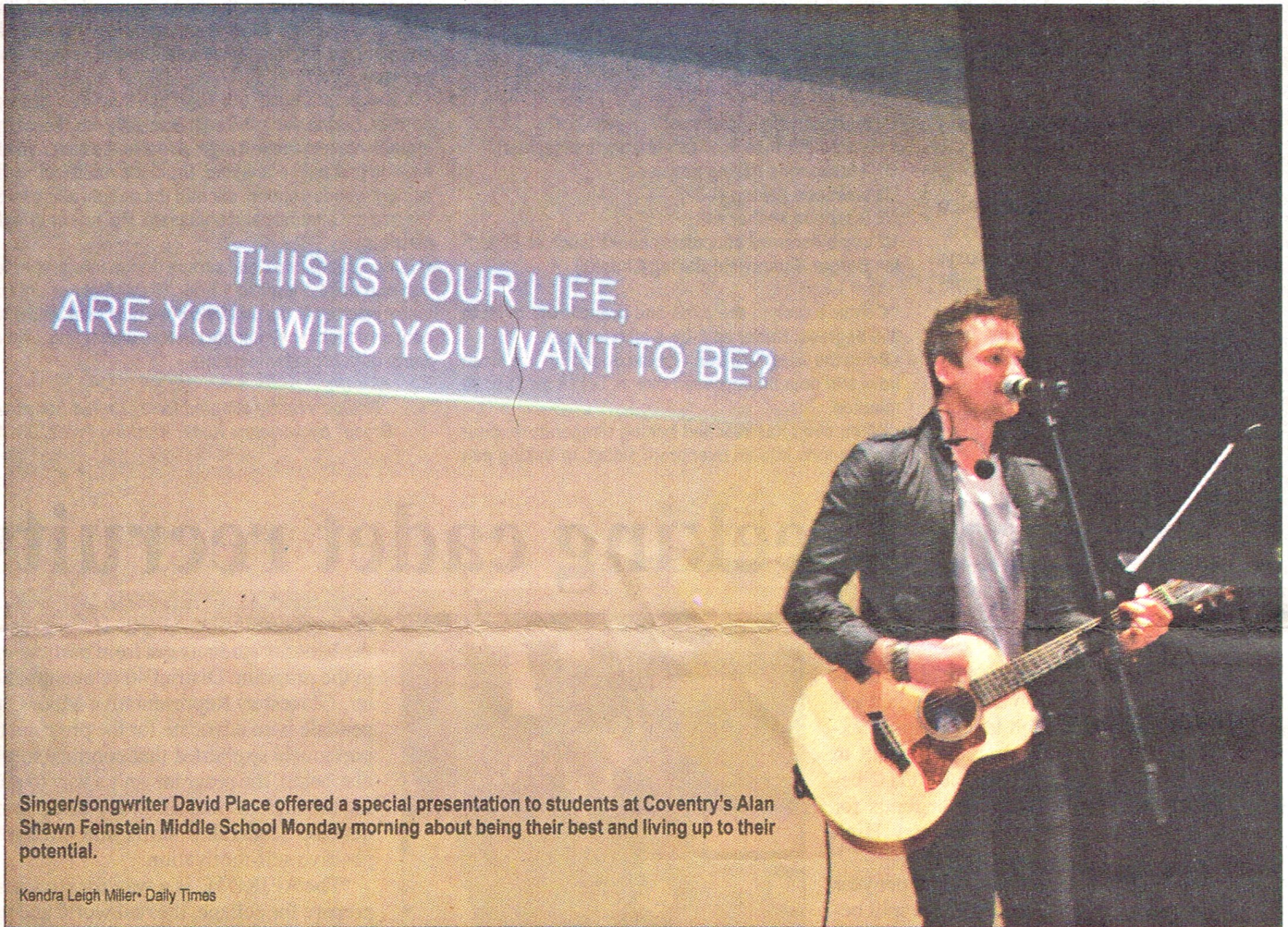


SINGING SONGS OF POTENTIAL



Singer/songwriter David Place offered a special presentation to students at Coventry's Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School Monday morning about being their best and living up to their potential.

Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

Singer/songwriter helps Feinstein students reach

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COVENTRY — Singer/songwriter and former bass player for “Phone Calls from Home,” David Place offered his words for success to the students at the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School during three presentations Monday morning.

His motivational speech was called “This is Your Life – Are You Who You Want to Be?”

The presentation was the kick-off event for a week-long activity to help students see their potential and the importance of effort, motivation, failure and perseverance.

Place said the purpose of the information was to identify anything that’s stopping you from being who you want to be and was willing to share his own story of patience, self-discipline and challenges and celebrate achievements and the work that goes with it.

“I’m talking about the growth mindset,

challenging yourself and taking ownership,” he explained to the students. “The fixed mindset is something you think you’re born with and it can’t be changed while the growth mindset takes on challenges that should be embraced, effort it takes for mastery and using setback as a growth tool.”

He took his experiences from being on tour and incorporated them into his own life to improve himself.

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Students receive lessons in potential

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"I wanted to learn how to play the guitar, so I did," he said. "You here are very lucky to be attending this school because the school wants you to think of the process, not just the resulting grade. That's why progress reports are just that, to let you know of your progress."

Throughout his presentation, he performed songs and offered motivational quotes from those who worked hard such as Michael Jordan, Albert Einstein, The Beatles and J.K. Rowling and to get to living their best life.

"Challenge yourself, take risks," he said. "Don't be afraid of failure because it's the

first step in learning. Right now, at this age, you can take the risks and learn.

One of the songs, called "Keep This Dream Alive," talked about allowing yourself to make mistakes and move on and also to slow down and enjoy the success you put in so many hours working for.

"I let myself down so many times but I pushed through it," he said.

Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School Principal Dr. Arthur Lisi said the program, offered by Place, ties in with the school's vision and the goal for the year.

"Teachers have been reading/meeting about mindsets and how we have a fixed mindset with thinking you are who you are, while others feel they can change, develop

and grow our intelligence and abilities," he said. "We have shared this with parents and we will now take it to our students and will utilize our advisory program the rest of the year to help students understand how the brain works, how intelligence is not fixed, how motivation, effort and failures work to make us better."

As Place was closing, he encouraged the students to bring home what they learned and have a conversation with their parents and hear their insight about how they learned and got to where they are now.

"It's my job to get you moving, it's your job to get motivated and do what you love," Place said.