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Real Special News

Christmas is coming so please if you are requiring any items as gifts, please send your orders as soon as possible. Postage is \$5 per order regardless of the number of items.

Below I have put a selection of our best value items (all under \$70) from the fantastically popular Nesy range. The colourful graphics and fun games make sure all the family will want to play them whilst learning!

Nesy Tales: CD-ROM or books

Nesy 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. Nesy tales are particularly useful for primary age reluctant readers and those with special needs

Nesy Tales CD-ROM: \$35 (inc GST) PC version only

Nesy Tales set of 5 books \$35 (inc GST)

Nesy Phonic Nuggets:

'Nuggets' makes learning phonics fun! To help reinforce the learning on the software, a pack of phonic flashcards are included.

Develop reading skills by using animations and flash cards to link letters to sounds.

40 hilarious phonic animations make learning to read easy!

Compatible with both Windows and Mac

Single user CD rom with one pack of flashcards: \$65 (inc GST).

Nesy Fingers

This touch typing program introduces keys alphabetically and produces rapid learning in just 5 short lessons

- 9 games
- Type to your own tunes! – Import MP3s to play with the games
- Type using your own words
- Stickers to cover the keys and ensure learning is by touch
- Colour coding to aid fast learning.

For PC only. \$67 including GST.

Nesy Games Player

This software helps students develop their spelling and reading skills. Record your own words or select from comprehensive pre-recorded lists.

- 12 great games to improve reading and spelling
- Progress through 10 stages to win a reward
- Play games with your own homework spellings
- 4 difficulty options for beginners or experts.

Suitable for PC or Mac \$67 (inc GST).

Featured websites



Activity Village

<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/index.htm>

This website has some great ideas to do over the Christmas and summer holidays.

Activity Village offers teachers, parents and children over 5,000 pages of free children's activities. They've divided them into popular children's themes as well as covered the main holidays and seasons of the year. The search button in the top right corner of every page helps you find what you are looking for.

Activities include:

- colouring pages
- kids crafts
- home school resources
- puzzles
- printables
- jigsaws
- sudoku and more.



Windows Live Photo Gallery

<http://explore.live.com/windows-live-photo-gallery>

Import photos from your camera, organize them into albums, and edit them so they look their best. Use powerful photo tools to create stunning panoramas, movies, slide shows, and more. When you're ready to share, publish your photos and videos to your favorite websites like Facebook and Flickr directly from Photo Gallery.

Windows Live Photo Gallery also includes a revolutionary new tool called Photo Fuse. With Photo Fuse you can take the best parts of two photographs and fuse them together to make your perfect picture!

Sudoku for December

The solution is on page 3

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

Edith the poodle

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

Bobby has been sent a new 'Yappy Christmas' neckerchief so I thought he could do some modeling with me. We are both looking so festive with the red clothes against our white fur! My mum says she is going to send this photo out as a Christmas cards to the relatives.



If you are looking to get some Christmas cards with other dogs looking festive, Dogwatch (the Christchurch dog rescue centre) are selling them. Priced at \$7.50 for 5 assorted cards, the money helps support this great cause. For details, email info@dogwatch.co.nz

The dogwatch rescue centre is currently full of unwanted dogs and they are always looking for good homes for them. This is a particularly worrying time as often people want dogs for Christmas without thinking of the long term commitment required.

Any support you can give this charity, or others such as the SPCA will be greatly welcomed.

I will be giving my typing paws a break over summer so the next edition of the newsletter will be in February. The Real Special team, Bobby and myself (Edith poodle) wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and new year!

Just for fun – Edith's Christmas jokes

These jokes are about as funny as those in Christmas crackers!

What do you have in December that's not in any other month?

The letter D!

How does Good King Wenceslas like his pizzas?

Deep and crisp and even!

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

A mince spy!

Sudoku solution (from page 2)

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

Easy Recipe

Star Cookie Christmas Trees

This Sophie Gray recipe can be found on her Destitute Gourmet website, along with other tasty and inexpensive Christmas ideas. These cookies can be iced together to make a Christmas tree centerpiece!



¾ cup sugar
125 g butter
1 egg
½ cup sour cream
2 tbsp lemon juice
Zest of a lemon
1 tsp baking powder
4 – 5 cups flour
Castor sugar for sprinkling
Silver balls to decorate

Cream the butter and sugar, add the egg and sour cream then stir in the lemon juice and zest.

Stir in the flour and baking powder and knead the mixture adding more flour if required to make a firm, roll-able dough.

Chill the dough for ½ an hour then roll out and cut into stars using a variety of star cutters (or download the star template from the link address above). Cut plenty of extra stars in the smallest size as you will place these between the cookie star layers to give the tree some height.

Bake at 180° for 10 – 12 minutes. Smaller stars will cook more quickly.

Icing

1 ½ cups of icing sugar and enough lemon juice with a drop or two of water to give a spreadable coating with a lemony zing.

Spread each star with the icing and then quickly sprinkle on a few silver balls or sweets before it hardens.

To assemble, select the largest size stars to form the bases of your 3 trees. Place a blob of icing in the middle of each one and put one of the smallest stars on the blob as a spacer. Add another blob of icing and affix the next biggest star, then another blob of icing and another small star. One quantity of dough will make 3 trees.

Dust with icing sugar and wrap in cellophane to keep fresh

Source:

<http://www.destitutegourmet.com/newsletters/2010/2010ChristmasCountdownNewsletterTwo.html>

Orders

To order any of the items featured in our newsletter, please visit www.realspecial.co.nz or email carole@realspecial.co.nz

Postage: \$5 per order

Subscription notice

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For back issues of the newsletter, please see the Newsletter section of our website.