

Opening the Right Doors to a Lifetime of Learning

5:30 pm...Wednesday...2010

You've just raced from work, picked up the kids from their respective daycares and afterschool programs. They're hungry and tired, you're hungry and tired and your 7 year old informs you that she has a project due tomorrow that she forgot to tell you about. You arrive home to find that the dog has chewed a library book...again and the cat has left a "gift" for you in the middle of the kitchen floor. You look at the mess, you look at the kids and you look at the clock. Then the phone rings...

To some this seems an exaggeration, to others it is just another day.

Luckily you have some support. You will still have to pick up and feed the kids. You definitely have to deal with the present left by your cat and yes you will need to replace the library book...again, but your local public library can help with your child's forgotten project. We have recently invested in the Elf Child-Safe Browser which provides 100% safe Internet use for your child, conveniently in your home.

The Elf browser allows your children to safely explore carefully chosen, highly engaging free-use educational resources on the Internet. Your children can work on their own and you can feel comfortable knowing that they are visiting ONLY sites that are wholesome, educational, and fun.

This is ALWAYS accomplished because Elf checks every piece of content before it is displayed to ensure that the material is coming from a site that has been specifically approved them.

Elf maintains these high quality links in the areas of math, science, geography, reading, music, arts, writing and reference. Children have a chance to vote for their favourite sites within the Elf browser and these "Top Links" are listed on the main page. In addition to the educational content, there is a fun/riddle area filled with safe activities for all ages of children.

If free, high quality, safe homework help isn't enough to pique your interest, perhaps this will. Under the fun/riddle section is an absolutely amazing non-profit website called "Free Rice" and is dedicated to lifelong learning and feeding the hungry. The United Nations has created this website where everyday people with a little time on their hands, can answer questions and earn rice donations for those in need. You can chose from a variety of subjects and for every correct answer you earn 10 grains of rice. This site is ideal for adults and children as the questions get easier or harder depending on whether your previous question was correct or not. Even greater than the investment in your own lifelong learning is the investment your donated rice makes in hungry human beings, enabling them to function and be productive. Somewhere in the world, a person could be eating rice that you will have helped to provide.

For more information about this new service, please contact us 613-342-3936. In order to obtain a copy of Elf, please email us at info@brockvillelibrary.ca. We will need your first and last name and your email address. We will then send you the file to install Elf browser on your computer as well as supporting documentation. If you do not have the Internet at home, we provide free access in the children's area of our library.

Visit us during March break and see firsthand what Elf has to offer. We are also running numerous March Break Programs. See the schedule below:

Monday, March 15

Kindermusik 10:30am-11:00am.

Tuesday, March 16

Drop-in Family Storytime 10:30am - 11:00am

Free Family Movie - *Where the Wild Things Are* 2:00pm

Wednesday, March 17

Meet Trax, a Police Service Dog from the K9 Unit of the Brockville Police Service
10:30am - 11:30am

Tween gaming 2:30pm - 4:00pm. Ages 8-12

Thursday, March 18

Have you ever tried Soap Carving? 10:30am - 11:30am

Friday, March 19

PAWS to Read 10:30am - 11:30am

Come to the library and read a story to a specially trained dog. Pre-register.

Free Family Movie - *Planet 51* 2:00pm

Please check our website for full program and registration details at www.brockvillelibrary.ca.

Written by Amanda Robinson
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