

Kim Jessen: You Can't Live Without Music

Kim joined Westwinds in 2006, after taking private alto sax lessons for two years. Coincidentally, his music teacher is the son of a former Westwinds director, Trevor Waters (2004–2005). Kim had always wanted to play music, but was “intimidated by the complex-looking notes on the printed page.” He jumped right into Bronze Jazz band, and despite a nerve-wracking placement, “...this has turned out to be one of the best experiences of my life.”

Kim loves the camaraderie with all the other players and feels Westwinds is an incredibly valuable experience. His director, Jeff Hiley, “...is a star. He is very knowledgeable, great with our age group, teaches with humour and has the patience of a saint.” Among Kim’s favourite experiences is playing in the hallway at the Jubilee Auditorium during intermission at his first Westwinds’ Christmas concert; people started dancing to Bronze Jazz’ rendition of ‘Respect.’ “It made us feel that the hard work was worth it.”

Through Westwinds, Kim has learned so much about music, on both an intellectual and spiritual level, and he has grown to understand why people spend a lifetime studying it. “Music is much deeper when you learn to play...Westwinds has given me a passion for sharing music with others.” Impressive for someone who was kicked out of choir in Grade 4!

As a health care worker, Kim has discovered some well-researched clinical studies that prove the healing power of music. “In a way, you could say that you can’t live without it.”