

## February

### 4 Thursday

**Toddler Session 1.** Stories, rhymes and songs for babies and a parent or caregiver. 18 to 35 months. 10:30 a.m. Ottawa Public Library, Manotick Branch, 5499 South River Rd. Info: (613) 692-3854

### 6 Saturday

**Be My Valentine.** You will love our Valentine's Day inspired stories, videos and crafts. Ages four to eight. Registration. 2 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, Alta Vista Branch, 2516 Alta Vista Dr. Info: (613) 737-2837

**Hugs and Kisses.** Join us for Valentine stories, crafts and a video. Ages three to six. Registration. 10:30 a.m. Ottawa Public Library, Centennial Branch, 3870 Richmond Rd. Info: (613) 828-5142

### 7 Sunday

**Stories From the Black Diaspora.** Celebrate Black history month by attending our family storytelling program. The theme of the stories this year is "Our Canadian Story." Family program. 2 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, CentrepoinTE Branch, 101 CentrepoinTE Dr. Info: (613) 580-2710

### 8 Monday

**Turtle Roadshow.** Erin Nadeau from the Toronto Zoo's Adopt-A-Pond program will give tips on how to identify and protect our native turtle population. Ages six to 12. Registration. 10:30 a.m. Ottawa Public Library, Stittsville Branch, 1637 Stittsville Main. Info: (613) 836-3381

### 10 Wednesday

**Boat Pro.** Obtain your Pleasure Craft Operator Card (PCOC) at the three-session Boat Pro course, offered by the Ottawa Power and Sail Squadron. Participants must attend all three sessions. Registration: \$50 for adults; \$45 for students.

Register at [www.cps-ottawa.com](http://www.cps-ottawa.com). 6:30 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, Alta Vista Branch, 2516 Alta Vista Dr. Info: (613) 737-2837

**Books and Fun.** Join us as we share books and play a reading game. Ages 7 to 8. Registration. 4:15 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, Carlingwood Branch, 281 Woodroffe. Info: (613) 725-2449

## 11 Thursday

**Homeschooled Teen Girls Book Club.** Want to meet girls your age and discuss books, movies and games while munching on brownies? If so, join our book club for girls 13+. 2:30 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, St. Laurent Branch, 1910 St-Laurent Blvd. Info: (613) 738-0619

**Family Storytime Session 1.** Stories, rhymes and songs for children of all ages and a parent or caregiver. Registration. 10 a.m. Ottawa Public Library, Orleans Branch, 1705 Orléans Blvd. Info: (613) 824-1962

## 12 Friday

**An Evening at the Movies.** Sing-along Sound of Music. Cost: \$3 - \$7. 7 p.m. Ottawa Family Cinema. Notre Dame Auditorium, 710 Broadview Ave., Ottawa. Info: (613) 722-8218 or [info@familycinema.org](mailto:info@familycinema.org)

**Colourful White.** Can you see the colours sparkling in the snow? Discover all the colours that artists use when they paint with white and make your own colourful wand. Also on Feb. 19. National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Dr. Info: (613) 990-1985 or <http://www.gallery.ca>

**Mother-Daughter Book Club.** Girls just wanna have fun! Mothers and daughters enjoy book fun. Ages 8 to 12. 7:15 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, Emerald Plaza Branch, 1547 Merivale Rd. Info: (613) 224-7874

## 13 Saturday

**An Afternoon at the Movies.** Sing-along Sound of Music. The most popular Sing-along show ever is coming back! Cost: \$3 - \$7. 2 p.m. Ottawa Family Cinema. Notre Dame Auditorium, 710 Broadview Ave., Ottawa. Info: (613) 722-8218 or [info@familycinema.org](mailto:info@familycinema.org)

**Valentine Mice are Nice.** Celebrate Valentine's Day with stories, songs and a craft. 11 a.m. Ottawa Public Library, CentrepoinTE Branch, 101 CentrepoinTE Dr. Info: (613) 580-2710

## **14 Sunday**

**For the love of crafts!** Kids can celebrate Valentine's Day in a creative way this year. Try your hand at traditional Valentine's crafts; make a homemade card using paper quilling, or work with lace while you enjoy the cozy heritage settings. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Billings Estate National Historic Site, 2100 Cabot St. Cost: \$6/person, \$10/ pair, \$15/family. Info: (613) 247-4830

