & views

A PUBLICATION OF SPRINGER SCHOOL AND CENTER



Celebration Will Be the Cat's Meow

Set in the art deco surroundings of Cincinnati's Renaissance Hotel, *A Springer Celebration! 2017* will be Gatsby-esque fun for guests, with a Roaring '20s theme!

Wednesday, May 3 will be the date for this evening full of fun and activities that will evoke memories of our own 20s, when we were exploring the world and discovering ourselves in the process. Business casual dress will allow guests to relax into the early 20th century feel of the venue – a building that was a successful downtown bank in the 20s, brought back to its original glory with the opening of the Renaissance in 2014.

It won't be possible to hear from Springer alumni from the 20s, so we'll feature instead alumni speakers in their 20s, who will share their stories of success and the impact Springer has had on their lives.

The evening will include cocktails and dinner, as well as silent and live auctions, a raffle, and entertainment. Chairing the event this year is Springer Trustee and alumni parent Matt Gockerman.

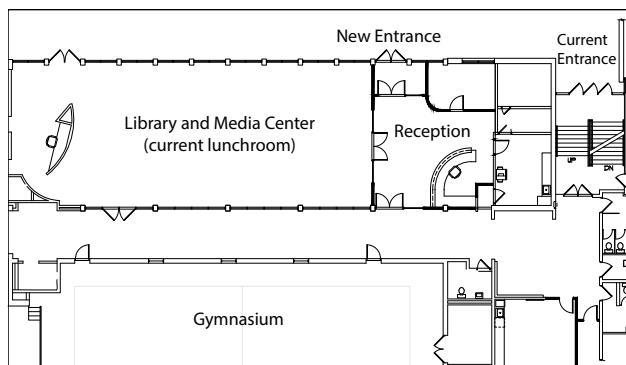
Springer is pleased to welcome Local 12 WKRC-TV News Anchor Brad Johansen once again, as the evening's Emcee and auctioneer. Auction Co-Chairs Jenni Ward and Erin Carlton are already busy gathering exciting auction items and making their plans.

Proceeds from *A Springer Celebration! 2017* will support financial aid, and school and outreach projects. Don't miss the fun. It'll be the bees knees!



"Our 2017 A Springer Celebration! will be a fantastic event for a great cause. It is always inspiring to hear from our graduates. Join us for a roaring good time!"

– MATT GOCKERMAN, CELEBRATION CHAIR



Library to Be Brought Center Stage

Plans are underway for a major renovation at Springer this summer that will create a new library and media center in the space currently occupied by the lunchroom. The lunchroom will be moved to the lower level, where it will reclaim underutilized space and create a multipurpose room that can be put to various purposes. The renovation will also move Springer's main entrance to the front of the building.

See the Executive Director's letter for more information about this exciting project.

From Our Executive Director

Springer's lunchroom is in a prized location with its wall of windows facing the tree-lined piazza. It's a great space, but as a lunchroom, it's a space with limited purpose – one that students occupy only fleetingly each day. However, that is all about to change because last year, a new idea percolated to the surface – what if the lunchroom space became a library/media center? We would be capturing this prime location and making it a place for learning, for collaborating, and for celebrating reading.

And if we did this, what else might we be able to do? We began to sketch plans that included a new, more welcoming entrance to the school building and a reworking of underutilized space in the lower level to accommodate a lunchroom and a multi-purpose room for after-school activities, indoor recess, and art and music residencies.

As we thought more about the new library/media center, we knew we wanted a flexible space for the students and staff, and for parents and others in the community who attend Springer programs. We wanted the space filled with books that would entice reluctant readers; we also wanted a space where small groups could work together on projects and where larger groups could convene to share their work. And in the evening, we wanted a space that could hold as many as 100 parents for a center program. To accomplish all this, our new library/media center will feature bookcases on wheels, and chairs and tables that can all be easily rearranged to accommodate the varied activities we envision.

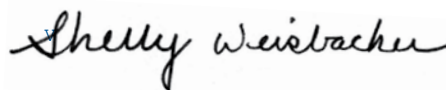
Springer's current library dates to the mid-1980s. At that time, Barbara Cassady Frey, a Springer parent, collected donated books and utilized two empty classrooms on the third floor to create a library. Barbara volunteered as Springer's first librarian until her

passing in 1988, at which time Springer hired librarian Robbie Dimling to build on Barbara's important work. For many years, Robbie brought her skills and creativity to the library, continuing to expand the collection and enhance the children's experience.

