

5/10/23 | Issue 5



Key note speaker, Dani Bowman



Students participating in sensory stations

Neurodiversity Celebration at Frostig

During the month of April, Frostig School celebrated Neurodiversity Month where we were able to celebrate all the ways we think differently. Neurodiversity is an umbrella term to help people understand that not everyone thinks or learns in the same way. Some of the ways people think and learn differently have been labeled including: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism Spectrum Conditions, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia, Tourette's Syndrome, etc.

On Wednesday, April 19th, Frostig held an All Neurodiversity Celebration where all students and their families were welcomed. The event began with a keynote speaker for all students, Dani Bowman. Dani is a young entrepreneur on the autism spectrum who began her own animation company. Her company, Dani-Mation, hosts autism-positive animation classes. Dani also starred on the hit Netflix show, "Love on the Spectrum." At the assembly, she spoke to the students about her personal story with being on the spectrum, starting a company and inspiring students to follow their dreams.

Following the key-note speaker, the celebration continued with various student workshops. One of the workshops was held by Margaret Finneagan, author, teacher & mother of a Frostig graduate. Margaret read excerpts from her stories to the students and lead the students in engaging conversations and activities. Another workshop included Celebration Stations for the students. In the yard area, Hart House from Monrovia set up a table with giveaways and cookies for the students. There were also 5 different sensory stations which students were able to try including the zen garden and shape changers, stress balls, orbies squish maze, orbit fidget and play doh, and an outer space sensory tub! Sensory items



Hart House table with student giveaways

are used to focus on different senses in the body which ultimately is helpful to calm the body, support motor skill development, encourage creativity and interaction, etc.

Overall, the Neurodiverse Celebration was a special day for Frostig School and brought a lot of joy to both students and staff!

Frostig West Art Program Fundraiser

Frostig School West (FSW) recently held a festive parent event and fundraiser on May 5th, which was hosted by Sasha Ginsburg-Krasny and Robert Krasny at their beautiful home in Santa Monica. The theme of the party was a taco night, which was a perfect choice for the Cinco de Mayo celebration!

The event was a great success and exceeded its fundraising goal of \$25,000, raising an impressive \$37,000 for the new FSW arts elective program.

The new arts program will expand arts elective offerings at FSW by inviting local artists, musicians, and other creatives to come teach directly to students. This innovative and individualized approach will provide FSW students with unique opportunities to explore their creativity and develop new skills in a variety of art forms.

The event was also a wonderful opportunity for parents, teachers, and staff to come together and celebrate the school's commitment to providing its students with the best possible education. The event was a great success, with families from all grade levels in attendance. The atmosphere was lively and festive, with colorful decorations, music, and of course, delicious tacos.

Thanks to the generosity of the parents and community members who attended this event, the school will be able to expand its Arts Program and provide students with even more opportunities to explore their creativity. We look forward to seeing the positive impact that the funds raised will have on our students!

Alumni Spotlight: Oksanna Garfinkle

Meet Oksanna Garfinkle! Not only is Oksanna a Frostig Alumna (Class of 2015)



but she is currently an intern at Frostig Pasadena. Oksanna attended Frostig from elementary through senior year of high school, so she has spent many years on the Pasadena campus!

Oksanna emphasized her relationships to be a massive part of why she enjoyed her experience at Frostig. She explained that the staff, teachers, and students at Frostig felt, "like a family." Oksanna spoke highly of all of her teachers as she felt supported and welcomed by all. She described fellow alumna, Victoria Hodgdon, to be someone she felt the most connected to.

In her later years at Frostig, Oksanna began taking courses at Glendale Community College. She took a Culinary Arts course which sparked her interest in cooking. Following her graduation from Frostig, Oksanna attended LA Trade Technical College which is a public community college in Los Angeles. Oksanna focused her studies in Culinary Arts where she learned in-depth cooking skills. She claims that LA Trade Tech was a great school to learn everything about being in the kitchen. Oksanna explained that she was nervous about reaching the finish line at LA Trade Tech because, "every course I took just got harder and I have a learning disability." Oksanna took advantage of the accommodations at the Disability Services and Programs for Students Center at LA Trade Tech and worked with a tutor to which she was able to pass her all of her courses. She explained how helpful the accommodation of extended periods of time for test taking was for her challenge of ADHD. She finished her final semester at LA Trade Tech in February and will be walking at graduation in June.

Oksanna began working at Frostig as an intern at the beginning of the year. As an intern at Frostig, Oksanna assists at lunchtime and other classes including with Suzette in cooking class! Her goal is to become an assistant teacher in the future and she claims she would love to work at Frostig!

Introducing Our New Frostig Pasadena Staff of 2023!

MEET DENISE

Denise Morón began working at Frostig in January as the new Jr. Staff Accountant. She appreciates the warm welcome she has received so far and feels fortunate to be able to work with dedicated staff and students. Denise received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resource Management from Cal Poly Pomona. Her work experience has mostly been in finance and working at Frostig will be her first experience in the Education field. She is excited to grow professionally in Education Administration and states that she appreciates the help of great female leadership at Frostig.



INTRODUCING LIANNA

Lianna Galadjian is joining Frostig School as the new IEP Coordinator. Lianna and her family immigrated from Armenia and settled in Pasadena, CA, where Lianna grew up and went to school with Pasadena USD. Lianna is passionate about working with students, and collaborating with caregivers and educators to help everyone be successful and achieve their goals. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from University of California, Los Angeles and a Master's degree in Social Work from University of Southern California, with a concentration in school settings, earning her a PPSC. She has been working with young children and families in an early childhood education and school setting since 2014.



MEET AUGURIO

Augurio Cruz is joining Frostig School as the new Groundskeeper & Maintenance Worker. Augurio is a local of Pasadena, California. Augurio has over 30 years of experience in maintenance and janitorial. He likes to watch movies, play the guitar, and spend time with his family when he has free time. He is extremely excited & honored to be able to help the faculty, students, and employees at the school.



RE-INTRODUCING MARICELA

Maricela Aleman is returning to Frostig School as the new Facilities Maintenance. Maricela is a local of Monrovia, CA. Maricela has over 12 years of experience in janitorial cleaning. In her free time, she likes to spend quality time with her family. She is very grateful to be part of the team.



SAY HI TO SUSIE!

Susie Carrillo is joining Frostig School as the new Front Office Coordinator. Susie was born and raised in Pasadena, CA, and went to school in PUSD growing up. Susie is devoted to helping people and providing excellent customer service. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Fashion Design from the Art Institute of Santa Monica, CA. She has extensive experience in front office and property management. In her free time, she likes to draw, go hiking, and play with her dog.



Frostig School • 971 N. Altadena Drive • Pasadena 91107 • 626.791.1255 •

www.frostigschool.org