**R.E.A.D. to a Dog!** Reading therapy with canine pals can help your child build confidence in their reading skills. Dogs are great listeners! Bring a book along. Call (613) 737-2837 ext. 26 to reserve your 10-minute session. 1 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, Alta Vista Branch, 2516 Alta Vista Dr. Info: (613) 737-2837

**Winter fun day!** Get back to nature and celebrate Valentine's Day with the whole family. Enjoy a snowshoe hike around the property, learn about animal tracking, winter survival, and enjoy a toboggan ride and horse drawn sleigh ride. Warm up by the outdoor campfire with hotdogs and marshmallows. 1 pm to 3 pm. Cost: \$6/person, \$10/pair, \$15/family. Pinhey's Point Historic Site, 270 Pinhey's Point Road, Dunrobin.

**Be My Valentine!** Enjoy Valentine's Day stories, songs, and create your own Valentine. Registration. 10:15 a.m. Ottawa Public Library, Beaverbrook Branch, 2500 Campeau Dr. Info: (613) 592-2712

**Be Mine, Valentine!** Bring your whole family and celebrate the joy of Valentines Day with stories, poems and songs. 11 a.m. Ottawa Public Library, Greenboro Branch, 363 Lorry Greenberg Dr., Info: (613) 580-2957

**Valentine's Day Fun.** Story, craft & activities. Ages 3 to 6. Registration 10:30 a.m. Ottawa Public Library, Orleans Branch, 1705 Orléans Blvd. Info: (613) 824-1962

**Wii Tournament for Teens.** Get bragging rights when you challenge your friends to get gaming on the Wii. Ages 13+. Registration. 2 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, Ruth E. Dickinson Branch, 100 Malvern. Info: (613) 580-2796

## **15 Monday**

**Family Heritage Day!** Exploring Billings Estate inside and out, go for a snowshoe or sleigh ride around the grounds, roast hotdogs over an open fire and make old-fashioned toys. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost: \$6/person, \$10/pair, \$15/family. Billings Estate National Historic Site, 2100 Cabot St. Info: (613) 247-4830

**Family Day.** Participate in activities in celebration of the 100th birthday of the Royal Canadian Navy. Canada Aviation Museum, 11 Aviation Parkway. Info: (613) 993-2010

## **19 Friday**

**Safe Youth, Safe Community.** Living in a big city can be dangerous if you don't know what to watch out for. We will give you information on protecting young people from gang activities and other dangers in the community. Offered in partnership with Lebanese Arab Social Services Agency. 4 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, North Gloucester Branch, Info: (613) 668-5594

## **20 Saturday**

**A Winter Wonderland Ice Ball.** Welcome all snow fairies, ice queens and Jack Frosts! Come costumed, dance the winter chills away and enjoy icy cool crafts for the entire family. Be entertained by stilt walkers, human statues and jugglers all in stunning winter wonderland costumes. Free with Museum admission. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. – Children's Museum at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier St. Gatineau.

## **21 Sunday**

**Artissimo Carnival.** Celebrate winter at the Gallery. Help us make a snow sculpture outside. Sip hot chocolate to warm up before taking part in a special winter landscape tour in the Canadian galleries, and then create your own masterpiece. Offered in conjunction with Winterlude. National Gallery of Canada, 380 Sussex Dr. Info: (613) 990-1985 or <http://www.gallery.ca>

**Tracking the Voyageurs.** Ever wonder what life as a voyageur would be like? Christian Pilon has answers to your questions! Meet this modern-day voyageur while he shares his secrets and the story of his many adventures. Visit his camp, take a look at his authentic voyageur gear and hear anecdotes about his participation on the television series Destination Nor'Ouest. Free with Museum

admission. 3 p.m. in English; 11 a.m. in French. Grand Hall, Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier St. Gatineau.

