

CFE Reflections

I am very grateful to have had been placed in York House School for my CFE. I really enjoyed the experience working with Dawn Haylett and the other music teachers at the school. The students are very nice and respectful. During my CFE I taught the following classes:

- General music – Kindergarten, Grade 1 and 2
- Band – Gr.5, 6, 8, and 9-12

CFE teaching video reflections:

1. Kindergarten – Song game “Who Has the Penny?”

This was the second time the Kindergarten students had a chance to sing and play this song game. The students are using non-pitched percussion instruments, rhythm sticks, while singing the song. It is always a challenge for students to completely follow instruction and some may continue playing the instruments after the song has finished. It takes time for them to learn to respond as a group.

2. Grade 1 - “It’s Time for Music Class” – Students sit on risers marked in three colours: red, yellow and blue. One student is called to step up to the front of the class to be a leader. Students sing this song at the beginning of every music class. This is a great way to assess if individual students are singing in pitch, if they follow the rhythms, how well they know the words, can they play an instrument and sing and other skills.

3. Grade 1 – “Moms are Special” – Song review for Mother’s Day. I taught both the Kindergarten classes and the grade 1 classes this song as well and picked a different Mother’s Day song for Gr.2 classes.

4. Grade 1 – Transition song “Come and Follow”- this is a great way to engage students to follow you on the carpet before playing a game or when they enter the music room. They can take turns being a leader playing the instrument and freeze at the end of the song in a funny pose that everyone needs to copy. This song can be used with Kindergarten and Grade 2 as well.

5. Grade 1 – “Bluebird”- I introduced this song game to students the first time I taught them so they were familiar with the song. This is a great song which allows all students in the class to have a turn and it takes very little of the class time. I also played this song game with Kindergarten students and Grade 2’s.

6. Grade 1 – “Tony Chestnut” and “The Music Time Is Over” – Points 2-6 show my teaching sequence. Students love singing and showing actions to the “Tony Chestnut” song. They get very excited and always enjoy the challenge. Variations are to omit specific words and only show the actions.

7. Grade 8 band – “Jazz Interlude”- This was the second time these students played the piece.

Before we played the whole piece I did a warm up containing breathing gym exercises, rhythmic patterns played on each note of the Bb concert scale and playing the swinging eighth notes using the scale. Students also practiced articulation before playing the song.

