

Klerrisa Custom Music

July/August E-News



Latest News

Well what an exciting time we have had in the last month. Thank you to all those teachers who took advantage of our special for the month. I hope that you are enjoying that wonderful resource. I would also like to thank all those school and teachers who took advantage of the seminars program this year. I know a number of the students that we worked with these last couple of months will be performing their HSC works and I know that they will all make their teachers very proud. Please enjoy the next e-news, have a great holiday and I look forward to bringing you great new resources and a fantastic new website in October. Cheers Kerri

Special of the Month!!!

We have had a package on our catalogue for some time. It is called "Rhythm - The Flexible Element". This is a fantastic package with loads of great ideas. I have been in discussions with some wonderful teachers and they believe that this package would be more useful if it were split up. So that is what we have done. We are removing "Rhythm - The Flexible Element" from the catalogue and replacing it with three new titles:

"STOMP OUT LOUD" - A PRACTICAL APPROACH

"BEATBOXING" - A HOW TO GUIDE

"TAIKOZ" - THE ART OF JAPANESE DRUMMING

STOMP OUT LOUD - This package will require access to the DVD "Stomp Out Loud". This can be purchased from all good DVD retailers.

TAIKOZ - THE ART OF JAPANESE DRUMMING will require access to the DVD "Taiko - Live At Angels Place". This can be purchased from all good DVD retailers.

BEATBOXING - A HOW TO GUIDE can be taught as is, but is best used in conjunction with youtube.

INDIVIDUAL COST: Hardcopy - \$25 (inc GST) PDF email - \$20 (inc GST)

AVAILABLE NOW! ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!!

With every copy sold, you will receive our fantastic magnetic rhythm cards absolutely free!!! Saving of \$20

Tip of the Month - Re-energise!!!

Is your energy level dropping? Do you feel burdened with too much work and too little time to do it? Do you sense that your students are becoming lethargic? Then you and your students may be experiencing midcourse droop--an insidious yet common syndrome. Why? When enthusiasm wanes, the ability to cope with stress decreases and the joy of teaching is sometimes lost.

At the start of the year, energy levels were high as you and your students got excited about what was to come. Now that some of you have just finished the HSC practicals with your year 12 students, you realise that learning is not so rosy.

Survival experts tell people caught in a bottomless quagmire in the woods to stop struggling -- uncoordinated effort only causes the victim to sink ever deeper. Only by calm, purposeful and coordinated actions can the victims save themselves by swimming through the muck or sand to the safety of a solid shore. How can you recover yourself from the ooze of a sinkhole? Try a REFOCUS strategy. REFOCUS means:

- R ecognize
- E mpower
- F ocus
- O bjectivize
- C ommit
- U nburden
- S urprise

Recognize

Recognize your achievements and the achievements of the students so far. Remind yourself that lessons were well organized, delivered and received. The visuals enhanced understanding, the assignments sparked critical thinking and you used innovative ways to activate and encourage your students in the learning process. Give yourself a pat on the back for learning all your students' names, staying after class to answer questions, meeting with your students even though you don't have an office and taking the time to develop the individualized feedback designed to help each student improve his or her performance. Recall the work that you and your students have completed despite the demands of other classes, a job and perhaps a family. Acknowledge everyone's achievements and improvements.

Empower

Create a list of your strengths as a teacher. Are you an excellent communicator, manager, instructional designer or leader? When are you at your best -- leading a discussion, planning a collaborative learning activity, delivering a lecture, or going one-on-one with a student who needs help? Maybe you're an outstanding motivator. List your five greatest personal achievements in the past year. Can you remember how you felt during these moments? Reliving these peak experiences can really empower you to teach with greater enthusiasm and sense of purpose.

Focus

Take a quick look at your syllabus or planning setup. Are you on track? Will there be enough time? No? Then you have a management problem. Use a **triage system** to gain control of the situation. Triage is a strategy used by hospitals to deal with patients in the emergency room. Number 1: treat those who benefit the most and who are easily treated, Number 2: move on to those who are more difficult to treat but benefit the most and lastly attend to those who have the most difficult treatments and probably won't benefit from it. In other words, when time is short and learning is slow, work on the material that will bring the greatest reward with the least amount of effort. Plan to accomplish first the learning tasks that will bring the highest reward for your students. This will encourage them to continue to work right through to the end of the calendar year.

Objectivize

Since you started the year, the stresses and strains of teaching and daily living may have caused you to veer from your original targets for each group that you teach. It is easy to do. By refocussing on the situation, you can create altered learning targets for your classes. This will allow you to take the pressure off yourself because, in your mind, you haven't been able to maintain the program that you originally initiated. This is quite normal because each child is different and their learning speeds will vary.

Commit

The number of variables in the learning process are too many to control, so once you have worked out your new plan of attack, commit to it. Don't waste time rewriting it, just make notes and reschedule in your day book. Review and reflect at the end of the year, when you have the time to deal with it.

Unburden

Tony Robbins calls it "leverage", and we call it "delegate". You don't have to be perfect; you just have to be yourself. You may hold the expectation that teacher should have all the answers. Once you accept the fact that successful teachers emphasize the roles of learner, presenter, guide, coach, facilitator, designer, evaluator, manager and leader and minimize the role of expert, you unburden yourself from unrealistic expectations. Then teaching becomes much easier and more enjoyable. Delegate what you can to your students and other colleagues to assist in making the teaching experience a less stressful place.

Surprise

The elements of surprise can be the most powerful motivator for you and your students. When you are feeling a little stressed or flat in class, why not introduce the element of surprise. Tell a story or create a crisis, develop a new game or use tactile materials to juice it up. Whatever strategy you use, pick something that you haven't done with this class before or something that you haven't done for a long time. It will keep the students and you on their toes and help to keep you re-energised as you head on into the last quarter of this year.

What's New in the Access Area? Answer: nothing!!

I know you probably think that I am joking but I am not. We have currently had our website under construction and we have been so busy with this, that we have not developed anything new for the Access Area for this month. As a lot of schools are currently in the middle of exams, and HSC performances and the like, I know that a lot of you haven't really got time to worry too much.

With October being the launch of the new website, we will have some fantastic new items in the ACCESS AREA for you to play with.

Klerrisa Custom Music

www.kerrilacey.com.au/kcm

Providing quality materials for Entertainers and Educators!

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