

JUNE 2017 DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER



Dear **TechStars** Families,

Best wishes to all fathers and men who are important in the lives of our **TechStars** students. We hope your Father's Day on Sunday, June 18, will be filled with fun, family and good times. In 1910, Sonora Smart Dodd convinced her community to hold a Father's Day celebration at the YMCA in Spokane, Washington. Her father, civil war veteran William Jackson Smart, was a widower who raised six children on his own. Did you know that today, the United States has more than 70 million fathers? Learn about Father's Day at <http://www.almanac.com/content/history-fathers-day>.

As we round the corner to Summer, many families look forward to more relaxed daily schedules and more opportunities for togetherness. Take some of this time to play new games and explore special interests with your child. As digital natives, today's children live in a world immersed in technology. Join your child in this wondrous ever-changing digital world as you play together to discover what sparks your imaginations and brings joy and learning to your home. Visit the App Store to view a comprehensive list of quality apps for young children by Duck Duck Moose at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/developer/duck-duck-moose-llc/id303076298>. All of these apps are free because Duck Duck Moose has partnered with Khan Academy, a 501(c)(3) non-profit company whose mission is to provide a free, world-class education to anyone, anywhere. Learn more about Khan Academy and how it has developed into a personalized learning resource for all ages at <https://www.khanacademy.org/about>. After spending time together in the digital realm, remember that moderation is the best approach. Be sure to include reading books, taking walks in your neighborhood and playing at the park to round out your family time together.

At **TechStars** we value "un-plugged" activities that encourage family fun and build lasting memories. We hope your family will choose to explore a few of these local activities this month:

- **Riverwalk Mini Golf** Now Open for the Summer Season. Monday – Thursday, 10 am – 9 pm; Friday – Saturday, 10 am – 10 pm; Sunday, 12 noon – 8 pm; hours subject to extreme weather. 550 Justison Street, Wilmington, DE 19810, directly behind Delaware Children's Museum on the Riverwalk. This beautifully landscaped 18-hole miniature golf course features many of the colors and plant life found along the Riverfront, including the iconic Tom Burke birdhouses. Stop by the Golf Shack after your game for a yummy snack. \$8/person and free for kids under 3 years with paid adult. <http://riverwalkminigolf.com/>
- **10th Annual Fire Company Appreciation Day at Woodside Creamery** Saturday, June 3, 12 noon – 7pm. Woodside Creamery, 1310 Little Baltimore Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707. Hockessin Volunteer Firefighters will be on the farm with their fire trucks and ambulance to say hello and promote fire safety. The firefighters will be selling pulled pork sandwiches and assorted chips and drinks, with all monies from these food sales

going directly to help the Fire Company. To keep with the spirit of the day, sales from the Creamery's Cow Pie Sundae (a delicious brownie from Drip Cafe, two scoops of your favorite ice cream, hot fudge, whipped cream, and a cherry for only \$5) will all be donated to the Fire Company as well. <http://www.woodsidefarmcreamery.com/events-cowlender/icalrepeat.detail/2017/06/03/477/20/annual-fire-company-appreciation-day>

