



2017  
PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN  
SUMMIT  
WRAP-UP



Judy Harris Helm:  
**"CREATING YOUNG INVESTIGATORS:  
INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT APPROACH (PART A & B)**

Facilitated by Erin Booker, Director, Winnetka Public School Nursery



**HEAD: WHAT DID YOU LEARN?  
WHAT WAS YOUR "A-HA!" MOMENT?**

- "A project is an investigation of a topic tied to curriculum goals that integrates curriculum into the project."
- "The teacher creates an orchestrated immersion where (s)he organizes others to participate in the project."
- "Multiple entry points ensure engagement for all."
- "Attention span can grow when a child is engaged in an area of interest."
- "Success begets success and the brain can actually change."
- "There is a continuum of approaches - not a right or wrong way to teach."

Jennifer Rosinia,  
"FIGHT, FLIGHT OR FREEZE: ANATOMY OF A MELTDOWN"

Facilitated by Mary Frances Greene, Principal, Middlefork School, Northfield



## HEART: WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS AND REACTIONS?

- "Hopeful!!!"
- "Relieved/Validated - permission granted, supported, encouraged"
- "Energized/Empowered/Inspired/Encouraged - useful information, better equipped, want to learn more"
- "Excited to share - with colleagues & spouse - be calm at home too!"
- "A little sad I didn't understand this better..."

Laura Reischel:  
**"THE JOURNEY OF ART:  
SUSTAINING CREATIVITY THROUGH OPEN-ENDED ACTIVITIES"**

Facilitated by Stephanie Cardella, Director of School Improvement & Innovation,  
North Shore School District 112, Highland Park



## HEART: WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS AND REACTIONS?

- "Fear no art!"
- "Inspired to do more material exploration to engage both hands and senses"
- "The 'heart' of art projects are often under noticed."
- "Inspired to listen to children's explanation of their art"
- "To always remember the questions, 'What did you make? What can you tell about it?' and then document."
- "I'm feeling energized and free!"

Hedda Sharapan:  
**LET'S GO BEYOND "TRY, TRY AGAIN!"**  
**EXPLORING WAYS TO ENCOURAGE PERSISTENCE"**

Facilitated by Besset Sabourin, Director of Student Services,  
The Joseph Sears School, Kenilworth



## FOOT: WHAT ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS?

- "Build relationships with students by connecting with each child."
- "Create a learning environment that provides challenges and celebrates effort."
- "Give students the scaffolding and encouragement to tackle challenges"
- "Use the power of YET!"
- "Have students reflect on their learning with open ended questions about what they learned and want to continue to learn."

Erika Christakis:

## "CREATING A CHILD-SIZED LEARNING HABITAT: STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE EMOTIONAL ENGAGEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM"

by Catherine Wang, Superintendent, Glencoe Public Schools



### FOOT: WHAT ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS?

- "Facilitate OPPOSITE DAY conversation within our schools."
- "Create the environment which will foster healthy social and emotional growth"
- "Reflect on our classroom environments and host a *Classroom Walk*."
- "Consider our early childhood environment from the *6 Thinking Hats*"
- "PAUSE...WATCH...and LEARN from our children"

Amanda Moreno:  
"SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION:  
REDUNDANT TERMS?"

by Beth Carmody, Principal, Hubbard Woods School, Winnetka



**HEAD: WHAT DID YOU LEARN?  
WHAT WAS YOUR "A-HA!" MOMENT?**

- Saying you have a whole child approach is insufficient.
- SEL program can help put meaningful and public action behind that philosophy
- Look before you leap into a program - Consider these constructs:
  - Agency and Voice - "I matter."
  - Investment in the Collective- "I care."
  - Adaptability and Resilience - "That was hard but I am ok."
- In the meantime to increase a mindful culture:
  - Morning meeting-use "thumbs three ways" - up-feeling good, sideways-so-so down-rough start to the day
  - Instead of saying "1,2,3 eyes on me" say "Calm, Ready, Pose"
  - Student voice throughout classroom
  - Pause- classroom-wide and student chosen (peace corner, safe spot)

Judy Harris Helm:  
"BUILDING SUPPORT FOR YOUR SCHOOL:  
USING CHILDREN'S WORK TO SHOW LEARNING"

Facilitated by Erin Booker, Director, Winnetka Public School Nursery



**HEAD: WHAT DID YOU LEARN?  
WHAT WAS YOUR "A-HA!" MOMENT?**

- "When documenting, less is more."
- "White space is your friend!"
- "Let the artifacts (work) tell the story"
- "Most people take in 2-3 points so choose only the ones that are engaging, memorable and inspiring."
- "Include children's self-reflections: "Teacher this is the best thing I've done in my whole life!"