



Creativity STATION

Entrepreneurship. Financial Literacy.
Technology. Arts.





A Little Paint, a Little Music, a Whole Lot of Fun Turns Spring Break into a Very Special Day at the STREAM³ Academy

Students in STREAM³ got a chance to let their creative juices flow when they painted on an 8"X10" canvas, all while sipping fruit smoothies by the waterside over the Spring Break.

They created their own artwork on the canvas that they got to take home as a souvenir. The experience at the Riviera Beach Marina was not like a typical art class. Neither were students expected to be artistically savvy. "It was designed to be fun art, a chance for them to be inspired and entertained while bonding with each other and then take their work home," said facilitator Linda Tomlinson of The Great Paint Escape on Wheels.



"Our goal is to inspire and educate each child in an environment where giggles and grins are encouraged." The traveling art studio offers an exciting format for art exploration. Classes focus on art principles and introduce students to many different art materials.

"Children learn so much from the visual arts including math, science, history and creativity," Tomlinson said. "Best of all, art makes learning fun!"

Painting parties have been growing for nearly a decade, as more and more people seek diversions in experiences rather than in buying things. Paint-and-sip classes are now offered in Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong and London. The trend may reflect the findings of recent psychological research showing that people are happier when they have an experience rather than making a purchase. In a 2014 article in Psychological Science ("Waiting for Merlot"), researchers at Cornell University and the University of California, San Francisco, found that just the anticipation of experiences could

be more pleasurable than the anticipation of buying merchandise.

To book a class or for more information, call 561-729-3192 or email paintescape2018@gmail.com.

STREAM³ Kids Enjoy Thrills They had Never Before Experienced on the Atlantic

Despite living close to the beach, many South Florida youth have never been fishing — let alone seen the ocean. But thanks to STREAM³ Academy, several of them spent a day on a deep-sea fishing expedition over the Spring Break.

One by one they filed onto the deck of the 'Thea Marie' drift boat, like ants marching with purpose to a predetermined destination. Most were eager to climb on board and position themselves next to a lucky rod.



Before heading out, staffers from the Florida Fishing Academy gave the kids a crash course on how to fish and how to enjoy the natural beauty and resources of the Atlantic Ocean. The trip exposed them to new experiences, taught them important life skills and gave them hope. Organizers worked hard to ensure that every child got an opportunity to experience the thrill of sport fishing and a basic introduction in the marine sciences.

"This was a great opportunity for the kids to get out on the water and learn something new," said C. Ron Allen, camp director. "It's peaceful and quiet, and if one of the kids picks up fishing, it's a success."

After lunch, the kids donned life vests and swam into the ocean. Organizers hope the kids will develop a new appreciation of the Atlantic Ocean's marine ecology while still enjoying the opportunity of catching a "fish of a lifetime".



"Outdoor activities such as fishing promote lifelong physical and emotional well-being while establishing important social connections and a sense of personal responsibility," said Capt. Richard Brochu of Florida Fishing Academy. "We are so thrilled to see the kids participating in activities that are part of Florida's outdoor heritage and, for many, to have the experience and excitement of their first-ever fishing catch."

A Unique Exposure to the World Around Them

Schools might have been closed for Spring Break, but that did not stop a group of Riviera Beach-area children from getting a history lesson when they toured the Flagler Museum on Palm Beach. The students, in STREAM³ Academy, spent their afternoon on a guided tour of Whitehall, which was built by oil and railroad magnate Henry Flagler in 1902 and rescued from the wrecking ball and transformed into a museum by his granddaughter, Jean Flagler Matthews, in 1959.

The experience provided a memorable, immersive learning experience and provoked their imagination. It also introduced them to an unknown world and subject matter as well as offered a unique environment. They learned how the Flaglers entertained lavishly. They also saw the music room, still stocked with Louis XV-style banquettes, armchairs and sofas as well as chandeliers with thousands of dangling Baccarat crystals and an organ with 1,249 pipes. "By coming here opens our eyes to different ideas and gives us history and a perspective on how the rich and famous lived," said Tiffany J. Palmer, a ninth-grader at Suncoast High School. "Most of us did not know this museum was over here."

They ended the day with a tour of Henry Flagler's private Railcar No. 91, which was built in 1886 for Flagler's personal use. The railcar is exhibited in the Museum's Flagler Kenan Pavilion. Organizers were pleased that the experience gave the students a glimpse of different times and helped them gain a broad understanding of the past.

"This was a dynamic opportunity to expose them to experiences and explore new things in a rich and educational environment," said Annetta Jenkins, Director of Neighborhood Services for the Community Redevelopment Agency, who also served as one of the chaperones. "This unique exposure provided the foundation for creativity, critical thinking, and connection to the world around them."



A Pressure-free Week of Endless Possibilities and Fun!

After four days of coding, fishing in the Atlantic Ocean and learning leadership, students in STREAM³ wrapped up their Spring Break with a special day at Barracuda Bay Aquatic Center, Riviera Beach's fine waterpark.

"What a way to end Spring Break!" camper Tiffany Palmer said after a trip down the water slide. "The most important benefit of STREAM³ is that it's just downright fun! We get to be kids, explore new interests and push ourselves to new heights surrounded by role models who want to see us succeed. There was no better way to spend our Spring Break!"

The highlight of the day was an oratorical contest in which 16 students shared their thoughts on the dangers of bullying. Winners got cool prizes including cash, trips to leadership conferences this summer, and speaking opportunities across the county. In the end, Shanterria Hughes, Derrick Glenn and Brooklyn Walker emerged as the top three winners.

Perhaps one of the biggest benefits of the week-long camp was that it forced the students to unplug, organizers said. This was not only beneficial for developing personal connections and practicing social skills, but it helped to relieve social media pressures where popularity and self-worth are measured through the number of likes or followers you have, camp director C. Ron Allen said. "Most kids experience constant pressure from social media to be what others want them to be, rather than being themselves," Allen said. "During the last five days, our students had a chance to do things that made them happy because it's what they want to do, not to impress others or get digital 'likes' for doing it."



Junior Achievement News

During Spring Break, Junior Achievement of the Palm Beaches & Treasure Coast, Inc. delivered the JA BizTown program simulation directly to campers for an exciting week long experience. Elementary school students are not old enough to drive, work, vote, or be the boss. But that doesn't stop them from operating banks, managing restaurants, writing checks, and voting for mayor at JA BizTown! The program combined in-class learning with a day-long visit to this fully-interactive simulated town. The program helped students connect the dots between what they learn in school and the real world. Through daily lessons, hands-on activities, and active participation in this simulated community designed to support differentiated learning styles, students developed a strong understanding of the relationship between what they learn in school and their successful participation in a worldwide economy.



JA SPARK Youth Entrepreneur Development is a program for 7th-12th grade students who have a passion for discovering their personal path in STEM, business and entrepreneurship careers. During the week long program, students participated in the JA Career Success, JA It's My Future and JA Be Entrepreneurial curriculum. The content challenged students; through interactive activities; to discover their personal brand, identify career options, develop soft skills and potentially start their own entrepreneurial venture while still in school. Providing useful, practical content to assist teens in the transition from being students to contributing members of society; unlocking the innate ability to solve a problem or fill a need in their community through an entrepreneurial spirit. Students will, create a business plan, learn critical thinking strategies, work collaboratively with peers, and hear from community guest speakers. Please contact Junior Achievement for more information, at 561-242-9468.



These are the community organizations that have partnered with the CRA to bring these programs to Riviera Beach residents.



Get Registered!

Applications are being accepted for Creativity Station Summer Camp.

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