

APRIL 2017 DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER



Dear **TechStars** Families,

April is a month to enjoy and embrace the re-awakening of the Earth in our local communities following the long, dark and cold Winter season. Did you know April 22, 2016 marks the annual celebration of Earth Day? What started as a grassroots movement in the late 1960s generated public support for the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and contributed to the passage of the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Improvement Act, the Endangered Species Act and several other environmental laws. Today, the Earth Day Network claims to collaborate with more than 17,000 partners and organizations in 174 countries. According to EDN, more than 1 billion people are involved in Earth Day activities, making it “the largest secular civic event in the world.” Learn more about Earth Day at <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/earth-day>. Taking care of our Earth to insure that future generations will inherit a sustainable and livable planet is paramount. Teaching our children the finite reality of our natural resources does not need to be a daunting or formidable task. Start by switching off electric lights, televisions, computers and other appliances when leaving a room. Identify and sort household recyclable items from general trash for curbside pickup. Carry recyclable bags in your car to use when shopping. Your little ones will pick up on your cues and soon remind you of these Earth-friendly practices as well other ways to be kind to our planet every day of the year.

Making the most of our existing resources naturally turns our thoughts to the Maker Movement, a currently growing trend in which individuals or groups of individuals employ do-it-yourself (DIY) and do-it-with-others (DIWO) techniques to create and market products that are recreated and assembled using unused, discarded or broken electronic, plastic, silicon or virtually any raw material and/or product from a computer-related device. Involving young children as makers has many benefits such as inspiring curiosity, creativity and confidence; promoting community and collaboration and emphasizing process over product. Makers are not just consumers, they are creators! The Maker Movement has no age limits – children and adults alike can participate. Read more about how young children can blossom as makers at <http://www.naeyc.org/tyc/making-young-learners-intro>. If you are the curious, collaborative type, why not investigate Barrel of Makers, Wilmington’s own makerspace? Learn more at <http://barrelofmakers.org/About/WhatIs>. Highlands Art Garage, Wilmington’s newest and second makerspace, offers classes and workshops for all ages in drawing, painting, sewing, glass and woodworking. Discover what may interest your family at <https://highlandsartgarage.com>.

With more daylight time and warmer weather, many families are eager to enjoy the outdoors again. At **TechStars** we value “un-plugged” activities that encourage family fun and build lasting memories. Consider the following suggestions for your family:

- **Wilmington Blue Rocks Opening Night. Thurs, Apr 6, 6:35 pm.** Frawley Stadium, 801 Shipyard Drive, Wilmington, DE. Nothing says Spring like a trip to the ballpark! Bring the whole family to watch the Blue Rocks, Delaware’s Minor League baseball team, take the field to play the Potomac Nationals. The first 5,000 fans through the gates will receive a 2017 Schedule Magnet Giveaway presented by Kunzler & Company, Inc. <http://www.milb.com/tickets/singlegame.jsp?sid=t426>

