

Professional Development

The teachers and staff of Hilltop Montessori School are spectacular! It has been wonderful for us all to be back together this week again preparing the school for your children, and engaging in Professional Development. In other years, we have had an expert from the outside come in to educate and inspire us in a new way. This year, we decided to capitalize on all the knowledge, skills, experience, and inspiration that we have right here amongst our staff. Staff were asked to give a 15 minute presentation sharing some sort of Professional Development that they had done over the past year, a conference, a training class, a great book . . .

WOW! We were blown away. We all wanted to be sitting in classrooms with these teachers. Highlights included:

- Kerstin and Jen demonstrating how Lucy Calkins had taught them to inspire young writers.
- Cheryl showing how to do simple woodworking and felting projects to busy little hands and calm young minds.
- Paul and Finn demonstrating their excitement for literature and amazing ability to engage an audience as they talk about books. Finn discussed "H is for Hawk" by Helen Macdonald and what it tells us about the art of observation, while Paul engaged us with a discussion about Harper Lee's "Go Set a Watchman" and if a story really is always what it seems.
- Wendy sharing reading tips she had received from the "rock stars" of the Learning Specialist world who had presented at a conference she attended.
- Tom having us wonder, what are the three lessons that we each give over and over in different forms, because they are our mantras . . .

We were all struck by the brilliance and dedication of our fellow Hilltop staff, and by the wonder that they create with their lessons and style.

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