



THE Frostig Focus

Exceptional Children, Exceptional Education

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Frostig Campuses Are Alive With the Sound of Students



A Pasadena student commemorates a very special day.

One year and one month after the pandemic forced California schools to shift to remote learning, Frostig School and Frostig School West campuses were once again open to every student who wanted to return to in-person learning.

Students were thrilled to reunite with their friends and teachers, particularly our seniors who will be graduating in June. They are reveling in their time together and looking forward to a graduation ceremony that will be held in person in Gates Hall.

Frostig School West students returned to their Bel Air campus on April 12. In Pasadena, April 19 marked the full re-opening of the campus.

Overall, about 75% of students chose to come to school for the remainder of the school year. Those who preferred to remain at home continued to tune into their teachers and classmates remotely.

Our summer program will follow a similar hybrid model.

We could not have re-opened our campuses without the hard work, patience and good will of every member of the Frostig community; especially the students who amaze us every day with their ability to mask up and adjust to the demands of learning during a pandemic. Thank you to all of our students, staff and parents!



Frostig School West students enjoy time together on campus.

A New Look for a Great School

Frostig School is emerging from lockdown with a fresh new look.

For 70 years, Frostig has been a place of excellence in educating children with learning differences. In honor of the excellence, we have developed new Frostig School logos, a website and a video that captures the essence of our two campuses.

The fresh palette, vibrant logo and dynamic website capture the optimism and energy of Frostig as we head into the next 70 years

You can explore everything at our new [website](#).

We're extremely grateful for our amazing faculty, staff, families, friends and especially students. There is so much for us to be proud of at Frostig, and so much to look forward to.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Chloe Howorth and Victoria Hodgdon, best friends since they met in fifth grade at Frostig School, will soon be graduating from Pasadena City College and heading to Cal State Long Beach in the fall.

Victoria and Chloe didn't plan it this way, but these confident, vivacious women have travelled remarkably similar paths since high school.

They both enrolled at PCC in 2017 and majored in early childhood development. Each pursued her degree at a pace that was comfortable for her, taking two to three classes each semester, and both plan to become teachers.

The friends credit Frostig with teaching them to advocate for themselves and to ask for help when necessary. "Whenever I'm stuck at school, I think back to what I learned at Frostig about how to be pro-active and advocate for myself," Victoria said.

These skills gave the women the confidence to make the most of the accommodations available through PCC's Disabled Students Programs and Services, which they consider key to their college success.

"Everyone at DSPS is very understanding, helpful and supportive," Victoria said, adding that no one should feel awkward or self-conscious about seeking help.



Chloe Howorth, left, and Victoria Hodgdon, are heading to Cal State Long Beach in the fall.

"Use as many free resources as you possibly can," Chole advised.

In addition to taking advantage of DSPS services, Chloe participated in Frostig Beyond, which provides individualized services for young adults with learning challenges. Chloe worked with Transition Director Danette Winslow at [Frostig Beyond](#).

"Danette would come to my PCC classes," Chloe said. "She came to meetings that I had with my counselor. If you can do Frostig Beyond, do it. It was so helpful to have the support."

Now they are counting the days until they move out and begin their college lives in Long Beach. Chloe will be living in an off-campus dormitory while Victoria will live with a roommate in a house 10 minutes from campus. "I'm excited to meet people and have the true college experience," Chloe said.

For her part, Victoria is looking forward to living on her own, working toward her degree and having fun with her best friend. "I'm going to come to all of the parties at Chloe's dorm," she said.

Yuki Jimbo Announces Her Retirement



Development Director Yuki Jimbo is retiring after eight years of successfully building support for The Frostig Center.

With grace, persistence and an unwavering commitment to the children we serve, Yuki led fundraising drives that cumulatively raised nearly \$9 million for Frostig.

She created special events that were fun and appealing to all, raised Frostig's profile in the community by attending numerous school fairs and special events, brought new foundations into the fold, and nurtured

relationships among Frostig's friends and families.

