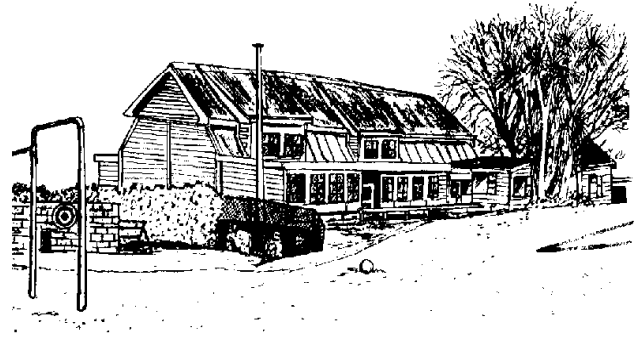


# MAHOE SCHOOL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Mahoe School - First Action!School**

March 16 2003

Mahoe School is proud to announce a collaborative project with Nikos Theodosakis, author of "The Director in the Classroom - How Filmmaking Inspires Learning". This project will see Mahoe School (situated to the west of Stratford) and Nikos (of Penticton, British Columbia, Canada) work together online to create an accreditation programme for Action!Schools which will make Mahoe school the first Action!School in the world; other schools worldwide will be able to access the programme from 2005.

### **Why was Mahoe School chosen?**

Mahoe School originally contacted Nikos to attain copies of his book. This initial contact led to an exchange of emails which showed Nikos that our school was dedicated to the use of filmmaking in learning. We have a fully integrated curriculum where learning is based around Gardner's Multiple Intelligences. Higher order thinking skills and Information Communication Technology (ICT) are infused into learning across the integrated curriculum. Our students had already been introduced to the mechanics of movie making and they are at the stage of learning to better develop their content rather than the nuts and bolts of hardware and software. This, alongside a committed staff with a desire for better learning and teaching saw the collaboration begin.

### **Benefits for Mahoe School**

There are huge benefits of this project for staff and students at Mahoe. The staff at Mahoe all see ICT as providing powerful learning opportunities for students. The learning we will be involved in with Nikos will provide all of us with the next

step in filmmaking. His resources, knowledge and experience will be available to us to provide the best quality in teaching and learning with filmmaking. We are a member of the *Central Taranaki ICT Professional Development Cluster* who have a Ministry contract from 2004 to 2006. A benefit of our current collaboration with Nikos will be our ability to share our new learning and skills through to other members this cluster from 2005, once we have completed the project.

### **First stage:**

The first step in this collaboration arose during a teleconference with Nikos. As the staff had not had direct experience with the mechanics of film making, rather they had had experience in the teaching of filmmaking it was decided to make a film submission in support of our school to the Minister of Education as he decides our fate under the current review process. The film, a montage of daily school life, was shot primarily by the pupils and edited by the staff. The film was delivered to the Wanganui office and will be forwarded to the Minister as part of the school's submission.

### **Why Digital Storytelling?**

Digital Storytelling offers powerful learning experiences; whether the pupils are sharing learning, publishing a poem or telling a story. Research has shown that students who present their work through digital storytelling have a much better understanding and appreciation of the content in years to come. In his book "The Director in the Classroom" Nikos states that "*by giving students the tools for discovery we are equipping them for learning throughout their classroom years and beyond into the rest of their lives*". It is the process of filmmaking that encapsulates the skills of learning and problem solving that students require now and in the future.

*"Filmmaking provides an arena where the fuel of individual passions combine to create rich meaningful learning experiences for all students. Regardless of age, regardless of project, and engagement and eagerness for learning are unleashed when students become filmmakers."*

*Nikos Theodosakis*

**An Electronic Press Kit containing digital video and still footage is available upon request.**