



|  | 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>Nessy – possible solution for Mac's!</p> <p>Nessy has always been one of our most popular items with schools, SPELD tutors and families as it is a complete, easy to use teaching package. Nessy can be used with students of all ages to develop reading, spelling, memory and writing, and although designed to help those with dyslexia, can be used by everybody. Nessy offers a combination of 12 fun on-screen games plus masses of printable resources ensuring teachers save on preparation time!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading and spelling assessments determine the students level• Development in easy stages from sound, to word, to sentence• 120 lessons of all the reading and spelling rules• 271 printable card and board games• 1500 printable pages• 12 computer games• Easy to administer• One-off fee plus no photocopying restrictions.• A recording studio for your own word lists <p>From the hyperlink below you can download a free sample of Nessy, print off over 70 free resource pages, plus try some of the games etc. (or you can click the Nessy link from our web home page. http://www.realspecial.co.nz/dy_nessy.asp)</p> | | <p>Free Nessy printable worksheets from our page include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• b/d confusion (8 free pages)• Magic 'e' – make your own fishing game (7 free pages)• Thinking / planning / writing skills (11 free pages)• Tricky spelling words (10 free pages) <p>As Nessy is only available in PC format, this has meant some schools have not been able to make use of it. However, there is now a possible solution offered by Nessy Games Player!</p> <p>Games Player is Mac and PC compatible and has all the 12 on-screen games on Nessy but none of the printable resources. It is so inexpensive that a copy could be bought for each classroom!</p> <p>Games Player and Nessy are both available separately but can be combined to provide a great value solution - schools that have even just one PC could buy a single copy of the full version of Nessy for the printable resources then supplement the classrooms with Games Player!</p> <p>Nessy is still on special until the end of October (normal price \$320 + GST) special price \$297.78 + GST, total \$335 NZD. Games Player is still at the great value price of \$59.56 + GST, total \$67 NZD. See our 'Reading and Spelling' website section to order.</p> <p>Postage charges From this month, there will be a maximum postage charge of \$5 for items purchased within New Zealand.</p> |

Featured websites



Ben and Jerry ice-cream

<http://www.benjerry.com/fun/>

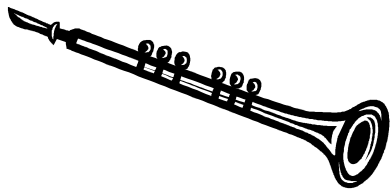
As it's the NZ school holidays and the weather has been much warmer, this is a good time to get some ice-cream. Ice cream makers Ben & Jerry's have their own website with some fun things that you might want to check out over the holidays too - online games, printable activities, crafts desktop wallpaper, recipes etc.



Creating Music

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

Creatingmusic.com is a children's online creative music environment for children of all ages. It's a place for kids to compose music, play with musical performance, games and music puzzles. The 'playing with music' section allows you to use the number keys 1 – 8 on your computer for playing musical notes in the style of an oboe, clarinet or marimba – really cool. I also really like the 'hearing games' – you have to listen to a few bars of music and then say if they are the same or different – great for developing listening skills!



Free Google Pack of resources

<http://pack.google.com>

This is a fantastic set of free tools from Google. Included is:

Google Earth, (enables you to zoom from space to street level and tour the world)

Google Toolbar, (enables you to search Google at anytime)

Norton Security Scan, (anti-virus scan)

Spyware Doctor, (spyware and malware scanner)

Google Desktop, (free instant computer file searcher)

Picasa, (software for browsing all your digital photos)

Firefox with Google Toolbar, (an advanced web browser)

Google Photos Screensaver, (display photos from your PC as a screensaver)

Adobe Reader, (enables you to view PDF files)

Google Talk, (free chat program)

Skype, (make voice and video calls to anyone who has a Skype account)

RealPlayer, (free media player)

and StarOffice! (free version of Microsoft Office, includes word processor, spreadsheets, presentations, and more!)

If there's something in the list that you don't want, don't worry, because you can select only the software you want to download!



Edith the poodle

Hi, I'm Edith, the Real Special mascot. Today I am wearing my yellow top, not just because it is a lovely sunny day, but to match with the beautiful blooms on our kowhai tree. This native tree is regarded as something of an NZ symbol – each member of my human family was given a kowhai tree at the ceremony when they became New Zealand citizens (I didn't need one as I was already born here).



Kowhai trees are really liked by humans but even more so by the tui birds! This is a photo of our kowhai tree and a tui in it – last week we had four tuis in the tree all at once! If you have never heard a tui bird, I have put a click to a website where you can do just that.

<http://www.nzbirds.com/birds/birdsong.html>

Tuis are really strange – they look as though they have a white pom-pom tied around their neck. It's strange, whenever the tui starts singing, the ducks start joining in too! Unfortunately the paradise ducks are not very musical – they sound just like kazoo's or party blowers! People going past the garden must think we are having celebrations all the time!

Edith's duck and bird jokes

Q: Why do tui's lay eggs?
 A: If they dropped them, they'd break!

Q: Which animal grows down?
 A: A duck!

Q: Why do seagulls live near the sea?
 A: Because if they lived near the bay, they would be called bagels!

Q: What kind of bird can carry the most weight?
 A: The crane!

Sudoku for October

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.

Good luck! The solution is on page 4 of this newsletter.

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

Easy recipe - Afghan biscuits

I must confess I had never had these biscuits before I came to New Zealand but they are now one of my favourites. Although classed as a biscuit, they are really more like a cookie. You can make these using cornflakes or Weetbix (called Weetabix in the UK) – both taste equally as nice.



Ingredients

200grams butter, softened
½ cup sugar
1 ¼ cups standard plain flour
¼ cup cocoa
2 cups cornflakes or 2 weetbix
Walnuts (optional for decoration)

Method

Preheat the oven to 180° C / 356 F
Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
Sift the flour and cocoa and then stir into creamed mixture.
Fold in cornflakes (or weetbix) and mix.
Spoon mounds of the mixture onto a greased oven tray, (gently press the mound together into a firmer cookie shape).
Bake at 180° / 356 F for 15 minutes or until set.
Leave to cool on a baking tray.
Can be eaten as is, or have chocolate icing on top (see icing recipe)

Makes approximately 25 Afghans.

When the afghans are cool, you can ice with chocolate icing and decorate with walnut if wished.

Chocolate icing recipe

2 cups icing sugar
1 ¼ teaspoon butter, softened
2 tablespoons water (approx)
¼ teaspoon vanilla essence
1 tablespoon cocoa

Sudoku solution (from page 3)

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

Subscription notice. You have received this free newsletter because you have requested to subscribe to it – thank you. *We respect your privacy so none of your details will be passed to other agencies. If you have received this newsletter in error or do not wish to receive future editions, please email: newsletter@realspecial.co.nz to unsubscribe or phone us on 03 540 2804 and we will arrange this for you. We welcome your feedback - if you have any comments or contributions for the newsletter, you can also contact us via the same email address or phone number.*