



REAL SPECIAL TIMES



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Real Special News

Real Special Holidays.

Just to let you know that now summer is finishing, we will not be taking any more Real Special holiday bookings for this season. During the next few months we will be making alterations to the property and dividing it into 2 – there will still be the three bedroom cottage but there will also be an adjoining one-bedroom studio.

For now we have removed the holiday link from our website and will reinstate it once the work and photos are complete. In the meantime, we have already started taking bookings for the cottage for Dec/Jan/Feb/March 2009 as that will be having minimal changes. For more details and availability, contact us on holidays@realspecial.co.nz

Go Talk special extended

We had a special offer last month in support of IHC Awareness and Appeal week (February 18 – 24).

As schools had a short academic month, some people missed out so we have now extended the offer until 31st March 2008.

All orders for Go Talk communication aids (Go Talk 4+, Go Talk 9+, Go Talk 20+) will receive a free Go Talk card (value \$18 + GST = \$20.25 NZD).

Go Talks are messaging devices to help those with communication difficulties. This offer is also available with Go Talk 1 multipacks (4 pack and case or 6 pack) but NOT with single Go talk 1 purchases.

The Go Talk card is a talking greeting card that you programme a message in yourself! It holds a picture / photograph on the front and one inside. Just open the Card and press 'play' to hear the recorded message.

It is not only great for birthdays and other occasions, but also for curriculum adaptations, communication between home and school, and talking booklets with text and speech.

It features 10 seconds of recording time and is made with laminated card stock.

For more details of Go Talk products, see the Special Needs section of our website.

What is IHC? The initials no longer stand for Intellectually Handicapped Children, as they once did but the organisation has kept the name as it is well-known.

The IHC website is about living with intellectual disability in New Zealand. IHC New Zealand Inc advocate for the rights, inclusion and welfare of all people with an intellectual disability and support them to live satisfying lives in the community.

["www.ihc.org.nz"](http://www.ihc.org.nz)

Featured websites



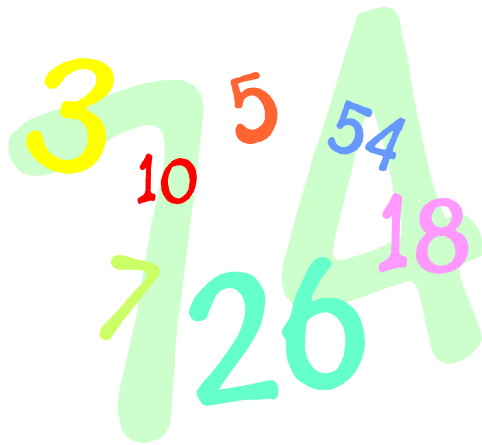
This month's choices give free resources on the following subjects:

- Maths
- Children's day
- Children's stories

Math drills

This site offers over 6000 Free maths worksheets (with answer keys) for use by teachers and parents. The whole range of maths subjects is covered, e.g. multiplication, division, fractions, addition etc. Each section has lots of activities, for example I love the 5 minute frenzy charts in the 'Addition' section. These charts are 10 by 10 grids for addition fact practice. In each square, students write the sum of the column number and the row number. They try to complete the chart in less than five minutes and score 98 percent or better.

<http://www.math-drills.com/>



NZ Children's Day

March 2nd is Children's Day in New Zealand – a chance to celebrate how important children are to our lives. There are events planned all though the month so click on the 'events' link on the left hand side of their homepage to see what is going on in your area. Another nice feature is the 'Activities' section - you will find some great colouring in sheets, some ideas for crafts, how to make a mobile etc.
<http://www.childrensday.org.nz/ChildrensDaySite/>



Silly Books

SillyBooks.net is an animated world of free reading, writing and learning fun for kids. They publish stories written by children – other children love reading things by their peers. The site includes lots of free activities – check out the books, music and games sections.
<http://www.sillybooks.net/>



Edith the poodle

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



Now that the nights are drawing in, it is sometimes dark when I take my owners for a walk (they need the exercise!). To make sure I can be seen in the dusk light, I now have this cute reflective safety jacket. It can be put over the top of any of my winter coats, but at the moment I don't really need one as it is still quite warm. I have been searching the internet and apparently you can get reflective leads and collars too – a great idea for safety.

Talking of safety apparel, and of course with my interest in fashion, I read a really interesting story about police dogs in Germany – they are being fitted out with blue rubber shoes to protect their paws while walking the beat. Shards of glass and sharp objects get stuck between the cobbles of Duesseldorf's old town and are dangerous for the canine squad so some 20 German shepherds are being taught to walk and work with their new footwear in time for a police fashion show in March! The blue synthetic rubber shoes are modeled on a design made for sled-pulling Canadian huskies and will protect their paws on patrol.

www.stuff.co.nz/4417757a456.html



Sudoku for March

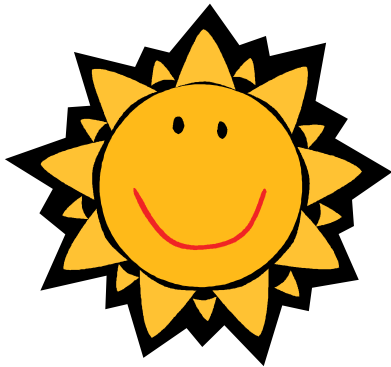
Good luck! The solution is on page 4 of this newsletter. The Sudoku grid has three main elements. There are 9 columns, 9 rows and 9 blocks. Using the numbers 1 through 9, the 81 squares in the grid must be filled so that every column, row and block contains the numbers 1 through 9. No number can repeat within any column, row or block.

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

Easy recipe

Morning Glory Muffins

A friend sent me this recipe for really tasty fruit and nut breakfast muffins but they are suitable for any time of day and would be a healthy addition to any lunch box.



Ingredients

2 cups flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
1 egg
¼ cup of oil
1 ½ cups milk
½ cup grated carrot
½ cup sultanas
½ cup of grated apple (no need to peel)
2 tablespoons coconut

Method

Preheat oven to 200°C

Stir all ingredients together, just lightly mixing to combine.

Extra milk may be necessary to achieve a runny, pourable mixture.

Spoon the mixture into deep non-stick well greased muffin tins.

Bake for 15 – 20 minutes until golden risen and brown.

Dust with icing sugar if desired.

Sudoku solution (from page 3)

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

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