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The Other Dream — Finding Fun Things For Kids This MLK Weekend

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There are speeches, but also a lot more going on this weekend.

With three whole days off for the Martin Luther King Holiday, what should parents do to keep their child (and themselves) busy (and maybe even excited)? There's always Brooklyn Academy of Music's fabulous tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. — but there are better ways to teach “The Dream” than to take your kids to a dark auditorium to hear speech making by Borough President Markowitz and Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott.

Besides, that's what Monday is for. In the meantime, here are a couple of ways to enjoy the weekend. Feel free to fill up the

comments section below if you have others.

Robots!

What could be better for kids than robots? All day on Saturday, NYU-Polytechnic University in Downtown will host robots — and kids — competing in the annual Lego League qualifier. Winners will move on to the regional finals in Manhattan in March.



Liam Goedig-Person and Chinwe Leahong of P.S. 233 show off the kind of action you'll see at Saturday's LEGO robot event at NYU-Poly.

If you never heard of [this competition](#), or the [LEGO kits that make it happen](#), you've either been living in a cave or willfully depriving your child of what is one of the cooler innovations of 21st-century toy-making. These robots are cool — they're programmable to move around — and the competition will be fierce as Brooklynites exhort their beloved robotic creations as they run through pre-programmed routines on a four-by-eight playing "field."

This year's theme is food safety, and contestants have to get their small robots to meander successfully through a series of obstacles supposed to educate us about how to "improve the security of the food supply, from safe transportation and preparation of food to pest control and pollution."

It's great fun, with loud 1980s heavy metal music, cheerleaders, and cool kids being geeks/having fun. Look out for the P.S. 11 team < <http://fort-greene.thelocal.nytimes.com/2011/03/11/p-s-11-students-robots-compete-in-lego-league/>>; last year's top Brooklyn qualifier.

Robot contest at Rogers Hall at NYU-Poly, Jay Street at Myrtle Promenade in Downtown, Jan. 14, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. For info, e-mail Susan Hermon at shermon@poly.edu or visit the [First Web site](#).