



Finalist Best Teaching with ICT – Primary

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School: Maungatapu Primary, Tauranga

Name of ICT activity: Battle of Gate Pa

1. What is the Teaching with ICT activity that you want to be considered for the award?

Throughout term 2 and term 3 my class at Maungatapu Primary did an inquiry into the 'Battle of Gate Pa', an important local event that was celebrating its anniversary. We decided that we would create a video to educate and inform ourselves (through the experience) and our friends, whanau and community (with the finished product). We also created a documentary to show the production process and our enjoyment making it. We would like this activity (and the resulting movie and documentary) to be considered for the award. This activity is deserving of the award due to the huge amount of ICT children were exposed to and the new skills and tools they learnt due to this.

This activity also naturally meant the integration of ICT into our classroom in all curriculum areas. Throughout the course of our inquiry we used computers (both Apple and PC) for research, typing, graphics design, editing, movie making. We used video cameras for the filming, and digital cameras to document our journey. We learnt to use new computer programmes (such as visual effects and ashampoo burning studio) and strengthened our knowledge of other programs like Windows Movie Maker. We got to learn and experience other tools that we wouldn't access normally (e.g. burning DVDs – we each designed cases and burnt copies of our movie to DVDs, and professional film equipment / lighting) which helped us develop our ICT skills and knowledge.

2. Why did you choose to use this activity?

After going on YouTube and searching our topic we discovered there weren't many videos on the 'Battle of Gate Pa', an important local event with national significance. As it was the 150th anniversary of this battle, and as YouTube is often used by people for information and as a tool by educators, we felt that this wasn't right. We also discovered that our friends and whanau needed to know more about the Battle of Gate Pa, especially it being the 150th anniversary. We decided that producing a movie would be the best way to celebrate the anniversary and also educate and inform ourselves, our families, and our local community, as well as allowing us to achieve the learning aims of our inquiry. We knew that throughout the production of the movie children would be exposed to a huge range of technology in a meaningful context and that our production would be an effective vehicle for meaningful learning. Our activity also supported the learning intentions of our inquiry which were to;

- Understand the rich cultural history of Tauranga and the Battle of Gate Pa.
- Understand that what we have done in the past effects what we do in the future.
- Understand how British migrations to New Zealand have continuing significance for the tangata whenua and communities of Aoteroa.
- Explore the cultural practices and relationship of both Maori and British 150 years ago and to learn about the Code of Conduct, clothing and weapons of that era.

- Produce an authentic, accurate movie to commemorate the 150th anniversary and inform our friends, whanau, and local community.
 - To learn about the production process of a movie, from start to finish.
- Its really hard to describe all the learning that occurred through this project!

3. How did you implement and use this activity?

The activity was the focal point for our learning about the battle of Gate Pa. The event was researched and we went on field trips to the art gallery and library to learn more about our topic, we used a range of ICT tools to assist us in this. While on field trips we used our cameras to record the information we learned and computers at school for further research. We photographed pages in books to be used for reference.

Children produced a piece of poetry that was published on a computer. This provided the inspiration and the beginnings of a script for a movie through which we could share our learning. Children had a visit from a director who showed the children that what they were doing for the movie was what he does for his job – a visible lesson on the importance if ICT skills. He showed the ICT tools he used for story boarding, the production process and also finished advertisements (that we had seen on TV). We took the tools he taught us into our production. After planning and story boarding we developed our script. We used computers to investigate things we would need in our movie, e.g. soldiers uniforms (as we wanted these all to be authentic) we printed out examples to help us with our props and costume making. We built our set, including the screen for shadows – heavily using ICT tools to assist us e.g. projectors and image editing software to test. Then we began filming. We were also lucky to have a professional film crew come and assist the children with the recording of the story teller. They brought in a high tech camera and other tools that the children used. In post-production children used editing software to select and edit scenes, add sound effects etc., and create the title page. We designed CD cases and burnt DVDs to take home.

4. What outcomes has it achieved for you and your class?

The results speak for themselves. The children have successfully produced a movie to educate friends, whanau and local community (we held a screening to which around 30 people attended). Through the process children have developed a deep understanding of ‘the Battle of Gate Pa’, the relationships between Maori and Pakeha, clothing and weapons of the time, and the significance of the event.

Follow the below link to view our movie (best on a big screen) – Note everything you see has been made / performed / filmed / edited by the children – this is the biggest success of our project. THERE ARE NO SPECIAL EFFECTS.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5Ygy4VS9uQ&list=UULmFfVAZ1Mzz6IOHHPDypw>

Follow the below link to view our documentary (note the use of a wide range of ICT; computers, cameras, etc.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dY2H84bJQKA&list=UULmFfVAZ1Mzz6IOHHPDypw>

Students have come away with a huge range of new skills learnt in an engaging context. The tools they have been exposed to (e.g. professional programs like visual studios) are things they wouldn’t normally use in their day to day schooling. The children’s knowledge and confidence with the use of ICT equipment grew significantly, and also their ability.

I’m happy to provide further evidence of the use of ICT if needed – as it was comprehensive.