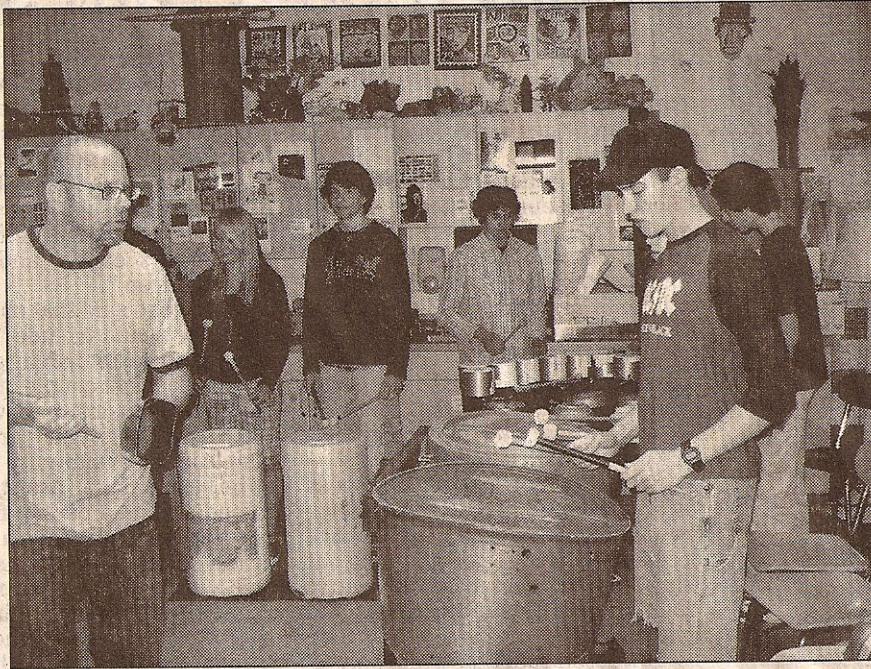


CONVAL HIGH SCHOOL



Jeff Irwin, with Trashcan Lid Productions, works with ConVal students, from left, Annemarie Beaudin, Kody Grasset, Cameron Hamilton, Joe Ortega and Greg Lesko to develop a funky musical piece that will be part of the Turn Junk into Funk free concert at the Peterborough Town House on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

STAFF PHOTO
BY KERRY McDONALD

It's hip, it's trashy and it's music

By KERRY McDONALD

Monadnock Ledger-Transcript Staff

PETERBOROUGH — Close to 90 ConVal High School students will be playing a little trash during a free concert at the Town House Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Called Turn Junk into Funk, the concert is sponsored by the Children and the Arts Festival as part of the build-up activities for the Children and the Arts event, scheduled for May 19.

The ConVal students have teamed up with Jeff Irwin, founder of Trashcan Lid Productions, an organization that works with students to create fun music extravaganzas using recycled objects as percussion instruments coupled with the latest audio-visual technology.

"We're going to rock the Town House," Irwin said to a group of ConVal students during a practice session Tuesday. "Don't worry about how you do it, just give it shot and try to feel the music and it'll work."

The students began practicing the music on drums made from metal gas cans, plastic barrel drums, drainage pipes, dog bowls, wash boards, metal pipes and pots and pans.

Irwin asked Zach Green, a senior at ConVal, to set the beat, while junior Ethan McBrien and sophomore Josh Blair jumped in on electric guitars. Other students began to play their makeshift recycled instruments, and soon a funky crescendo evolved.

"It's pretty cool," said Green, who is a drummer in the local band, the Cordiroy Criminals, "to just jam."

"This has been such a great opportunity for the kids to do something that they've never done before," said Erin Sweeney, who teaches the art foundation class at ConVal and is a member of the Children and the Arts board. "The kids are psyched about it and they've all been really receptive."

By the end of the practice session, the ideas were flowing among the students. They decided to refine their "Funk It Up" musical number by highlighting various percussion sections, adding synthetic thunder, changing the volume and adding a tap dancer to the performance.

"It should be a great event," said Irwin. "My job is to direct and facilitate the kids and their ideas. But all the composition of the music and the performance comes from the kids."