It was not until 1997, however, that the library received a professional makeover. In Barbara Cassady Frey's memory, her family orchestrated the renovation and furnishing of the library. They created a warm, traditional space that has been well used for the past two decades, and they have continued to support the library by raising funds for books and digital resources. The current library will continue to serve the program as a resource center for curriculum materials and as multi-purpose space for small and large group instruction.

We have the confidence to proceed with this project thanks to several significant gifts and grants we have already received. In addition, we have been working closely with a number of other foundations and individuals to ensure the project will be fully funded through special gifts and grants, so that no endowment or tuition dollars will be allocated to our remodeling.

We look forward to beginning next school year with a beautiful new space allowing us to do an even better job of 'empowering students with learning disabilities to lead successful lives.'



Shelly Weisbacher
Executive Director

Did You Know?

- » You can leave a legacy that reflects your commitment to Springer by making a planned gift.
- » If you are over 70½ years old and have an IRA, you can donate part or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) directly to Springer. Your donation counts as your RMD, but doesn't increase your adjusted gross income.
- » Springer accepts donations in many forms, including check, credit card and stock transfer.

**SPEAK TO YOUR TAX OR FINANCIAL ADVISOR OR CONTACT SPRINGER'S DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AT
513 871-6080 EXT. 213 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**



Springer Students Build Instruments with Musician in Residence

Using yards of packing tape and other simple materials, Springer students created their own musical instruments under the guidance of ethnomusicologist Dr. Craig Woodson, Springer's 20th Norita Aplin Musician in Residence. During his weeklong visit in December, Craig met with each class to construct a variety of instruments including one that combined a drum, horn, shaker and violin in a single instrument.

Craig also worked closely with a group of Intermediate students who made "African talking drums" from metal cans and tape. The drums were constructed such that students could vary their

pitch by pressing on tape lines that stretched the drumheads. With Dr. Woodson, these students participated in a December 16 program that re-created instruments from around the world using common items such as drinking straws, funnels, coat hangers and Styrofoam cups.

Fifth-grader Ava Meiners was surprised by the program. "I wasn't expecting that music could be made from so many different things," she said. Fifth-grader Ryan Parsons added, "I like that you can use recycled materials to make musical instruments." Ella Schlick, also in fifth grade, learned that, "Kids in places around the world can make instruments with the resources around them."

"It was such a great pleasure to be here. The enthusiasm and desire to participate in the musical instrument making and drumming activities were a joy to experience every day." – DR. WOODSON



MUSICIAN IN RESIDENCE DR. CRAIG WOODSON (CENTER) WITH DR. NORITA APLIN & HER HUSBAND STANLEY RAGLE.

Dr. Woodson is an Applied Ethnomusicologist with a Ph.D. from UCLA, and the founder of Ethnomusic, Inc., a company that provides student and teacher programs in world music. He has performed as a percussionist in movies and on recorded albums and television, and has presented world music programs on five continents. Craig owns 12 U.S. patents on drum technology and is the author of the Roots of Rhythm world drumming curriculum guide for K-12 teachers.

Craig's visit marks the 20th anniversary of the Norita Aplin Musician in Residence program, which was established in 1997 to recognize former Executive Director Dr. Norita Aplin's 14 years of leadership at Springer.

Double Your Gift To Springer!

For this year's Annual Fund drive, you have the unique opportunity to make your contribution go twice as far. Thanks to a generous anonymous donor, gifts from new donors will be matched, as will gifts from previous donors that represent an increase over last year's gift.

The matching donations will be applied to gifts already given for this 2016-2017 fiscal year, and to gifts made until the end of the drive on June 30, 2017. If you haven't yet donated to this year's Annual Fund, here's one more great reason to support Springer's mission to empower students with learning disabilities to lead successful lives!



ANNUAL FUND CO-CHAIRS JOHN SCHIFF AND RYAN BROWN



ACTION TEAM: SIOBHAN TAYLOR, JENNI WALLEN, KIRSTIN EISMÍN, JOANNE ROUSE-CLARK, BRAD JOHNSON, ANNE LEEMAN AND KRISTINA ERNST

Springer Takes ACTION

Springer's faculty, staff and students have engaged in numerous activities this year that are focused on increasing understanding of multiculturalism. This work stems from and reinforces Springer's commitment to welcoming students, families, and staff from diverse backgrounds, and to fostering an educational setting that includes and respects the different perspectives of all members of our community.

The ACTION (Advancing Community Through Inclusive Opportunities and iNformation) Team, comprised of faculty and staff members, has already completed the planning and delivery of several programs for staff including a full-day session in November with facilitator Lynn Watts of Lead, Learn, Live. Lynn's work, which focused on identity, race and socio-economic status, was accomplished through a powerful simulation, and small and large group discussions in response to various prompts. All staff participated, as well as six members of the Board of Trustees. Other programs led by the ACTION Team have focused on personal identity traits, stereotypical language, and multiculturalism in literature. "Through the efforts of the ACTION Team, we have done very meaningful work that is strengthening

our community," said Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher.