**Black History Month.** African and Caribbean stories to celebrate black history. For the whole family. 1:30 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, Main Branch, Info: (613) 818-7082

**Silver Dart Day.** Celebrate Canada's first powered flight with special activities for the whole family. Presentations by Gerald Haddon, grandson of J.A.D. McCurdy, Canada's first pilot; Curator of Aviation History Rénaud Fortier; and a special concert by the Sarah Burnell Band. Canada Aviation Museum, 11 Aviation Parkway. Info: (613) 993-2010

**Beach Blanket Blast.** A winter beach party for the whole family with stories, songs, crafts and games. Registration. 2 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, North Gloucester Branch, 5499 South River Rd. Info: (613) 692-3854

## **23 Tuesday**

**National Aviation Day – Canada Aviation Museum Career Day and Job Fair.** Celebrate Canada's first powered flight by looking towards the future with our first Career Day and Job Fair showcasing the wide range of career opportunities to be found in the aviation and space sectors in Canada. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Canada Aviation Museum, 11 Aviation Parkway. Info: (613) 993-2010

## **26 Friday**

**Stargazing.** Want to view the night sky from the Helen Sawyer Hogg Observatory? Join us as we open the doors and welcome stargazers. The program is free and strictly weather permitting (no indoor presentations). Dress warmly! 7 p.m. Duration: 90 minutes. Canada Science and Technology Museum. 1867 St. Laurent Blvd. Info: (613) 991-3053 or <http://www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca>

## **28 Sunday**

**Kurdish Storytelling.** Have fun and make new friends while playing games, singing songs and saying rhymes in Kurdish. 2 p.m. Call 613-796-7221 or e-mail [pahmed@lassa.ca](mailto:pahmed@lassa.ca) to register. Greenboro Branch, 363 Lorry Greenberg Dr., Info: (613) 580-2957

## **March**

### **3 Wednesday**

Children preschool age to Grade 6 are invited to bring their aviation inspired LEGO creations. Registration required. Canada Aviation Museum, 11 Aviation Parkway. Info: (613) 993-8109

### **5 Friday**

**Family Astronomy and Space Workshops:** Make a Spacecraft Mobile. Curious about space and astronomy? This hands-on workshop encourages exploration of science and astronomy, complemented by either a guided tour of the heavens in the inflatable planetarium, a visit to the Canada in Space exhibition, or a visit to the observatory (weather permitting). Canada Science and Technology Museum. 1867 St. Laurent Blvd. Info: (613) 991-3053 or <http://www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca>

### **7 Sunday**

**Give Your Head a Shake!** Just a pinch of salt... stories! A fun kick off for Nutrition month. Bring the whole family. 1:30 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, Main Branch, 120 Metcalfe St. Info: (613) 580-2945

### **13 Saturday**

**St Patrick's Day.** Join us for some Irish stories and songs... and make your own lucky craft. 10:30 a.m. Ottawa Public Library, St. Laurent Branch, 1910 St-Laurent Blvd., Info: (613) 738-0619

### **16 Tuesday**

**Cut and Paste.** Discover the art of collage and other crafts. Registration. 3 p.m. Ottawa Public Library, Vanier Branch, 310 Pères Blancs. Info: (613) 580-2973

### **17 Wednesday**

**Your Life, Your Story.** Tell your story through scrapbooking and photography. Registration. 11 a.m. Ottawa Public Library, Vanier Branch, 310 Pères Blancs. Info: (613) 580-2973

### **Ongoing**

**Just For You and Your Preschooler.** On Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., we offer adventures for preschool visitors and their accompanying adults, designed to help young children explore our exhibits. For ages five and under. Canadian Children's Museum, 100 Laurier St., Gatineau. Info: (819) 776-7001

**Artissimo.** On Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., budding artists three and up who are accompanied by an adult will look at art and make art. Experience the works that fill the Gallery, let your creativity run riot at the Artissimo kiosk in the Great Hall, and then display your creation at the Artissimo Gallery. National Gallery of Canada, Sussex Drive, Ottawa. Info: (613) 998-8888

**Esso Family Fundays.** On the third Sunday of each month experience artist-led workshops, plays, musical performances, creative projects, interactive gallery visits, games and much more. Have fun, make memories and discover your hidden talents. For children ages 3 and up accompanied by an adult. Drop-in activities run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. No registration required. Cost: included with Gallery admission. National Gallery of Canada, Sussex Drive, Ottawa. Info: (613) 998-8888

**Kids in the Kitchen** Join us in the Studio for cooking experiences that are as much fun to make as they are to eat. Workshops are offered at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sign up at the Embassy one hour before each workshop. Maximum 25 participants per workshop. Canadian Children's Museum at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier, Gatineau: Info: (819) 776-7001