In the process she helped build our endowments, improve our facilities and provide our teachers and students with the resources they need to succeed.

"We simply cannot serve students with the level of support and expertise they deserve without the financial help from people who understand our story," Executive Director Dean Conklin said, "and Yuki has done a wonderful job explaining who we are and what we do."

"She is an unsung hero to our students and families, and we will miss her."

Support the Annual Fund

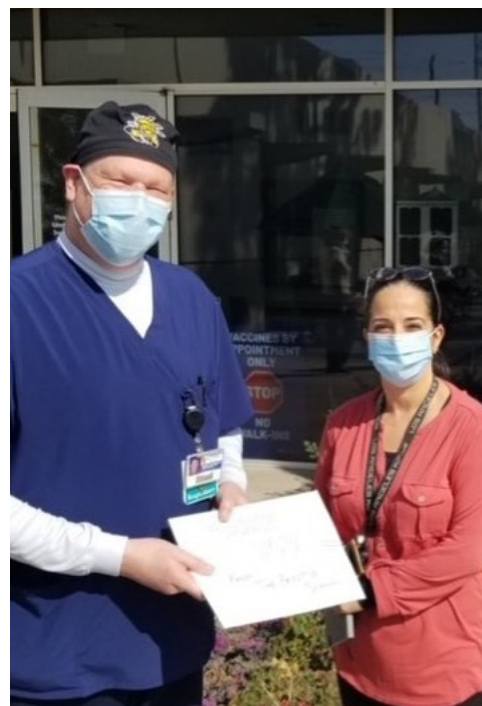
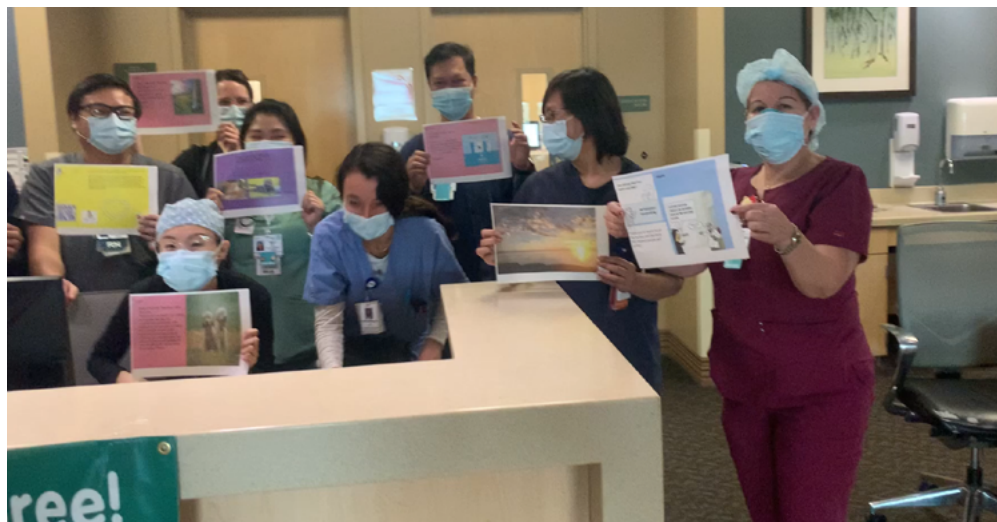
Donate Online

WWW.FROSTIG.ORG

Frostig accepts credit cards, cash and checks as well as gifts of stock

Expressions of Gratitude

Frostig students and staff delivered dozens of thank you notes to health care workers who have worked tirelessly and selflessly through the pandemic. The doctors and nurses at Arcadia Methodist and Providence Holy Cross Medical Center were touched by the cards. They showed their appreciation by posting the cards on bulletin boards and mounting beautiful display boards for everyone to see.



Jack

Thank you for all the work all of you have been doing throughout this tough time.
Thank you for your time and sacrifice.



Samantha

Thank you for what you do!

Dear nurses and doctors!