Springer students experienced several assemblies designed to heighten multicultural awareness. Middle school students have been discussing multiculturalism and personal identity during their student development classes, which are led by Assistant Principal Siobhan Taylor and Middle School Team Leader Dr. Jason Mott. "It has been a joy to see our students think about, state and claim who they are," said Siobhan. "Their work and their level of vulnerability is a testament that they are ready to explore who they are." The students will continue this work, thinking about stereotypes, and how much of their stated identity stems from what others think of them or tell them, and how much is their true identity.

"The faculty and staff's commitment to this year's multiculturalism and inclusion initiative has already shown dividends," said Principal Eldrich Carr. "From elevated student engagement to increased empathy throughout the community, we are proud of our efforts this year and for the foreseeable future that will yield benefits within and outside of the Springer community."

Center Programs Share Springer's Expertise

Offering resources and programs for students, parents and professionals affected by learning disabilities and ADHD, the Center extends Springer's influence and expertise throughout the region.

Since the start of the school year, the Center has held a number of programs on Springer's campus. In November, a parent program offered strategies for coping at home with a child who has ADHD, and a December workshop for educators and clinicians on classroom supports that encourage success among students with ADHD and Executive Function deficits. Community parent and professional programs were also held at schools and universities throughout the region.

Additional programs focusing on developing effective strategic instruction for teachers, and supporting middle school students for parents are scheduled for this spring.

On March 23 and 24, the Center will partner with Cincinnati Children's to bring author and clinical neuropsychologist Jerome Schultz, Ph.D. to Cincinnati for The Daniel & Susan Pfau Foundation Distinguished Speaker Program, including an evening program for parents and a daytime workshop for professionals. A lecturer at Harvard University, Dr. Schultz will talk with both groups about the impact of stress on children with learning dis-

abilities and/or ADHD, and ways to reduce stress. He will explain that stress is not a direct result of LD or ADHD. "It's the children's reaction to their condition," said Schultz. "It's their reaction to the environment in which they are educated and their response to the reactions of others to the behaviors they exhibit because they don't want to be seen as incompetent." The Daniel & Susan Pfau Foundation Distinguished Speaker Program is underwritten by a grant from The Daniel & Susan Pfau Foundation.

"I like this camp because it gives you a second chance." — RYAN, SUMMER STUDENT

For students who struggle in school, Springer's four-week Adventures in Summer Learning program provides strategic instruction in language arts, math, writing and problem solving. Two-week programs in handwriting, writing and math teach children strategies for success they can take to their next year in school.

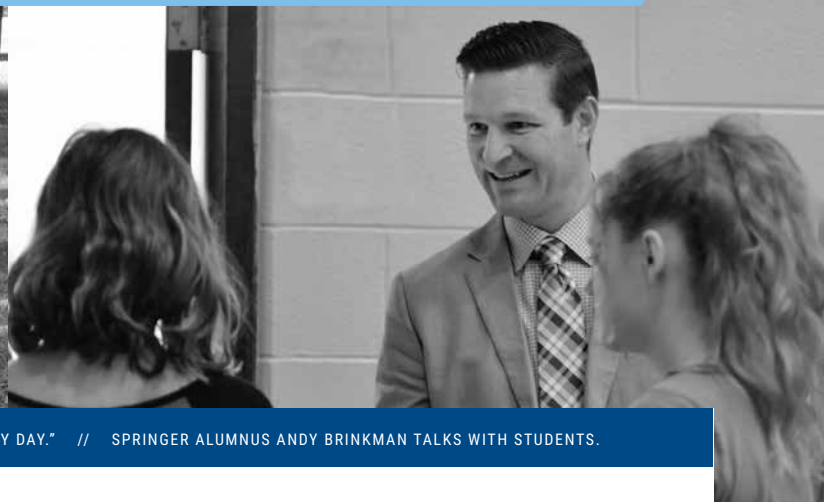
Adventures in Summer Learning

June 19 – July 14, 2016

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



STUDENTS AND STAFF ENJOY A GAME OF SOCCER ON "TEACHER/STAFF PLAY DAY." // SPRINGER ALUMNUS ANDY BRINKMAN TALKS WITH STUDENTS.



Students Encouraged to "Be Your Best Self"

Springer students engaged in the second annual Be Your Best Self Week, October 18 through 21. Highlighting health and wellness, Be Your Best Self Week encourages students to eat well and stay active, but also aims to foster connection and engagement among students and staff.