**Rideau Hall.** Visit the historic home and workplace of Canada's Governor General — where dignitaries are welcomed and Canadians are honoured. Tours of the residence and grounds, Canadian art exhibitions, family activities and The Ceremonial Guard. 1 Sussex Dr., Ottawa. Cost: Free. Info: <http://www.gg.ca> or 1-866-842-4422

**Gatineau Park.** Measuring 363 square kilometres, the park is located in the northwest area of Canada's Capital Region. Hundreds of kilometres of pathways and trails are open year-round for hiking. Info: (819) 827-2020 or [www.canadacapital.gc.ca/gatineau](http://www.canadacapital.gc.ca/gatineau)

## **MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS**

**Sweaty Moms.** Our yummy mummy fitness menu includes: low impact, step, kickboxing, boot camp, skipping, free weights, body bars, exercise balls, Bosu balls, Spri bands, flexibility training, gentle meditation and breath work. Sweaty

**Moms II**, on Mondays and Wednesdays, is a natural progression from Sweaty Moms and designed for moms with toddlers. This class combines high/ low aerobics, will help increase core body strength and improve muscle tone. A toddler corner will be provided and mums take turns supervising. 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. McNabb Recreation Centre, 180 Percy St. Info: (613) 564-1070

## **WEDNESDAYS**

**Currency Museum.** Experience the most comprehensive collection of Canadian notes, coins, and tokens in the world as well as currency from other countries. Fascinating displays of mediums of exchange include shells, glass beads, teeth, cacao beans, paper, and metal. They are among the more than 8,000 objects from the National Currency Collection on display at the Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada. 245 Sparks St., Ottawa. Cost: Free. Info: (613) 782-8852 or <http://www.currencymuseum.ca>

**Parenting Your Young Child.** Thursdays, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. A social networking group for firsttime parents and their infants up to age two. Topics include feeding, sleep issues, tantrums, teething, toys, parenting stress, and child development. The Children's Welcome Centre 2514 Innes Rd., Blackburn Hamlet. Info: (613) 834-7075 or <http://www.childrenswelcomecentre.com>

## **UNTIL APRIL 7**

**Classic Animal Tracks Volume 2.** This bilingual presentation is like a jungle video jukebox! The world's favourite songs by the original artists are combined with beautiful images and thoughtful captions on a variety of animals. BBC motion Gallery. Weekends, Holidays and March Break, 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Canadian Museum of Nature, 240 McLeod St. Info: <http://www.nature.ca>

## **UNTIL APRIL 18**

**Hungry Planet.** Discover the extent to which food and the sharing of food are integral parts of culture. This exhibition opens a revealing window on the human condition and provides an opportunity to reflect on the great issues that challenge our planet: nutrition, famine, drought, poverty, power, and globalization. Canada Science and Technology Museum. 1867 St. Laurent Blvd. Info: (613) 991-3053 or <http://www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca>

Parent Resources

**One Parent Families Association.** Friendship group for single parents. Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at Dempsey Community Centre, 1895 Russell Rd., Ottawa. 8 p.m. Info: (613) 837-4245 Separated/Divorced Support Group. Meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Diocesan Centre, 1247 Kilborn Pl., Ottawa. A variety of speakers will present interesting topics. Info: (613) 738-3359 ext. 217

Family volunteering offers a wonderful opportunity for family members to be together while contributing to the community. **The Family Outreach Program** invites you to care for the child of a low income, single parent family in your home, one weekend every six weeks. For more information contact Diane Nadeau at (613) 744-2892 ext. 1073

**Short-term Childcare for children two to six years.** A co-operative program on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays 9 a.m. to noon. Registration required. Cost: \$63 for 8 weeks. The Children's Welcome Centre, 2514 Innes Rd. Blackburn Hamlet. Info: Belinda at: (613) 834-7075 or <http://www.childrenswelcomecentre.com>

**Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Canada** wants volunteers over 18 who have worked with the organization to register with its new Alumni program. Register online at: <http://www.bbbsc.ca/alumni> or call: (905) 639-0461 ext. 25

**Lifetime Networks Ottawa.** A support group for families of people with disabilities. To create a personal support network call: (613) 748-7162 or <http://www.lifetimenetworks.ca> Family Services Ottawa is seeking volunteers to supervise visits for children and non-custodial parents, a commitment of two hours every two weeks is required. Info: (613) 725-3601

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