

	REAL SPECIAL TIMES	
<p><u>In this issue:</u> Page 1: Real Special news Page 2: Featured websites Page 3: Edith's column and Sudoku Page 4: Easy recipe, Sudoku solution</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Real Special News</p> <p>Welcome to the last Real Special newsletter of 2009 – a big thank you to all our subscribers and customers. We wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and new year (in fact a new decade!) There will be no newsletter during the January holiday so the next issue will be February 2010.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New Product Steps Literacy Software</p> <p>Steps is a New Zealand designed spelling programme and includes word lists covering word families, spelling patterns or rules, high frequency lists, plus exercises and games to help literacy. In addition, there is a general bank, which contains a ready-made literacy course which a learner can work through, and extra wordlists for teachers. It has the facility to add your own lists.</p> <p>Steps comes in versions for home, school network or tutor CD's. Mac and Pc compatible.</p> <p>Home version for 5 users \$140 (inc GST) Tutor version (unlimited users) \$180 inc GST School network (unlimited users) \$300 renewable yearly licence. There are also workbooks available e.g. Teachers manual \$45 inc GST.</p> <p>See our website 'Reading and spelling section' to order.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">New Product Nessy Tales: CD Rom or books</p> <p>Nessy Tales is a set of 5 stories about the comical adventures of Muggins, Jim and Nan. They are available as an interactive computer CD and / or in 5 books. All 5 books have only 300 words in total. Nessy tales are suitable for those with reading ability 5 -7 years but have an age appropriate content up to 12 years. They are particularly useful for reluctant readers or those with special educational needs. Dyslexic children often have an aversion to books as past failure may cause confidence to be low.</p> <div data-bbox="971 934 1258 1270" data-label="Image"></div> <p>Many children will learn to read words when they are presented individually but it is vital that they transfer this learning to recognise words within the context of sentences and stories. The Nessy Tales learning structure begins at the earliest stages of reading, using consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC words) e.g. 't-a-p' and advancing to CVCC e.g. t-r-a-p and CVCC e.g. s-l-u-m-p</p> <p>Price: Nessy Tales CD rom \$35.56 + GST (total \$40) PC version only. Nessy Tales set of 5 books: \$35.56 + GST (total \$40)</p>	

Featured websites



This month's choices:

- Christmas activities
- Online children's books
- Online phonics

www.Christmas-projects.com

At this festive time of year, its nice to get some new ideas. This websites has loads of links to all things related to Christmas so there is bound to be something to suit all ages. A scroll down the left hand side bar of the website gives you access to a whole range of topics, including:

- Angels
- Christmas crafts
- Christmas around the world
- Recipes
- Decorating ideas
- Christmas poems and stories
- Snowflakes
- Gift tags
- Wreaths
-



<http://www.magickeys.com/books/>

This is a great site with online story books for children. There are original stories with color illustrations for young children as well as older children and young adults. The aim of Children's Storybooks Online is to seek to "combine education and entertainment to amuse and engage children's imaginations". Some books also have audio included which helps make this a multisensory experience.



<http://www.abcfastphonics.com/>

ABC fast phonics is a free online phonics tutorial that uses cartoons and sounds with audio narration and clickable words to teach phonics for all ages. The lessons can be heard by clicking on the speakers and highlighted words. Included are the names of alphabet letters, consonants, vowels and vowel rules, letter blends and common words, along with many pictures to enjoy.



Edith the poodle

Hi, I'm Edith, the Real Special mascot.



What do you think of my new Christmas outfit – I definitely think the splash of orange suits my colouring. Bobby dog says I should get some wings and sit on top of the tree! I am sure we are going to have a lovely Christmas but sadly some dogs are not so lucky. Dogwatch are a self funded charity who run a sanctuary for abandoned pound dogs who would otherwise be destroyed. They take over ownership of these dogs and they are cared for by volunteers at their Adoption Centre until they find them a loving and responsible home. The centre is set on 4 acres of picturesque grounds comprising of 8 spacious kennels with heated concrete pads, 7 large exercise yards, with 3 acres for dogs to run freely on twice a day.

Although you may not be looking for a dog to adopt, you can still help by buying a calendar or making a donation. Desktop calendars are \$5, wall calendars are \$11 + postage. Get more details from Charlie at: info@dogwatch.co.nz
www.dogwatch.co.nz
(03) 981 4708 (Christchurch)

Edith's Christmas jokes

Q: What is Santa's dog called?

A: Santa Paws!

Q: What does a cat on the beach have in common with Christmas?

A: Sandy claws!

Q: Who delivers presents to baby sharks at Christmas?

A: Santa Jaws!

Q: What do you call Santa Claus when he doesn't move?

A: Santa Pause!

Q: What do you get if you cross Santa Claus with a detective?

A: Santa Clues!

Sudoku

Good luck! The solution is on page 4.

5	8			3			7
	4		8	1		5	6
1	5			3			2
			7		8		
	9			5			8 4
2	1		6		9		4
3			2				6 5

Easy recipe- chocolate croissant pudding

This easy recipe (a posh type bread and butter pudding!) would be great for a Christmas dessert.



Ingredients:

6 butter croissants, split
300ml thickened cream
½ cup dark chocolate chips
½ cup milk or white chocolate chips
5 eggs lightly beaten

Method

Preheat moderate oven to 180 C, 375 F, gas mark 4.
Grease a 20 x 30cm dish and put the croissants in it.
Put the cream and dark chocolate bits into a heatproof bowl.
Put the bowl over the top of a pan of boiling water (make sure the bowl is not touching the water).
Stir the cream and chocolate until melted and smooth.
Remove from heat and leave to cool.
When cool stir in the eggs (if the mixture is warm, the eggs may curdle).
Pour the mixture over the croissant and then sprinkle the other chocolate bits over the top.
Bake for approx 30 minutes until the custard is set.
Serve warm or at room temperature.
The pudding should serve approximately 8 people.

Variations.

You can put jam in the croissants to add extra flavour and colour.
Change the ratio of dark to light chocolate chips or even have just one type.
The pudding can have nuts sprinkled on top or even icing sugar.
Sliced bananas always go well with chocolate and custard.
Add dried fruit e.g. sultanas.
Serve on its own or with whipped cream or ice-cream.

Sudoku solution (from page 3)

5	8	2	9	6	3	4	1	7
9	4	7	8	2	1	3	5	6
6	3	1	5	4	7	2	9	8
1	5	8	4	3	6	7	2	9
4	2	6	7	9	8	5	3	1
7	9	3	1	5	2	6	8	4
8	6	4	3	1	5	9	7	2
2	1	5	6	7	9	8	4	3
3	7	9	2	8	4	1	6	5

Orders

To order any of the items features in our newsletter, please go to www.realspecial.co.nz or email carole@realspecial.co.nz **Postage:** \$5 per order

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