WHAT’S NEW

Art Opening
New additions to the Frostig Collection are on display at its gallery in Santa Monica. David Trulli and Mike Stilkey are the latest artists to support the Frostig Collection, which is a series of works created by artists to benefit Frostig School’s social skills program. The gallery is at Bergamot Station, 2525 Michigan Ave., Space B-5 Santa Monica.

A Legal Perspective
Valerie Vanaman, an attorney who specializes in representing families challenged with learning disabilities, shares her insights at the Frostig Speakers Series. Ms. Vanaman speaksNov. 13, 7-9 p.m. at The Frostig Center. For more information, contact Lorena Bunting at 626-791-1255.

WELCOME

From Executive Director Dean Conklin
One of the great discoveries I made during my first year at The Frostig Center was its network of loyal friends spanning generations. Some steadfast friends connected with Frostig when it was located on Melrose Avenue in Los Angeles and Dr. Marianne Frostig roamed the hallways. Others joined the Frostig family just this past year when their children enrolled in our school.

As I settle into my second year at Frostig, I want to get acquainted with Frostig’s friends and share important news from the center as it happens. My colleagues and I have created this newsletter to stay in touch.

I am excited to use this inaugural issue to talk about important changes that will advance our continuing mission of helping children with learning disabilities reach their full potential. We are revitalizing research efforts with the appointment of Dr. Chris Schnieders to the position of Director of Research. This position had been vacant since 2010, when the Great Recession required Frostig to trim operations. Dr. Schnieders moved over from Frostig School, where she served as head of school for four years.

Jenny Janetzke succeeds Dr. Schnieders at Frostig School. Ms. Janetzke has extensive experience in special education, as well as curriculum, instruction, professional development, and school leadership. It was my great privilege to work with Ms. Janetzke during my time as Superintendent of Duarte Unified School District. Ms. Janetzke and I share a commitment to strengthening Frostig School’s English Language Arts and launching a new post-high school program that will help recent Frostig graduates make the transition to college, vocational school or the work place.

I am pleased to report that Dr. Roberta Goldberg continues to lead the Consultation and Education Department.

The coming year promises to be an exciting time at Frostig. I will share highlights with you throughout the year. Please feel free to contact me at 626-791-1255 or dean@frostig.org.

THE SPOTLIGHT

Frostig Alumni Comes Back, Gives Back
As a student at Frostig School in the early ‘90s, Brian Krinsky loved to spend his free time helping his computer teacher set up program menus for the school. Little did he know that he had set himself on a career path that would take him to Kaiser Permanente, where he is a project manager for one of the largest electronic health systems in the world.

“I got some good attention and some good instruction,” said Krinsky, who now spends his days maintaining and upgrading a network that holds every doctor transcription, x-ray, lab result and sonogram.

Continued on page 4
New Head of School Brings Wealth of Experience

Jenny Janetzke was an elementary school principal in Monrovia when she first encountered Frostig School. She and her staff had tried multiple strategies to meet the needs of a bright first-grader who was failing in school because of his learning differences. The boy’s frustration only worsened, and Ms. Janetzke decided it was best for the child to enroll at Frostig School.

“I watched our student flourish at Frostig,” Ms. Janetzke recalled. “He was struggling in public school and at Frostig he was thriving. Frostig was able to help a child we could not help.”

As Frostig’s new Head of School, Ms. Janetzke looks forward to helping more children unlock their full potential. Ms. Janetzke was appointed to her position in July, nine years after making her first Frostig referral. She succeeds Dr. Chris Schnieders, who was appointed The Frostig Center’s Head of Research.

Ms. Janetzke comes to Frostig School after working 17 years in public education as a teacher and principal. While working in the Monrovia and Duarte school districts Ms. Janetzke gained experience in curriculum, instruction, professional development, and school leadership. She has worked directly with students in preschool through 12th grade, with most of her time and energy spent at the elementary level.

“I also have extensive experience with special education,” Ms. Janetzke said. “I’ve worked with students with a wide variety of learning challenges including children on the autism spectrum, speech delays, sensory issues, visual and auditory processing disorders, emotional disturbances, and intellectual disabilities.”

