



Things to Do, Places to Go, Things to See

Suggestions for Winter Break—from your Parent Coordinator

Things to DO...

PBS Kids GO! Writing Contest

The PBS KIDS GO! Writers Contest is a national-local contest designed to promote the advancement of children's reading skills through hands-on, active learning. The Contest encourages children in grades K-3 in communities across the country to celebrate the power of creating stories and illustrations by submitting their own original pieces. [Click here for more details, to sign up for the contest and to view winning entries from previous years](#)

The 15th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

During February 17th-20th take part in a family-friendly, education activity that is lots of fun, costs nothing, and helps your local birds! Help scientists study and record the number and species of birds in our area. Enter your data, explore results online and enter the photo contest. Maybe even win a birding prize! Visit www.birdcount.org or visit the Audobon Center in Prospect Park for more information.

Doodle for Google

Google is inviting students in the United States to use their artistic talents to think big and redesign Google's homepage logo for millions to see. This year we ask students to exercise their creative imaginations around the theme, "If I could travel in time, I'd visit..." One lucky student artist will see their artwork appear on the Google homepage and take home some cool prizes--and as a special bonus, the winning artwork will appear on a limited edition of Crayola's iconic 64 box! Visit [Click here](#) for more information and to enter the contest.

Places to Go...

February Break Discovery Week at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Travel the world's deserts and rain forests with your family inside the BBG conservatories during February break! Children will use their senses to explore the indoor desert, rainforest, and warm temperate pavilions, go on plant hunts, and investigate incredible living plants at hands-on touch stations.

Info: Monday, February 20-Friday, February 24 11am - 1pm,
[Brooklyn Botanic Garden](#), 900 Washington Avenue, Prospect Lefferts Garden.

Head out to the Park!

Prospect Park is a great resource for things to do. Here are just a few highlights—[check out their website for more events](#)

Winter Festival at the Leffert's Historic House: Coming in from the Cold

Decades before television, video games and the internet, families and friends engaged in clever and entertaining games to pass the long winter days.

Info: Daily, February 18 - 26, 1 - 3 p.m.
visit www.prospectpark.org/calendar/event/676720

The Audobon Center is Full of LIFE:

Stop by to do a nature craft Check out an award-winning nature documentary series, all week long at the Boathouse. LIFE is the newest landmark natural history series from Discovery Channel and the BBC that explores the adaptability and diversity of life on earth, revealing the most spectacular, bizarre, and fascinating behaviors that living things have devised in order to thrive. Limited seating, groups of 10 or more must call (718) 287-3400 x303 for a reservation.

Info: LIFE: Kids Nature Film Series, February 20 - 24, 12 - 3:30 p.m.
visit www.prospectpark.org/calendar/event/306171 for more information

Brooklyn Children's Museum Holiday Week

The BCM has extended their hours for the Mid-Winter Break to 9:30 am- 5 pm so you can enjoy all the activities they have planned from those celebrating Black History Month to those teaching about being environmentally conscious..

Info: Monday, February 20-Friday, February 24 9:30 am - 5pm,
[Brooklyn Children's Museum](#), 145 Brooklyn Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11213.

The New York Transit Museum Special Programs During Break

To make your Winter Break extra fun the Transit Museum has extended hours and is offering special activities each day. From Tuesday, February 21 through Friday, February 24, the Transit Museum will be open to the public one extra hour, closing at 5 pm instead of its usual weekday closing time of 4 pm. At 2:30 pm, the Create a City program gives kids the chance to artistically build their own model city, both above and below ground, using the fun materials in the Education Center.

Info: Tuesday, February 21 through Friday, February 24
[New York Transit Museum](#), Corner of Boerum Place & Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn, \$7/adult \$5/child

Midwinter Recess at the Staten Island Children's Museum

The Staten Island spot hosts a week of cool activities, like Paint Day, Clay Day, Kidz Cook sessions and a special presentation about the isle's historic Sandy Ground community.

Info: Monday, February 20-Friday, February 24 10am-5pm
[Staten Island Children's Museum](#), 1000 Richmond Terrace FREE on Monday, February 20; all other days free with admission: \$6

Engineering Day at the New York Hall of Science

Spend Presidents' Day building and tinkering at the Queens science spot. Kids can make toothpick/gumdrop domes, bridges from paper and paper clips, towers from Jenga blocks and other cool creations.

Info: Monday, February 20 9:30am-5pm
[New York Hall of Science](#), 47-01 111th Street, Free with admission: \$11 for adults, \$8 for children ages 2-17

A Midwinter Recess's Dream: It's All American! Metropolitan Museum of Art

The week kicks off with Holiday Monday Family Programs like sketching and gallery tours. Tuesday through Friday at 11am, families can explore the Met's brand-new American Wing, featuring art work from the 17th-20th centuries.

