

THIS MINUTE

YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT...



☆ Theme ☆

For the March 8 NYC celebration of granddaughter Jude, 3, and grandson Truman, 2, **Martha Stewart** and radio-host daughter **Alexis** hit the books. The domestic doyenne, 72, and Alexis, 48, dreamed up a party based on *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, about letters that climb a coconut tree. As Martha tells *Us*, “It makes for a colorful and fantastic theme.”



☆ Decorations ☆

Martha's word to the wise: Offer wall-to-wall activities. Custom reusable fabric decals (\$17 per set, innovativewalls.com) spelled fun for the birthday girl (left) and 30 pals, who made murals while singing along to the John Archambault and David Plummer CD *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom: Books Are Magic* (\$15, cdbaby.com).

How Martha Throws a Kids' Party

Stewart invites *Us* inside her grandchildren's joint birthday bash



☆ Favors ☆

To remind revelers they had a ball, each scored a size 4 Western Star black-and-white (\$5, championball.com), a copy of the *New York Times* bestseller and tricked-out Dani Fiore sugar cookies (\$7.50 each, sweedanib.com).

☆ Entertainment ☆

Oran Etkin (left, with tuba player Joe Exley), who teaches Jude the special Timbalaloo music method (oranetkin.com), performed on his clarinet. Says Etkin, “The kids were drumming on the floor!” Later, Coach Michael of Super Soccer Stars (supersoccerstars.com) ran silly footwork drills.



☆ Refreshments ☆

“Ingenious” is how Martha describes the alphabet Alexis carved from homemade banana, mango and blueberry gelatin. Tropical scenes — “equally creative,” raves Martha — were assembled with sugar snap peas, cheese, carrots and clementines. The icing on the event: Martha sliced a two-tiered, vanilla confection from Empire (empirecake.com).

With reporting by Rachel Paula Abrahamson, Antonia Blyth, Ingrid Meilan, Charles Thorp & Nicholas White