

Park District offers free Sports Saturdays for kids

The Fox Valley Park District has partnered with six schools throughout Aurora and North Aurora to offer its traditionally popular Sports Saturdays program which began Jan. 7.

Free to resident families with children in grades 1 through 5, Sports Saturdays provide a supervised environment for children to interact and participate in activities that include sports, crafts and general fitness.

“Sports Saturdays are an opportunity for kids to get out of the house and do what they love most – play!” said recreation supervisor Rafael Martinez, who oversees the program. “They’ll get a chance to take part in a whole bunch of different sports, and it also gives parents a couple hours of free time while their kids are enjoying themselves in a safe and supervised setting.”



Sports Saturdays are run concurrently at six different elementary schools around the area – McCleery, Hall and Schneider in District 129 (West Aurora) and Gates, Hermes and O’Donnell in District 131 (East Aurora). Resident children can register on-site and participate in the activities at any school, and even visit a different school each week.

The morning sessions from 9 a.m. to noon at each site are reserved for younger children (grades 1 and 2) with afternoon hours from noon to 3 p.m. for those in grades 3 to 5.

“It’s similar to open gym, but Park District instructors are on hand to teach and assist,” said Martinez, who grew up participating in Sports Saturdays. “It’s a great opportunity for kids to get away from their electronic devices and just enjoy the pure fun of active play.”

Sports include baseball, basketball, floor hockey, soccer and other high-energy activities. The program runs for eight consecutive Saturdays through Feb. 25.

Dates: Jan. 14, 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25

School Sites: District 129: McCleery, Hall & Schneider. District 131: Gates, Hermes & O’Donnell.

PHOTO: Sports Saturdays will be held at six different elementary school gyms, offering free fun for resident kids in grades 1 to 5 through Feb. 25.