Thank you so much for working so hard during this time, and sacrificing things to help others. I appreciate when you help others to stay healthy and safe. I'm so grateful to have you supporting others! I'm thankful for what you do for us.



Welcome and Thank You to Frostig Trustees



Ziad Ghandour.

The Frostig Center is pleased to welcome Frostig School West parent Ziad Ghandour to its Board of Trustees and thank three trustees who are stepping down.

Mr. Ghandour is the founder and chairman of TI Capital, a multi-national family of companies with expertise in global private equity, large-scale real estate projects, and venture capital investing spanning the financial services, technology energy, and consumer industries.

Linda Moore, Dr. Gordon McComb and

Jean Keatley generously donated their time, talents and resources to Frostig during their time on the board.

Ms. Moore is Frostig's longest serving trustee, having joined the board in 1994. "Linda's impact on The Frostig Center cannot be over-stated," Executive Director Dean Conklin said. "Her intellectual, emotional and financial contributions have made a tremendous impact on the growth and success of The Frostig Center."

Dr. McComb, Chief Emeritus for the Division of Neurosurgery at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, joined the board in 2015. "His insights and expertise will be greatly missed," Dr. Conklin said.

Ms. Keatley, who retired as a senior vice president at US Trust Co., shared her financial expertise with Frostig. "We will miss Jean and her financial acumen," Dr. Conklin said. "As Treasurer of the board, she helped strengthen our financial position."

Mr. Ghandour has worked closely with Dr. Conklin to establish Frostig School West, which opened in West Los Angeles in 2019.

"Ziad's vision and business expertise helped make the dream of a second campus a reality," Dr. Conklin said. "His positive impact on Frostig will only grow as a member of the Board of Trustees."

MISSION STATEMENT

The Frostig Center is dedicated to helping children with learning disabilities reach their full potential through an integrated approach of research, professional development and consultation, and the Frostig School.

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Reading Challenges Tied to Specific Pre-reading Skill Gaps

From Autism Speaks

Many children with autism struggle with reading comprehension abilities throughout their school years. A study designed to better understand why children with autism but no intellectual disability lag behind their neuro-typical peers in this area pointed to gaps in two critical pre-reading skills.

In language development, narrative skills are a pre-reading skill, such as retelling the events of a story in order and understanding how the parts of a story work together. Inference skills develop early in reading and include the ability to link the ideas in two sentences together.

For children with autism in this study, challenges with these two early skills were linked strongly with reading comprehension challenges as they got older.



"This unique study sets out to understand specific skills that can be supported early as children are learning to read to help them with successful reading as they progress through school and into adulthood," said Thomas W. Frazier, Ph.D., chief science officer at Autism Speaks.

To measure the specific skills that support reading comprehension, 81 children ages 8 to 16 with

varying levels of support needs read stories and answered questions about them, including making predictions and re-telling about what they read.

Researchers also compared these skills with the children's vocabulary, or understanding of the meaning of words using age-appropriate standards. Regardless of the child's age, more significant autism symptoms and lower vocabulary skills were linked to more challenges with narrative skills. By contrast, vocabulary skills and age, but not autism symptoms, were linked to challenges with inference skills.

Children whose narrative re-telling and inference skills scored higher in elementary school continued to show growth over the 2.5 year study. The researchers concluded that working on these specific reading comprehension skills in early elementary

education is critical for supporting comprehension of more complex material as they get older.

Researchers suggest future studies look at more specific age ranges to determine critical time periods and intervention strategies specific to elementary, middle and high school students.

With Gratitude

The Frostig Center is grateful to the S. Mark Taper Foundation for a \$60,000 grant to support our work to improve the lives of children, teens and young adults who have learning differences.

The generous grant has helped Frostig School in Pasadena and the Consultation & Education Department rise to the challenges of the pandemic and meet the needs of our students and clients.

The S. Mark Taper Foundation, founded in 1989, is a private family foundation dedicated to enhancing the quality of people's lives by supporting nonprofit organizations and their work in our communities.

**S. MARK TAPER
FOUNDATION**