

Unique spring break camps

By Randy Ray

Finding a unique and interesting Spring Break camp for your kids can be a challenge. The last thing you want is cries of “I’m bored!” after day one.

Luckily, the Ottawa area offers plenty of interesting and exciting options that are sure to keep the kids interested and invigorated this March. Themes and activities range from winter games, computer programming and sports, to movie making, cooking and learning to act and produce a play.

As you prepare to sign a cheque, here are a handful of camps sure to give you and you children ample bang for your bucks:

Dovercourt Recreation Centre: learning something new, while having fun and getting exercise, is the goal of the centre’s Spring Break camps, says program director Stephen Nason. Twelve day-long theme and specialty camps will be offered priced from \$170 to \$385 for the week and aimed at kids four to 15 years of age...

The theme of camps for kindergarten to age 12 youngsters will be the 2010 winter games and will feature sports, arts and crafts such as flag making, with outdoor activities that will be a variation of a number of Olympic sports. Also part of the theme camps will see kids five to 12 travel to the Laflèche Caves in the Gatineau Hills to take part in extreme winter sports. Older children will do cave tours on snowshoes and snowshoe on trails.

Specialty camps, range from culinary activities for kids eight to 12, including creation of a restaurant menu and décor, capped with preparation of a meal for parents on the final day, to dance, science and aquatics. Half of each camp will be dedicated to specialties, and the other half to sports and arts and crafts, says Nason.

Dovercourt will also offer ski and snowboard camps, daily and weekly, including lessons, at Ski Vorlage in Quebec.

Dovercourt Recreation Centre is located at 411 Dovercourt Ave. For more information call (613) 798-8950 or visit: <http://www.dovercourt.org>

Ottawa Little Theatre drama camps.

Two one-week camps will take place in the fully equipped theatre from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a fee of \$200 per child. By week's end campers aged nine to 12 will have a solid grip on what it takes to stage a live production and will put on a 35- to 40-minute play of their own for their parents and caregivers.

"Both camps will focus on acting, with the opportunity to work with costumes and props and participate in playwriting," says OLT education director Natasha Harwood.

Campers will learn various skills by playing "theatre games," says Harwood, including improvisation, role playing, developing skits and building characters. They'll learn how to speak effectively, how to portray emotions and how to move on stage.

"If we are trying to develop a character who is gruff, the children will go around the circle describing what their version of a gruff person would sound like, then a couple of characters will be chosen and put into a scene they have created," says Harwood.

The camps, offered by professional actors who are also competent teachers, are aimed at children interested in acting and who want to learn about the process of developing a play from the inside out. They will learn how to express themselves and how to work co-operatively.

"It is a really exciting experience. They will discover that theatre and drama is something that is fun and that they can participate in rather than just watching."

The Ottawa Little Theatre is located on 400 King Edward Avenue. For more information, call (613) 233-8948 x 1 or visit www.ottawalittletheatre.com

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