

FILLING MARCH BREAK WITH FUN FOR ALL

By Lorraine Payette



"Oh, boy, it's March Break! Now what are we going to do?"

Depending on your age, that could be a cry of joy or one of sheer panic. A full week of no school, kids turning to their parents for entertainment, care and perhaps educational opportunities, as they get past the worst of winter and look forward eagerly, to spring and warm weather. The one week of the school year parents worry about how to fulfill all of these things while still keeping up with their own busy lives. What can we do from Monday, March 10- Friday, March 15?

But it doesn't need to be a problem for anyone. Leeds-Grenville is filled with wonderful opportunities for everyone to get out and do a little, explore a little, and really just enjoy this week together.

Time away from school can be filled with high drama, so why not take advantage of that and enrol students in one of the great camps being offered by local theatre schools? Both Rideau Islands and Lakes Theatre School (RILTS) in Delta and Dreams in Motion in Gananoque

are offering fun packed weeks of fun, games and classes in all kinds of performance oriented activities.

At RILTS, Sierra and Claire from the RILTS Film Camp will be presenting a day of fun, crafts, air bands, camp games, theatre games and contests from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, at the Delta Recreation Centre for students age 7-15 at a cost of \$15 per camper. Similar days will be held in Elgin and Brockville, with more information on their website at www.rilts.ca, or register at 613-349-5151 or email rachel@theatreunmasked.ca.

Dreams In Motion will be holding their annual March Break Camp at their Gananoque location in the Ourtown Theatre, 365 William Street South. Programs are for children ages 4 and up with sessions running from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for \$35 and include lunch, but kids are asked to bring snacks, veggies, extra water, etc. to get them through the day. Before and after care is available from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. for \$5, or 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. (also \$5). The total cost for students requiring both before and after care is \$10/day (separate from the camp tuition).

"The camp will run as long as we meet the minimum requirement of students," says Kerri Paquette of Dreams. "Our theme is 'March Madness!', and we will be doing science based art, drama, music and dance for boys and girls." Contact them at 613-382-6700, www.dreamsinmotion.ca or info@dreamsinmotion.ca.

Perhaps theatre isn't your plan, and you'd prefer something a bit different. North Grenville is offering its annual March Break Day Camp with a week of activities for children ages 6 – 12. It will be held at the North Grenville Municipal Centre - Lions Club Suite, 285 Leeds and Grenville 44, Kemptville, the days run from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (drop off no earlier than 8:45am and pick up no later than 4:15pm), and are to be packed with entertainment, arts and crafts, sports, games and fun. Residents pay \$130 for the entire program or \$35 a day per child. Non-residents pay \$140 for the week or \$45 per day per child. They list the following requirements:

- A nutritious lunch and two healthy snacks (no nut products - we are nut free!)
- A refillable water bottle
- Running shoes for indoors
- Dress for mess! We do lots of messy crafts and games!
- Appropriate warm clothing and footwear for outdoors
- Bring ice skates when needed (check the schedule)
- If your child requires medication during the camp day, please pack appropriately and ask for a medication form.

Three special movies are planned – each running at 3:00 p.m. They are "Frozen" (March 12), "Phineas and Ferb Mission Marvel" (March 13), and "Percy Jackson - Sea Of Monsters" (March 14). To learn more, contact the Recreation Coordinator at thurlbert@northgrenville.on.ca or 613-258-9569 ext.123.

The YMCA can always be counted on to have something going on for students no matter the time of year. Called "March Break Fun Days" and running at 345 Park Street in Brockville, they offer great activities such as tobogganing, working in clay, Superhero Day, and Secret Agent/Detective Day for children aged 3 1/2 – 12 years.

"Our program will operate from 6:45 am - 5:45 pm at a cost of \$34.25/day for Y Members/Child Care participants, and \$38.50/day for non-members," says the Y. Pre-registration is advised. Forms to be dropped off at the Association Services Desk. A 48-hour advance notice of cancellation is required, and participating students will need to bring an appropriate lunch and indoor shoes. Some



suggested lunch items include fruit, granola, cold meat, whole wheat bread, milk, eggs, cheese, vegetables, 100% fruit juice, yogurt, cream cheese, muffins, English muffins, crackers, nut free bars, and bread sticks. All foods must be peanut free. Contact them at 613-342-7961 or www.brockvilley.com.

The Boys and Girls Club in Gananoque is always ready to step up to the plate and help out. Located at 66 King Street East in Gananoque, they have a week full of fun activities planned, all aimed at students aged 4 – 12. For \$125 per child, kids can look forward to recreation activities, arts and crafts, a special trip and much, much more as they attend this five full day program from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. In addition, youth aged 13 – 16 have volunteer opportunities if they choose to participate in the program. This will help them collect those important hours for graduation. This March Break Program is sponsored by the United Way, Town of Gananoque, Rotary International and High Five, the program is an annual success. To learn more or to register for the camp, go to www.bgckingston.ca or contact them at 613-382-6792 or ganyouth@bgckingston.ca.

Here are some other quick suggestions for you to consider and investigate:

Local community centers and ice rinks usually have programs going on for children and teens. Check schedules in your community for public skating in Brockville/Prescott and Gananoque.

Check with your local library in your community. Many Libraries have various programs going on during the week of March Break for children and teens to become involved. There are all sorts of fun activities, games, movies, reading, writing, arts, and a lot of free fun things to do to keep your children occupied.

Lastly, check within your community at local churches. Many churches offer week long day camps. (all faiths are welcome) There are a lot of fun activities for children and teens at an affordable cost for families.

March Break should be fun for children and teens, and with proper planning it will be!! LH

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