Executive Director Dean Conklin worked with Ms. Janetzke during his time as Superintendent of Duarte Unified School District. “It has been my honor to work with some outstanding principals in my career, but none of them have impressed me more than Jenny,” Dr. Conklin said.

Since joining Frostig, Ms. Janetzke has been particularly impressed by the community of adults that surround each child. “There are a lot of adults working with the kids,” she said. “In addition to their teacher and aide, there’s the clinical team and the art, music, PE and social skills teachers. They all know each student’s likes and dislikes, their hobbies and interests. It’s very admirable.”

Ms. Janetzke will oversee several new initiatives this year. A top priority is to improve the reading skills of Frostig students. The school is strengthening its language arts curriculum by carving out a new period for deliberate and intentional reading instruction. From 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., every classroom will break into groups to work on sight reading, basic comprehension and more advanced inferential comprehension. Instructors, clinicians, and others will support the effort.

“All available adults will be pushing into classrooms to help with this,” Ms. Janetzke said. “That will give us enough adults to manage the groups.”

Ms. Janetzke looks forward to building Frostig’s new program for recent high school graduates. The program, called Frostig Beyond, helps young adults with learning disabilities make the transition from high school to college and the work place. Frostig staff will provide a wide range of services such as tutoring, counseling, job shadowing and more. “It’s a great way to bridge the gap between high school and college, high school and life,” Ms. Janetzke said.

The goal of every initiative is to improve the educational experience of every Frostig student so they may thrive.

“I love the way Dean says it,” Ms. Janetzke said. “The public schools do a lot of wonderful things for a lot of students. But for about 100 kids, Frostig is the best place on earth.”

Calling All Alumni

We want to hear from you! Hundreds of students have passed through Frostig School over the decades and we would love to learn how each one is doing. Get in touch and learn about special events at Frostig. Contact Lorena Bunting at 626-791-1255 or lorena@frostig.org and Toni Shahak at 626-791-1255 or toni@frostig.org. You may also like us on the Frostig Alumni Association page on Facebook.

SAVE THE DATE

“Celebrating the Students of Frostig: Courageous Hearts, Exceptional Potential”

Benefit Dinner & Auction

Saturday, February 21, 2015
Altadena Town & Country Club
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Live Music, Silent & Live Auction, Student Performances
Nine students graduated from Frostig School on June 13 in a ceremony that was attended by proud families, friends and faculty. Each graduate reflected on their school experience.

“I remember the first time I came to Frostig,” said one young woman. “I thought it was going to be the same as my public school. Then I realized it was completely different. I was able to actually understand what they were teaching me instead of being lost all the time ... At first, I was really shy and quiet. Now I can say that I am able to speak up and ask for help whenever I need it.”

All of the graduates thanked their parents. “Mom and Dad, thank you for giving me the chance to come here and learn,” one young man said. “It was a great decision.”

Congratulations!
Krinsky Found Career Path at Frostig

“Not only did I make a lot of friends there, I developed relationships with several of the teachers, which really influenced me. One was the computer teacher, and basically you can say that my career in I.T. started at Frostig,” Krinsky added.

Like so many Frostig students, Krinsky blossomed in an environment of small classes and attentive teachers. He realized for the first time that college was within his reach. After graduating from Frostig School in 1993, he attended Brandeis University in Massachusetts.

“I know what [Frostig] did for me,” Krinsky said. “It helped me to be successful. I think that’s the common story for a lot of kids. They come to Frostig and for the first time in their lives, they find some success at school that they didn’t have before. With that then comes confidence.”

Krinsky joined the Frostig Board of Trustees in 2012 so he could give back to the institution that lifted him up in a critical time in his life. As a trustee, he works with Executive Director Dean Conklin and fellow board members to strengthen the center’s programs and finances. He also shares his expertise on all matters related to information technology.

“The success you experience here is translatable to whatever you choose to pursue in life,” said Krinsky, who is the proud father of a baby girl. “If you’ve overcome something like a learning disability, or whatever it is that’s gotten in the way for you before, you can overcome anything.”