- **42nd Annual Wilmington Greek Festival** Tuesday, June 6 – Saturday, June 10, 11 am – 11 pm, rain or shine daily. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 808 N. Broom St, Wilmington, DE 19806. Close your eyes and imagine your family in a Greek village where locals are celebrating an annual event. Experience the aromas of authentic food cooking, the sounds of ethnic music and the sights of the Greek Terpsechorian Youth Folk dance group. There will be plenty of “Kefi”, presence of joy and high spirits for all. Free admission. Rain or shine. All major credit cards accepted. <http://greekfestde.com/>
- **Disney's The Little Mermaid/Main Stage Show** Fri, June 9 & 16 @ 7:30 pm, Sat, June 10 & 17 @ 2 pm, Sun, June 11 & 18 @ 2pm. The Everett Theater, 47 W. Main St, Middletown, DE. Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic animated film, Disney's The Little Mermaid is a hauntingly beautiful love story for the ages. Ariel, King Triton's youngest daughter, wishes to pursue the human Prince Eric in the world above and bargains with the evil sea witch, Ursula, to trade her tail for legs. But the bargain is not what it seems and Ariel needs the help of her colorful friends Flounder the fish, Scuttle the seagull, and Sebastian the crab to restore order under the sea. <http://everetttheatre.com/event/main-stage-show-disneys-the-little-mermaid/>
- **St. Anthony's Italian Festival** Sunday, June 11 – Sunday, June 18, recurring daily, hours vary. St. Anthony of Padua Church, 901 N. DuPont Street, Wilmington, DE 19805. This year's focus will be on the ancient and storied land of Sicily. The Festival offers a wide variety of delicious and authentic Italian food specialties at the various indoor and outdoor dining locations. Food, music, fun for the entire family. <http://www.stanthonyfestival.com/>
- **Fireworks at Hagley** Friday, June 16 & 23, Buck Road East Gates open at 5 pm. Hagley Museum, 298 Buck Rd, Wilmington, DE 19807. The 2017 fireworks spectacular celebrates the founding fathers. Bring a picnic dinner or purchase food at Hagley. Enjoy pre-show games, bounce-arounds and other activities at Kid Central. Take a chance at the raffle booth and silent auction. See what has been called the best fireworks show in Delaware! This event is weather dependent; check website for postponement announcements. M&T Bank and Wilmington Trust are major contributors. **Attendance is by reservation only, with ticket sales limited to Hagley members. Your Member ID number is required to purchase tickets.** <http://www.hagley.org/calendar/fireworks-hagley-june-16-23-presented-mt-bank-and-wilmington-trust>
- **Family Fun Night at the Brandywine Zoo** Tuesday, June 20, 6 pm – 8 pm. Brandywine Zoo, Brandywine Park, Wilmington, DE 19802. Special evening hours hosted by 93.7 FM WSTW. Meet radio personalities and enjoy special games, activities, and live animals! \$1 hot dogs and soft drinks. \$1 admission for everyone. Free parking. Rain date Wednesday, June 21. <http://www.brandywinezoo.org/special-events.html>

- **New Castle County Ice Cream Festival** Saturday, June 24, 10 am – 7 pm & Sunday, June 25, 11 am – 5 pm. Rockwood Park, 4651 Washington St. Extension, Wilmington, DE 19809. This year the Children’s Zone includes its own entertainment stage, face painting, interactive activities, rides and games! Live animals, trapeze artists, stilt walkers and jugglers will add to the fun all around the park. Stroll the grounds to speak with local businesses and win prizes. Shop for gifts, jewelry and neat things for your home. Stop by to learn what local non-profits provide in your community. Bring your blanket and stay all day. This festival offers plenty of food, ice cream, beverages and entertainment! This venue is dog friendly, so your friendly dog is welcome to share in the fun. 99.5 WJBR will be broadcasting live all weekend from the festival grounds! Rain or shine. \$5 Admission. Free for kids 12 and under. <http://rockwoodicecream.com/>
- **Mid-Atlantic Sea Glass & Coastal Arts Festival** Saturday June 24, 9 am – 4 pm & Sunday, June 25, 9 am – 3 pm. Cape May Lewes Ferry Terminal, 43 Cape Henlopen Drive, Lewes, DE 19958. This festival features nearly 70 sea glass artists joined by other coastal artists including decoy carvers and waterfowl artists. Enjoy festive live music and delicious food all weekend. Learn the history of sea glass and bring your glass shards and bottles, as specialists will be available to identify your treasures on-site. Admission is \$5/person each day; children under 12 Free. <https://www.historiclewes.org/events/2017-mid-atlantic-sea-glass-coastal-arts-festival>

Remember to take CT and **TechStars** with you wherever you venture this Summer. Download our free **TECHSTARS TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION** app curated by Playrific at the App Store or Google Play. The username is **TechStar** and the password is **TechTurtle**, valid through August 31, 2017. Visit www.computerexplorers.com/de for information about our summer offerings including continuing weekly technology lessons, summer camps and onsite field trips.

Best wishes to all families for a safe, happy and relaxing summer. We wish our graduates much success in all their future endeavors and look forward to reuniting with many of our youngest friends in September!

Sincerely,
Roni Deely

Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



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