- **Christina River Watershed Cleanup. Sat, Apr 8, 8 – 11 am.** Volunteers are needed for Delaware's largest urban cleanup: the Christina River Watershed Cleanup. Over a dozen sites are available in greater Newark, New Castle, and Wilmington. These include the scenic Christina River, Delaware River, Naamans Creek, Red Clay Creek and White Clay Creek. Free/Children welcome. Register at <http://christinarivercleanup.org/> or call (302) 307-2757.
- **49th Annual Great Delaware Kite Festival. Fri, Apr 14, registration begins 10 am.** Cape Henlopen State Park, 42 Cape Henlopen Dr, Lewes, DE. An Easter Egg Hunt for children up to 12 years kicks off the day, followed by kite-flying competition for children and teens. The highest kite competition follows at approximately 1 pm. and is open to all ages. Another activity is an egg toss competition that will take place immediately after the highest kite contest. The adult competitions will begin at approximately 2 pm, interspersed with professional stunt kite flying demonstrations. Times may vary according to weather conditions and number of competitors. Enjoy kite and craft vendors, food and fun for all ages. <https://www.leweschamber.com/news/community/49th-annual-great-delaware-kite-festival>
- **Winnie the Pooh Kids. Fri, Apr 14, 7:30 pm – Sat, April 15, 11 am & 2 pm.** The Everett Theater, 47 W. Main St, Middletown, DE. This delightful show is based on the beloved characters of A.A. Milne and the 2011 Disney animated feature film. Featuring favorite songs from the film as well as new hits, this honey-filled delight is as sweet as it is fun. Welcome to the Hundred Acre Wood, where Winnie the Pooh is once again in search of honey. Along the way, he meets his pals, Tigger, Piglet, Rabbit and Owl, but soon discovers that Christopher Robin has been captured by the mysterious Backson. As they prepare for a rescue operation, the animals learn about teamwork, friendship and, of course...sharing snacks. Make a \$2 donation to reserve your seat. <http://everetttheatre.com/winnie-the-pooh-kids/>
- **Storybook Character Breakfast. Sat, Apr 15, 9 & 11 am.** Delaware Children's Theatre, 1014 Delaware Ave, Wilmington, DE. Calling all Princesses and Pirates! Join us for a special breakfast and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Meet the characters and take pictures on stage. Tickets \$15/person. Reservations required. <http://www.dechildrenstheatre.org/project/breakfast/>
- **Wilmington Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration. Friday, April 21, 11 am – 2 pm.** Rodney Square, 10th & Market Streets, Wilmington, DE. Visitors will enjoy free native plants and other giveaways (while supplies last), free raffles, dozens of vendors offering green products/services/travel tips, food trucks selling lunches, a live radio broadcast, music and much more. This Rain or Shine annual event is sponsored by the City of Wilmington in partnership with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and the Delaware Forest Service. <http://www.delawareestuary.org/calendar-of-events-and-workshops/wilmington-earth-day-celebration/>
- **Casting with Cops. Sat, Apr 22, 11 am – 3 pm.** Glasgow Regional Park, 2275 Pulaski Hwy, Newark, DE 19702. A fun day fishing with the great men and women of the New Castle County Police. Event includes catch-and-release (barbless) fishing, NCCPD Mounted Police and K9 Unit Demonstrations, activities, raffles, giveaways and food. Bring your own rod and bait. A small number of loaner rods will be available. *Valid DE State Fishing License required to fish for anglers between the ages of 16 and 65.* Special Paw Patrol guests (Marshal, Skye and Chase) appearing 12 - 2 pm. All ages. FREE. <http://nccde.org/1153/Casting-with-Cops>
- **Green By Nature Preschool: Hide and Seek. Tues, Apr 25, 9:30 am-11 am.** Ashland Nature Center, 3511 Barley Mill Road Hockessin, DE. Look very carefully to spot these masters of camouflage. What tricks do they use to hide and how many can we find? Meet a box turtle and

corn snake and watch how they "disappear!" Led by Judy Montgomery Ages 2-5. Registration required. Members: \$6. Others: \$10.

https://www.delawarenatureociety.org/DNS/Events/Registration/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=W17033AS#.WNcrqtE2xD8

- **Hagley Maker Fest. Sat, Apr 29, 10 am – 5 pm.** Hagley Museum, 201 Hagley Creek Rd, Wilmington, DE. Part science fair, part community fair and part something entirely new, this event is an all-ages gathering of tech enthusiasts, crafters, educators, tinkerers, hobbyists, engineers, science clubs, authors, artists, students and commercial exhibitors. All of these "Makers" are eager to show what they have made and to share what they have learned. This event features demonstrations from area makers showcasing craftsmanship and technology, from robotics and gaming to fly fishing and chocolate-making. Food and beverages available for purchase; free beer samples. \$10 for Adults, \$5 for Hagley Members and Youth 6-18Fr and fee for children under 6. (*Find free admission offer in April's "Out & About" magazine.*)
<http://www.hagley.org/calendar/maker-fest>
- **Country Spring Festival at Carousel Park. Sat, April 29, 12 - 4 pm.** Carousel Park & Equestrian Center, 3700 Limestone Rd, Wilmington, DE. Bring the whole family and join in welcoming Spring with country line dancing, rodeo games and activities, crafts, hay rides and more. Stop by the Kids Corral to visit the barn babies. FREE
<http://www.nccde.org/849/Country-Spring-Festival-at-Carousel-Park>
- **Bug & Bud Festival. Sat, Apr 29, 9 am – 4 pm.** Walnut St, Front St and Mispillion Riverwalk, Milford, DE. This festival serves as a celebration of Arbor Day, the City of Milford's designation as a Tree City U.S.A. and Milford's role in the ladybug's designation as the State Bug of Delaware. Festival highlights are the traditional Ladybug and Tree, costumed parade for kids and pets, local entertainment, 100+ arts & crafts vendors, Kid's Korner, children's art show and "green-themed" nature related hands-on activities including seedling tree giveaways and flower plantings. RAIN or SHINE. FREE. <http://downtownmilford.org/events/2017-annual-bug-bud-festival/>

Best wishes to your family for a healthy, active and happy month. When the weather sends you indoors this month, just remember the familiar saying, "April showers bring May flowers."

Sincerely,

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



www.computerexplorers.com/de