

LESSON PLAN 45 : FIRST DAY DVD

Objective: Create a video keepsake for new entrants

Age range: 5-12

45



Can you remember your first day at school? All you need are some budding film directors to make it an unforgettable experience.

YOU WILL NEED

Video camera, editing software, DVD writer.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

Cinematography, editing, communication, team work, creativity, planning, presentation.

METHOD

Ever wondered what it would be like to look back on your first day at school? If you're stuck for a way to use video in a practical and fun way, here's a great idea for your class to hone its production skills while at the same time giving new entrants a hi-tech welcome, as Phil Salmon explains:

Two years ago I began working at Waihi Central School in a Year 5 & 6 class. We started looking at ways we could use ICT throughout the school in meaningful ways. One idea students came up with was to take video footage of our new entrants' first day at school. They would then make a DVD, create a cover and send it home as a memory for parents and grandparents to enjoy.

Camera and editing skills

We began on the journey by teaching a few of our children basic camera and editing skills. It wasn't long before they had picked it up and were doing an amazing job. Sometimes they were doing crazy and fantastic things that I didn't even know how to do! I thought it was great. Some children took to it more than others and, in particular, I had one girl who became the guru of creating the most brilliant DVDs for our new five year olds.

Being in a decile 2 school, unfortunately we received very little feedback from parents over the first few terms of creating these DVDs. However, we continued on and it's certainly paid dividends.

DVD is party hit

A friend of mine gave us some great feedback after attending his granddaughter's birthday party. She had recently started at our

school and at the party he explained that they had watched the DVD over and over. He ended up ordering three more for himself and others in his family.

Gradually things have developed and we've moved on a bit. Our senior children are now eagerly applying to be part of the school 'Movie Crew' as an extension each year. Those chosen to be part of the crew are given training and then take on the responsibility of recording and creating the DVDs – and they're ably helped and supported by our Junior Teacher Nikki McLean, who is great with them and does a fantastic job.

From video to TV

The project's proved very successful – so much so that it's no longer just DVDs. It has led to the establishment of the school's very own TV station, called Pumphouse. This is an absolute hit with all the kids. Again it's completely run by them. One difficulty has been having a large group of new entrant students arrive on the same day and sometimes it means we actually get to day 2, 3 or 4 by the time we have finished our recording!

We have just had our second anniversary of making the DVDs. All new children joining the school have one made of their first 'school day' experiences. Every two weeks we have a celebration assembly and our senior students welcome all the five year olds to Waihi Central. Here we introduce them to everybody and the older kids present them with their DVDs to take home.

It's special for them and special for us as it's completely done by our Year 5 and 6 students. ▲

PHIL SALMON IS DEPUTY PRINCIPAL AT WAIHI CENTRAL SCHOOL.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITY

Instead of making videos on individuals, your students could create a generic video for new entrants that introduces them to the school.

WHAT THE STUDENTS THINK

"I really enjoy making DVDs. It's lots of fun. The editing and filming is great and the kids are really cute."

SOPHIE

"I like filming the five year olds because they act so naturally and it comes across really well on camera."

CHAYE

"I have learnt how to use computers and cameras effectively. I also got to make the DVD of my sister, which was really neat when she started school. I really enjoy doing it."

SAVVANNAH