Info: Monday, February 20-Friday, February 24, times vary

Metropolitan Museum of Art, East Side, 1000 Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street, Free with suggested admission: \$25 for adults, free for children under 12

Presidents Week Events at the Museum of the Moving Image

The museum's awesome Jim Henson's Fantastic World exhibit is set to close March 4 (and since it was already extended once, it won't be again). After checking out the retrospective, enjoy no-cost screenings of the 1981 TV-special The Muppets Go to the Movies, featuring spoofs of classic films. Older kids can learn how to make puppets in a Frankenfoam workshop (\$10 material fee) or work on stop-motion shorts (\$5 material fee).

Info: Monday, February 20-Friday, February 24, times vary.

Museum of Moving Images, Astoria, 36-01 35th Avenue between 36th and 37th Streets Exhibits and screenings free with admission: \$12 for adults, \$6 for children ages 3-17; art workshops vary.

Kids Week at the Intrepid Air & Space Museum

The Intrepid's annual super-size February break celebration is back with activities themed around the circus, puppets, Broadway, space and aviation, sports and even a birthday bash for the big boat. Each jam-packed day features lots of events and special guests, like screenings of the upcoming film Pirates: Band of Misfits, live bird demos, critters from the Bronx Zoo, Ringling Bros. clowns and Spider-Man. Visit the website for a complete schedule.

Info: Saturday, February 18- Sunday February 26, times vary

Intrepid Air & Space Museum, Midtown West, Pier 86, Twelfth Avenue at 46th Street, Free with admission: \$24 for adults, \$19 for children ages 7-17, \$12 for ages 3-6

History Days Presidents Vacation Week @ TheDiMenna Children's History Museum

The museum hosts a week's worth of educational fun. Kids can search for clues on a presidential scavenger hunt, design their own election campaign buttons or posters, compete in a challenging history quiz and meet author Maira Kalman, who'll read from her book Looking at Lincoln.

Info: Monday, February 20-Friday, February 24, various times

The DiMenna Children's History Museum, Upper West Side, New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West between 76th and 77th Streets

Free with admission: \$15 for adults, \$5 for children ages 7-13, kids under 7 free.

The South Street Seaport Museum

If you haven't been to the newly re-opened South Street Seaport Museum, winter break is a good time to plan a visit. The renovated museum is a cool combination of historical information, model building and contemporary installation techniques.

Info: open Wednesdays-Sundays 10am-6pm

South Street Seaport Museum, 12 Fulton Street, New York NY 10038. \$5 admission- children under age 9 are free!

Things to See...

The New Victory's Brazil! Brazil! street dance spectacle

This story-less celebration of South American street moves looks like it will be a one-hour party that mixes rhythmic music with soccer-inspired dance, and even features a real-life Brazilian soccer star.

Info: Friday, February 10-Sunday, February 27th

The New Victory Theater, 209 West 42nd Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues, , Tickets are \$14-\$38, Ages 5 and up

Puss in Boots at Puppetworks

Perrault's 1697 French Fantasy with an original song score and a "live" ogre adapted for Marionettes by Adam Kilgour. This show got great reviews from our Kindergartners that recently took a class trip to see the show. (suggested for ages 3 and up)

Info: Special Winter Break hours- Shows at 12:30 and 2:30 all week!

Puppetworks 6th ave (at 4th st.). Admission- Children \$7, Adults \$8. Reservations suggested 718-965-3391

Little Miss Muffet's Monster Sitting Service at the Swedish Cottage

This comedic marionette show follows the babysitting adventures of Molly Muffet-the great-great-great-great granddaughter of Little Miss Muffet-and the spider from the old nursery rhyme.

Info: Saturday & Sundays at 1pm, special shows Tuesday-Friday 11am & 1pm.

Swedish Cottage Located in Central Park at 79th Street and the West Drive, just south of the Delacorte Theater., Reservations are required. Tickets are \$8/adults, \$5/children under 12.

Great Suggestions for All Things Media- Common Sense Media

Looking for some good movie suggestions for your kids, want a good story for your child to delve into, need a new app or a video game suggestion- visit commonsensemedia.org. A great resource for all things media related with parent, children and expert reviews of books, video games, apps, movies and DVD's. Plus great tips for managing media and talking with your kids about it.

Still want more...

Check out these great NYC related parent blogs (A big thanks to them-most of my suggestions came from here!)

[A Child Grows in Brooklyn- www.achildgrows.com](http://www.achildgrows.com)

[Mommy Poppins- www.momypoppins.com](http://www.momypoppins.com)

Have a wonderful and relaxing time with your family!