



School days on DVD

By MICHAEL WASHBOURNE

THE days of the old class picture are numbered, with Catholic primary schools offering professionally edited keepsake movies for students and parents.

In a first for WA schools, the Catholic Education Office will allow 15,000 Catholic primary students in 500 classrooms across the state to be filmed by their teachers.

The film will then be edited into a 20-minute DVD designed to capture a child's learning experience in the classroom.

ClassMovies founder and managing director Phillip Lewis said the DVD had a long list of benefits for both parents and students.

"It's a natural insight into the

life of a child, which is something that a photo can't offer," he said.

Mr Lewis developed the product after discovering old home movies of his late father.

"It brought him to life because he died when I was four and I had no memories of him," he said. "That made me realise how important it was to capture events in a child's life.

"Children spend so much time at school, but there is no record of that time, so this is designed to capture that experience."

The product was trialled successfully in New South Wales schools in 2006 and launched nationally the following year.

Since then, ClassMovies has sold almost 18,000 DVDs and is now available to all schools in Australia.

Each DVD costs \$39, with 10 per cent of sales going back to

the school for further fundraising initiatives.

"Many parents often say they wish they had this when they were at school," Mr Lewis said.

Currambine Catholic Primary principal Tony Giglia said the school was looking forward to filming students in class.

"It just seems like such a good opportunity to give parents an understanding of the life experience of a child in a classroom," he said.

"For a vast majority of children, school is a happy experience and having that record is something that they will treasure. For teachers and parents, it's something which really does tug at the heartstrings."

Mr Giglia said the DVD was an excellent opportunity to showcase the school and the teachers involved.



MEMORIES: Currambine Catholic Primary School's Jemma Bradford, 12, is filmed as part of the ClassMovies project. Picture: ROSS SWANBOROUGH

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