During the week, Springer welcomed alumnus Andy Brinkman ('91), who talked with students about his learning disabil-

ity and his career in professional and college soccer. Students participated in yoga and Zumba classes, "Teacher/Staff Play Day" during recess, and S.P.A.R.K. (Springer Produces Active and Responsible Kids), which included the arm dips chair challenge, balance activity and fleece ball toss challenge.



PARTICIPANTS JAKE WUENNEMAN, GABRIELLE LUCKENBACH AND ETHAN JONES

Springer Students Recognized for Filmmaking

Three Springer students won awards for films they made this summer through the Stages for Youth film camp, a Cincinnati program that challenges junior high and high school students to produce a professional-style production in two weeks.

"I liked filming and editing, making new friends and learning about filmmaking." – GABRIELLE

In addition to winning a Stages for Youth award for Best Score, eighth-grader Jake Wuennemann's film "Gesture" was selected for the 2016 Calgary International Film Festival. Eighth-graders Gabrielle Luckenbach and Ethan Jones, along with recent Springer alumnus Riley Starr, won the Stages for Youth award for Best Direction for their short film "Benny." Another recent alum, Henry Jost, also participated in the program.

Students Care for Furry Friends

At the December 16 Winter Assembly, Springer's Student Council presented a gift of care to the Animal Friends Humane Society, located in Hamilton, Ohio. Our students, staff and families are very generous, and donated items which included pet beds, toys, pet food, as well as items for the shelter's surgery rooms. Tara Brown and her special friend, Toby, a rescue dog from the Society, were on hand to receive the contributions that had been offered by students and staff members.

Through Springer's involvement in the Magnified Giving program last spring, students volunteered at Animal Friends and learned first-hand the work required to take care of their abandoned animals.





Author Shares His Dyslexia with Students

Award-winning author and illustrator of children's books Will Hillenbrand shared more than his books and drawings with students at Springer. Visiting on October 13, Will spoke about his struggles with dyslexia as a child, and the technology tools he uses to manage a successful career.

Will shared with students his process for creating the images in a book such as "Bear in Love," winner of a 2012 Parent's Choice Award for Picture Books. His process contains many of the elements Springer teaches its students, such as using speech-to-text software and audiobooks, and creating and using visuals to understand and to help his readers understand. He said, "Images come first, then the words," and demonstrated that his illustrations add much detail that is not found in the words of a book.

"From the moment I walked in the door to Springer School and Center, I felt like I had a very strong connection with the stu-

dents," said Will. "We have a lot of things in common: we love to draw, we love to read, we love to create. We also have one more thing in common: we all have a learning disability. We know that within this disability hides our true 'ability.' The ability to move forward on uncharted paths. The ability to see problems anew. The ability to bring creativity and fresh vision to the familiar. The ability to see deeply, not glancing. I loved my time with these students because we GET this idea about ourselves. It is our pride. It is who we are."

Will has written and/or illustrated more than 60 books, and in addition to the Parent's Choice Award has won a Gold Medal from the Society of Illustrators, a Notable Book Award from the American Library Association and several Children's Book Awards.

Memorials and Tributes (AS OF 1/20/17)

In Honor of the birth of Mr. and Mrs.

Mark Barsman's grandson

Barbara and Greg Sherman

In Honor of the marriage of Dr. and Mrs.

Barry Gibberman's son

Barbara and Greg Sherman

In Honor of the Hyden Family and their many 2016 celebrations

Julie and Russell Wilson

In Honor of Martha and David Millett's 45th wedding anniversary

Carol and Harry Sparks

In Honor of the Niehaus Triplets' 30th birthday

Julie and Russell Wilson

In Honor of Fred Zorndorf

Barbara and Justin Klein

In Memory of Shirley Bickett

Elizabeth Wenker

In Memory of Gene Chute

Elizabeth Wenker

In Memory of Lois Friedman

Miriam and Ronald Coppel

Julie Pratt

In Memory of Dennis Devore

Barbara and Justin Klein

In Memory of Robbie Dimling

Robert Dimling

In Memory of Edna M. Halaby

Elizabeth Wenker

In Memory of Raymond Kerr

Gail and Jim Piraino

In Memory of David and Anne McConnell

Lois McConnell Jones

Michelle Platz

In Memory of David Stigler

Norita Aplin and Stanley Ragle

In Memory of Nancy Youtsey

Nancy and Larry Allen

Margaret Bolan

Bilz Insurance

Bressler & Co., Inc.

