

FEBRUARY 2016 DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER



Dear **TechStars** Families,

The world we live in today is very different from the world we knew as children. The world in which our children are living, learning and exploring will surely continue to change quickly. Many of the advances we currently enjoy as a part of our daily lives are due to progress and discoveries in technology. Exciting innovations in the not-to-distant future will most certainly be made possible by continuing breakthroughs in technology. In fact, after reading *These Six Technologies Will Define 2016* by Vivek Wadhwa in a recent issue of **Tech & Learning eNews**, I feel as if the future is already standing on our doorstep. Artificial intelligence, robots, self-driving cars, virtual reality and holodecks, the internet of things and space are all on the cusp of changing the way we live, work and think. Read these predictions for yourself at <http://unreasonable.is/these-six-technologies-will-define-2016/>. Technology is making new inventions possible that will continue to change, and hopefully improve, this world we share with our children today and the world we will leave for them to inherit in the coming years.

Before leaving the topic of technology, consider how 3D printing has improved the life of a third grade girl born without a left hand. "Maggie's Story" was first shared at the Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools Film Festival in Spring 2015. This 3-minute video by Blue Valley School District in Overland Park, KS, was submitted in the "Empowering, Excelling, Elevating" category, which showcases outstanding leadership, innovative teaching, and learning supported by technology. Watch this inspirational video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jvs29h5swBQ>.

With the recent blizzard behind us and still a lot of winter weather ahead, consider the following indoor "un-plugged" activities your family may like:

- **Kung Fu Panda 3 (PG) by Dreamworks, released Jan 29.** Enjoy this animated action adventure movie at Regal Cinemas Brandywine Town Center 16. Find show times at <https://www.google.com/#safe=active&q=regal+brandywine+town+center+16>. Then visit <http://www.dreamworkscree.com/panda-villager.html> to build excitement before the movie or extend the panda experience by working with your child to make an original Panda Villager Create and Print craft.
- **Charlotte's Web at the Delaware Children's Theatre, opening Sat Feb 13.** Take your special young valentine to this live performance suitable for all family members, ages 4 years and older. Based on EB White's classic book, this is the story of an unlikely friendship between Wilbur, a lonely pig, and Charlotte, a spider, who saves his life with her love. Find more information at <http://dechildrenstheatre.org/project/charlottes-web/>.
- **OrKid Day at Longwood Gardens, Mon Feb 15.** Plan a fun-filled day at Longwood Gardens with the whole family. Children can explore orchids at hands-on stations and enjoy other creative activities in our warm 4-acre Conservatory. Learn more about special activities planned for young visitors at <http://longwoodgardens.org/events-and-performances/events/orkid-days>. Before leaving for the day, be sure to enjoy the annual

Orchid Extravaganza exhibit. Help your child remember all he/she learned about orchids as your family takes in the beauty and color of these blooms.

- **Hagley's Maker Day, Sat Feb 20.** Enjoy a family-friendly festival of invention, creativity, and resourcefulness in celebration of the Maker movement at Hagley Museum. This special day will feature demonstrations from area makers showcasing craftsmanship and technology including wood-lathing and 3-D printing and a pop-up makerspace for visitors to tinker with recycled items. Activities are included in regular admission and free for members. Learn more at <http://www.visitdelaware.com/event-detail/hagleys-maker-day/27130/>

Mother Nature certainly has her own ways of reminding us that Winter rules in February. Stay safe, warm and happy in the month ahead.

Sincerely,

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