

Birthday  
Team!

# Grist From The Mill



Random thoughts, news and  
updates from Tom and Mascha

July 2007



Ice cream cake - Hey! It's summer!



Very intense play

A very small update...We're smack-dab in the middles of summer '07 and we're wondering when we'll get to enjoy it! The pace continues as usual with Mascha's school work only now coming to slowdown (it never really stops over the summer) and my work in a perpetual state of panic and turmoil. We have managed to steal a few moments here and there to go canoeing or cycling but we are all looking forward to a real break. The boys too! They have been in Daycare and camp ever since school stopped for them in mid June. We had a lovely day on Sunday, July 15th as we celebrated (one day early) Luca's 6th birthday! As usual, our custom is to invite the same number of children as the age the birthday boy is turning so in this case the number was 6. As it turns out though, most of the people Luca wanted to invite had siblings we knew and were friends with

Emilio so it turned out to be a lot more people than expected. With all the complaining about how busy we are, we are obviously

taking it upon ourselves to make our lives even more complicated. Very often people will "outsource" a birthday party and have it in a place where they cater to these sorts of things there are companies that specialize in children's birthdays but we thought it best to do it at home.

Luca wanted to have a football (soccer) birthday and so we thought it would be a good idea to have "team shirts" for the occasion so we decided to make our own. I found a nice picture of Luca playing soccer (coincidentally taken at last year's birthday) and turned it into black-and-white artwork (the one in the corner) and we silk-screened it on a bunch of white shirts. When I say we silk-screened it I mean we did it in the living room and had shirts strewn all about waiting for the ink to dry. After that, Mascha painstakingly painted everyone's name on the back of the shirt (in 2 separate colours for each individual team) and so we managed to create a Luca football team!

The first order of business at the party was to have cake! Ice cream in this case, actually. Not the best thing to have at 10am on a Sunday morning but we found it's better to get them "sugared up" early then let them play and then have a proper meal (which in this case was



Team Luca!

Pizza!) Once the ice cream disappeared we took the kids to Pleasantville School and had a soccer game which lasted all of 20 minutes but was enough to tire them out!

There was lot's of hearty play and the referee (me) did his best to try and keep things even. We had children ranging in ages from 4 to 10 and so it was hard to keep the big guns from running roughshod over the little ones. In the end it was a great time and the kids made it back home all rosy-cheeked and hungry for lunch.

Mascha's father Rik and his wife Janske

will be visiting us at the end of July. They plan on renting a camper and touring a little of the local surroundings. We will join them on the first week and we will all be going camping in Quebec. After that they will tour around and will rejoin us towards the end. It will be a good time to visit and I will have my family over for a big BBQ. These gatherings tend to loud and obnoxious with lots of opinionated banter and copious amounts of wine.

Next instalment should have more pictures from this summer's progress. Great fun! T