Pamela and Michael Coppage

Trudy and Robert Craig

Libby and Ron Dermody

Juanita Dougherty

David Douglas

Susan Douglas

Friend of Springer

Virginia and Dennis Gesenhues

Jane and Scott Grosser

Janet Hovkamp

Beverly Johnson

Kim Johnson

Pamela Johnson

Patricia Johnson and Michael Wilson

Kiyoko Miller

James Morrison

Christopher Nieman

Cindy Pavek

Janice Pettibone

Springer School and Center

Alumni Connections

Ashley Suttner '15 is a sophomore at Badin High School. She was selected as the Freshman Student of the Month last year due to her leadership, persistence and positive attitude. She played on the Freshman VB team and was also selected as an Ambassador for BHS. Last summer Ashley was chosen to be a teen volunteer at West Chester Hospital/ UC. She will return the next two summers to experience different areas in the medical/ health care field.

Alex Betz '13 is a senior at Moeller High School, where he has been on the honor roll for four years. Alex has taken honors and AP classes at Moeller, and has been active on the school's rugby team, diversity club and with LIFE (Living in Faith Experience). In the fall, Alex will be attending Ball State University to study landscape architecture.

Malakai Greenberg '13 is a senior at Mariemont High School where he is on the honor roll and a member of the National Honor Society. He has won several awards and contests for his artwork and poetry. Malakai has applied to attend art school at the University of Cincinnati's DAAP program and the College of Fine Arts at Ohio University. He hopes to work as a graphic designer after college.

Johnny Schaller '13 will graduate in the spring of 2017 from Badin High School. He traveled last year to France and Spain with a group from school. Johnny has been accepted at the University of Dayton, St. Louis University and Xavier University. He plans to study developmental psychol-

ogy, and to eventually earn a Master's degree and work in research.

Ken Covey '12 graduated from Holy Cross High School in Covington, Kentucky in 2016. He is now a freshman at St. Leo University in St. Leo, Florida, studying mathematics.

Adam Dock '11 graduated from Sycamore High School with high honors. He is a sophomore at The Cleveland Institute of Art, where he is pursuing a career in Industrial Design. Adam ranked in the top 25% of his class in his freshman year.

Drew Lovell '11 graduated from Elder High School in 2015, and is currently attending the University of Cincinnati, where he is studying Health Education. Drew also plays UC Club Tennis.

Samme Polanco '10 graduated from Turpin Hills High School in 2016. She is currently attending the University of Cincinnati, studying dental hygiene.

Tennessee Wallick '10 is a junior at Shorewood High School in Shorewood, Wisconsin. Tennessee enjoys playing all kinds of instruments with his friends in their rock band. His interest in music and sound overlaps with his heavy involvement in the High School theater. For the Shorewood theater program, Tennessee has learned to weld, helps with the deck crew, builds sets, is involved with sound design and production, and flight crew (lifting the actors up into the air over the stage). Last year he received the Spirit of Theater award from his faculty. Tennessee is hoping to go to school for theatrical sound engineering.

Evan LaMontagne '09 graduated from Mason High School in 2015. After a year of study at Miami University's Middletown campus, Evan is transferring to the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs.

Helen Macmann '09 graduated from Purcell Marian High School in 2013. She is a senior at the University of Cincinnati, studying Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD). Helen is currently applying to graduate schools where she will pursue a Master's degree in CSD with the goal of working as a Speech and Language Pathologist, or possibly going on to attain a Ph.D. in CSD or Audiology. In addition to her studies, Helen works at two part-time jobs and volunteers weekly at the UC Child Development Center.

Bennett Szames '08 is a senior at the University of Hartford, studying Entrepreneurial Studies and minoring in Marketing. Bennett has been on the Dean's List every semester of his college career. He is the treasurer of his fraternity and very involved in several other clubs on campus. Aside from school, Bennett owns a business that he started after he graduated from Springer. His company, TopNotch Vintage, LLC, specializes in throwback headwear and apparel.

Gabriela Guenther '06 graduated from The Brighton Center this year, and passed board tests to become a Registered Medical Assistant. She has just accepted a job in heart and vascular general surgery at St. Elizabeth Hospital.

ADAM DOCK



ALEX BETZ



ASHLEY SUTTNER



BENNETT SZAMES



DREW LOVELL



JOHNNY SCHALLER



KEN COVEY



SAMME POLANCO





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A Springer Celebration! 2017

will be the cat's meow! Join us for an evening straight from the '20s, featuring alumni speakers who are in their 20s. The evening will include live and silent auctions, cocktails and dinner.

Wednesday, May 3, 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
The Renaissance Hotel
36 E. 4th St. Cincinnati

Please contact Springer School and Center at
(513) 871-6080 for more details.
www.Springer-LD.org/celebration_17

