

November 15-06

Thanks Dave

Believe me they all had a great time too. It was so fun to do something different, for them and me!

Did testing on thursday with the kids (8 and 9)

Instead of a boring always poorly played nervous sounding little exercise - I directed them a la Dave Clark

set patterns and got them all to play a few different times. Worked well but took a lot of concentration on my part especially remembering all the grade 9's. They liked it a lot better and it was more pleasant. We will play around with the improv. stuff but working hard on xmas programs now. Seniors are off to a festival next week,

they played so well on fri (the piece you heard) I was proud they were so open with their emotions that day. The class you did on thursday helped this i'm sure.

I will get a letter done for you soon,

I really appreciate your hard work last week. You did an exceptional job. Your balance with everything was well placed as was the pacing.

I'll try and go into more detail for your letter. I assume i can send it directly here?

It was so fun to see someone put their energy into what they are doing. Its how i work and love to see other masters at work.

I was freer with the kids then i had ever been and this was helpful to all of us.

cheers

till next year, we would all like to see you back.

November 26-06

I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Dave Clark a few weeks ago, he is friends with James McCrae my favorite local drummer.

Through James encouragement and me always looking for something different, I decided to push to bring him to Nanaimo.

I have been teaching at Nanaimo District Secondary School for the past 17 years, my program is one of excellence but never

at the sacrifice of "fun". I teach about energy, feelings, emotions etc. and Dave sounded like he would fit well with my philosophy

of music education. When I saw Dave make all students stand in a circle holding hands seeing how fast they could pass a squeeze through the group I new my kids were in the right hands.

Dave went above and beyond and worked very hard at NDSS for the week, he played energy, focus, concentration, listening games, the kids were having fun but most were unaware of how much they were

learning and growing. I saw Dave's brilliant teaching style for all 7 of my classes one of which he treated them twice! He had a variety of activities that varied with the level of the students - he had them doing some incredible sounds and textures. Seeing him in action and what he can get from a group of open and accepting kids (which was all part of the process) was truly inspiring. His ability to touch all the students and let them feel good about wherever they are was so good to see. I felt comfortable leaving my kids with him since he was so nurturing. I saw my students open up have smiles on their faces and feel good about themselves - isn't that what music is all about.

My students all really enjoyed their week as did I, I learned a lot and it brought a fresh piece of energy to my program at just the right time.

I thank him for all that he shared and we are all looking forward to his return next year.

Musically yours

Ken Brewer