

Welcome to the January 2010
“Thanks Dad”
E News letter



“Dad as Santa”

Photo taken by Sue Bendall of Goonellabah

Don't forget to take pictures of your family having fun together this Festive season and send them to us to share with others and celebrate the great times spent with our kids! New entry forms available to download off our website at www.thanksdadphotos.org.au

We thought we would run a Christmas Picture competition this year – email us your favourite Christmas Holiday picture to tdpcoord@communityconnections.org.au and you could win a special prize of \$100! Picture should be of your family having fun this Christmas. Entries close on 23rd January and we will feature the winner in February's newsletter!

Take a minute to check out our new website (see above link) – it now features all 2009 entries, past newsletters as well as the winners.

You can now also simply snap a moment on your mobile phone and send immediately to us at tdpcoord@communityconnections.org.au and you will be entered into this year's competition.

Some Ideas for a Summer Holiday Treasure Hunt

Treasure hunt is a game that most children love to do. You can play it anytime anywhere over the year. Since we are in summer time here in Australia and my son just loves to play this game, I have some ideas to share. You know you can also add your own creativity on the game.

What you need:

- Color garden stones/rocks (You can either use one color or more, this time I will use 4 different colors); Here you can get at many cheap shops and they are quite cheap.
- Treats (such as cold homemade jelly or icy poles or fruit salad with ice cream, etc; You decide)
- *Note: If you want to be more creative, you can always draw a map for them.*

How to Play:

- Hide those stones/rocks around your garden (or in the house, depend where you want to play it; garden is always good, make sure not on the very hot day)
- Ask your children and their friends (if the friends around) to find the stones. You can ask each kids to find each different color stones (If you decide having 4 different color stones), or just certain number of stone.
- Whoever finds the stones can trade them for the treats you have prepared earlier (you can prepare one type of treat or different types and let the kids pick one)

When you should play this game:

- For morning play, it is better to let them trade the rocks after lunch. Before you play you tell them that there will be a treat for trading the stones/rocks they have found after they have their lunch.
- For afternoon play, you can play and trade anytime suit you. Nice cold treats always make this hot summer day and the treasure hunt worth to try.

For older kids, let say 5 years old and up, you can let them trade the rocks with beads so they can make their own jewellery. If you have giant floor puzzle, hide those pieces and let the children find them and put the puzzle together. If you have more than one puzzle it would be great to make it as a group.

Great summer reading ideas



Visit the library catalogue to place a hold on any of these great books or take a trip to your local library and select from the extensive range of books for children of all reading levels.

Early Readers and Picture Books

- Super duck by Jez Alborough
- Timothy and the strong pyjamas: a superhero adventure by Viviane Schwarz
- I could be a superhero! by Chris Hornsey
- Super guinea pig saves the world by Nina Spranger
- Go Girl! Series (various authors)
- Hector the protector by Janette Brazel
- Magnus Powermouse by Dick King-Smith

Middle readers

- Adventures of Danny by Pat Flynn
- The Adventures of Captain Underpants by Dav Pilkey
- Sardine in outer space by Emmanuel Guibert
- The Cloudchasers by Steven Hunt and David Richardson
- Max Remy super spy series by Deborah Abela
- Only you can save mankind by Terry Pratchett
- Kyla May Miss. Behaves as an international super spy by Kyla May

Older readers

- Dragon Blood Pirates series by Dan Ferris
- Alex Jackson series by Pat Flynn
- Exploits of a reluctant (but extremely goodlooking) hero by Maureen Fergus
- Artemis Fowl series by Eoin Colfer

- Mac Slater Coolhunter series by Tristan Bancks

Real life heroes

- Awesome Aussies: one hundred men, women, children - and animals - to inspire every young Australian by Paul Taylor
- Great Australian girls: and the remarkable women they became by Susan Geason
- Australian heroines: stories of courage and survival by Susan Geason
- Captain Cook's Apprentice by Anthony Hill
- Soldier Boy: The True Story of Jim Martin the youngest Anzac by Anthony Hill

Picture and story



This photo was taken in May 2009. It was a rainy day Sunday and to the utmost disappointment of princess Tiffany-Rose, age 4, the planned trip to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary was cancelled. Instead it was a day at home with Mum and Day playing dolly's, fairy games and a picnic lunch on the lounge room floor. While I was in the kitchen preparing a gourmet delight, Tiffany and her Dad entertained themselves in the play room watching Shrek, when I started to hear "Hoo..ow..oo..that hurts." And a squeaky little voice saying "you look bootuful daddy." When I went to investigate, this is what I had found. Now when a man lets his little pride and joy bunch up what remaining hair he has left, and lets her put it into little pink and white hair accessories...that's daddy's love. I'm sure that you will agree.

By Tina Day

Have a wonderful January with your children!

Kay Knights

Thanks Dad Photos Organiser

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PS: If you would like us to take you off the list to receive this newsletter then please send us an email to tdpcoord@communityconnections.org.au letting us know.