



DANCE EDUCATION ON THE MOVE

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SPRING FORWARD

Now that we have all changed our clocks for the Spring and daylight is longer we may feel rejuvenated and energized for the rest of the school year or semester. The Spring season reminds us of the cyclical nature of the seasons and the regeneration, rebirth, restoration, rekindling or revitalization of ideas. We may be seeking new choreographic concepts, writing new dance lessons that motivate students, or reflecting on our personal philosophy as dancers and educators. Perhaps, we are reminded to step back and see how what we do makes a difference in the lives of others. Specifically, as educators, we need to share with our students our passion for dance and articulate why it is as an essential component of a student's education. What is it we offer students cannot learn in any other part of the curriculum? This essential question will be asked by decision makers as school budgets are sliced and

diced this Spring to reflect the cuts in state funding. Dance, in particular, is always vulnerable. Hopefully, the dance experiences in your program are meaningful and will withstand the Spring storms of budget cuts.

Spring is Like a Perhaps Hand

by e.e. cummings

Spring is like a perhaps hand
(which comes carefully
out of Nowhere) arranging
a window into which people look (while
people stare
arranging and changing placing
carefully there a strange
thing and a known thing here) and
changing everything carefully
Spring is like a perhaps
Hand in a window
(carefully to
and fro moving New and

Old things, while
people stare carefully
moving a perhaps
fraction of flower here placing
an inch of air there) and
without breaking anything

For more poetry on Spring check out www.poets.org

Report on: Educating the Creative Mind Conference, March 4-6th
Kean University.

This inaugural conference on creativity and early childhood education brought together an international group of educators, researchers, and artists to share ideas, policy, and visions about the significance of creativity and arts education in the lives of young children. Dr. Howard Gardner, best known for his theory of Multiple Intelligences, was the Keynote Speaker. He spoke about the characteristics of creative people and how educators can notice these characteristics in their students and foster environments for enhancing creativity. The three day conference celebrated children's creativity through presentation and performance in dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and storytelling. International presenters representing Finland, China, Kenya, Israel, Switzerland, South Africa were among the many professionals from 12 different

countries who offered perspectives on creativity as vital to contemporary and traditional cultural expressions. The U.S. presenters, representing 13 states, shared their research on children's creative process, curricular integration of the arts with other subjects, pedagogical strategies for supporting creativity and artistic development in early childhood programs. The conference director, Dr. Lily Chen-Hafteck, is on the music faculty at Kean University. She felt this success of this conference will make this focus on creativity an annual event.

I am seeking articles, sample lessons and comments from your students about dance. What type of music or videos do you use in your classes? Share with our members to increase our teaching resources. The April issue would be a great issue to highlight your work and the work of your students. Please send me any information by April 10th. Send to Theresa Cone at conet@rowan.edu

Thanks and enjoy the beauty of the Spring Season.