



CAPITOL  
HILL  
DAY  
SCHOOL

## Gray Matters (March 2017)

### Our Commitment to Professional Development

The strength of the Capitol Hill Day School faculty was on full display last month at our annual Curriculum Night. With the goal of making student learning visible, teachers shared specific student work and engaged parents in a discussion protocol designed to solicit detailed observations. The power of the evening came when teachers reflected on participant observations and discussed the intention behind the pedagogical and curricular choices embedded in the student learning activity.

The depth of practice, clearly on display during Curriculum Night, is at the heart of teaching and learning at Capitol Hill Day School, and begins with a strong commitment to ongoing professional development. At Capitol Hill Day School, we strive to establish a reflective and collaborative professional culture, to model lifelong learning for our students, and to demonstrate leadership with our peers. This year already, faculty and staff have participated or led workshops focused on problem-based tasks, implicit bias, project based learning, integration of technology, classroom management, and much more.

Over the past several years, professional development at Capitol Hill Day School has also been grounded in a faculty wide theme. In recent years, our themes have included *inquiry* and *curricular cohesion*. This year our faculty focus is *social justice education*. Using a social justice lens to drill down deeper, small groups of faculty are spending time this year examining *faculty diversity*, *CHDS traditions*, *teaching global competence*, and more.

The late Ted Sizer (progressive educator and professor of education) once said, "There can never be a permanent 'pure' design of a school. All must be in movement, gathering the best of emerging new experience and new research." In large measure, this quote captures the spirit of professional learning at Capitol Hill Day School. The byproduct is our engaging teaching and learning environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Gray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J' and 'G'.