

press clip



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STUDENT LIFE EXPOSED

Sydney parent Phillip Lewis is bringing the traditional school photo into the 21st century.

The father-of-three quit his finance job and started Classmovies, a program that allows teacher to submit 60 minutes of video recordings of a week in their classroom.

The footage is put to music, photos are integrated, and film cut down to a 15-20 minute class film.

"We wanted to open the classroom up to the parents and the community, where a class photo says 1000 words, a class movie says a million," Mr Lewis said.

Parents can buy the movie for around the same price as a normal school photo, with 10 percent being donated back to the school fundraising account. The program



The life of Wahroonga Prep students is captured by the Classmovies program.

gives parents a "fly on the wall" insight into their child's schooling experience and allows teachers to gain recognition for their work.

"All movies are created so that the parents have a natural insight into how their

child plays, learns and interacts at school. Nothing is scripted," he said. "The teachers in turn gain respect, which builds the school community through open communication channels."

Trialled in 2006, Mr Lewis said the response was fantastic with production expected to double in 2009.

Wahroonga Prep acting principal Trent Gardner said parents had taken to the new technology.

"It gives the parents a bird's eye view of the classroom and they get to see their children in their natural environment," Mr Gardner said. "Plus to the littlies it is like being on TV for a day so all around program is having a positive response in our school."