

MAY 2016 DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER



Dear **TechStars** Families,

Best wishes to all mothers and women who are important in the lives of our **TechStars** students. May you and your family enjoy a day filled with lots of fun, happiness and good memories on Sunday, May 8. Mother's Day has ancient roots and is celebrated around the world, although not on the same date as our holiday in the United States. Learn more about the origin and customs of Mother's Day at <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/mothers-day>.

As parents and educators of young children, we all understand that play is truly children's work. More than 2 decades of research from the University of Idaho backs this premise, asserting that children are indeed learning important math and science concepts as well as developing STEM skills while they play with blocks. The lessons children acquire from block play impact school readiness and later math success. Visit <http://families.naeyc.org/content/ga-block-play-and-stem-learning> to read more including academic specifics, how this learning connects to STEM, the 8 developmental stages of block play and a quick introduction to BLOCK Fest®. For those of you whose inner child yearns for more information about BLOCK Fest®, visit www.blockfest.org. The website explains, "BLOCK Fest® was developed to provide an interactive block building experience for young children ages 8 months to 8 years and their parents. BLOCK Fest® supports parents and children to form an emotional bond during the learning experience. The exhibit has been shown to increase parent knowledge of early development in the areas of math and science education while providing opportunities to increase social skills and literacy opportunities for young children."

At **TechStars** we value "un-plugged" activities that encourage family fun and build lasting memories. Consider the following suggestions for your family:

- **96th Annual Wilmington Flower Market** Thursday, May 5; Friday, May 6; Saturday, May 7. 10 am – 7 pm daily. Rockford Park, 2629 West 19th Street, Wilmington, DE. This traditional 3-day event offers plants and flowers of all kinds as well as children's rides and games, concerts, food and drink, merchants' booths, and arts and crafts providing a wide array of gift options for Mother's Day. Rain or shine. Free. New for 2016 – an extra evening of festival fun with *WFM Rocks the Park* on Wednesday, May 4, 5-8 pm. <https://wilmingtonflowermarket.org/>
- **Rumplestiltskin and the Princess Who Bragged Too Much** Saturday, May 7 through Sunday, May 8, 2 pm, Delaware Children's Theatre, 1014 Delaware Ave, Wilmington, DE. A girl boasts to the King that she can spin straw into gold, and then needs help from a sly troll to complete the task and save herself. But can she trick the troll and become a Princess? Recommended for young children. Bring your child in costume and join in the princess parade. Tickets \$13 online/\$15 box office. No show on Sunday, May 8. <http://www.dechildrenstheatre.org/>
- **8th Annual White Clay Creek Fest** Saturday, May 7, 12 noon - 4 pm, White Clay Creek State Park, 880 New London Road Newark, DE, 19711. Bring your family out to learn and celebrate the many ways to enjoy and protect the White Clay Creek, a National Wild & Scenic River. Enjoy live music, children's activities, exhibits, vendors, educational hikes, good food and other live entertainment. The event is free, but White Clay Creek State Park

Fees are in effect. \$4 In State/\$8 Out of State per vehicle. <http://whiteclay.org/new-events/white-clay-creek-fest>

- **83rd Annual Dover Days Festival Day** Saturday, April 30 – Sunday, May 8, various locations in Dover, DE. One of Delaware's largest, longest-running, FREE, popular events dedicated to promoting the heritage and culture of Dover and the state of Delaware. Dover Days hosts the largest parade in Dover with approximately 4,500 participants and watched by approximately 9,000 people; the Delaware's Governor serves as the Grand Marshal. Activities reflect Delaware's history and heritage as well as contemporary times and include the parade, traditional Maypole Dancing with 250+ schoolchildren, vintage auto rides, colonial artisans' village, car show, historic re-enactment groups representing the Revolutionary War, WW II and the Civil War, children's activities, carnival, fireworks, exhibits and lectures as well all-day entertainment and more. Find an event schedule at <http://doverdaysfestival.com/index.php/site/schedule>. More at <http://doverdaysfestival.com/>.
- **Science Saturday – Grow Your Garden** Saturday, May 14, 1 pm – 4 pm, Hagley Museum, 201 Hagley Creek Rd, Wilmington, DE. Grow your knowledge of plants and biology. Families work together to solve science mysteries and engineering challenges. Included in regular admission and free for members. <http://www.visitdelaware.com/event-detail/science-saturday-%26%238211%3b-grow-your-garden/28046/>
- **5th Annual Mullica Hill Arts and Crafts Festival** Saturday, May 14, 11 am – 4 pm, Main Street, Mullica Hill, NJ. Sponsored by Mullica Hill Merchants Association. Art of every type, food, music, children's activities. Free. Rain date May 15. <http://www.delawaretoday.com/Delaware-Today/Calendar/index.php/name/Mullica-Hill-Arts-and-Crafts-Festival/event/20119/>
- **Cinderella by Delaware Dance Company** Saturday, May 21, 2 pm & 7pm and Sunday, May 22, 2 pm, Thompson Theatre in the Roselle Center for the Arts, 110 Orchard Avenue, Newark, DE. This production of the beloved fairy tale features full stage sets, elegant costuming, excellent comic acting and beautiful dancing. Engaging to audience members of all ages. Reserved tickets \$28/Adult, \$22/Senior and \$15/Child, 10 years and younger. Handheld infants 2 years or younger do not require a ticket. <http://delawaredancecompany.org/spring-performance/>
- **Fish'N'Kids** Sunday, May 22, 10 am – 12 noon, Lewes Canalfont Park, 211 Front Street, Lewes, DE. Activities for children from 3-12 years including making and using fishing poles and decorating fish-embossed T-shirts. Free T-shirts to the first 50 kids, or bring your own t-shirt for correct sizing. Enjoy water-related games, surf-fishing/net-casting instruction and demonstrations by members of DelawareSurfFishing.com and kayak/stand-up paddle board demonstrations. Free. <http://www.delawaretoday.com/Delaware-Today/Calendar/index.php/name/Fish-n-Kids/event/17527/>
- **Bowers Beach Buccaneer Bash** Friday, May 27, 6-10 pm; Saturday, May 28, 10 am – 6 pm & Sunday, May 29, 10 am – 5 pm. North Bowers Beach, DE. Presented by Bowers Beach Maritime Museum. 4th Annual Pirate Fest! Memorial Day Weekend "Pub Crawl" - Bowers style - held Friday evening, followed by two days of pirate fun for the whole family. If you need an excuse to dress like a pirate, this is it! Free. <http://www.delawarescene.com/event/16888/bowers-beach-buccaneer-bash>
- **Memorial Day BBQ** Friday, May 28; Saturday, May 29; Sunday, May 30. Times vary with reservations. Sesame Place, 100 Sesame Road, Langhorne, PA. Celebrate Memorial Day with everyone's favorite Sesame Street® friends. Enjoy an open air, traditional holiday BBQ in Big Bird's Riverside Pavilion. After a fun-filled dinner, enjoy a spectacular fireworks show at 9PM, Saturday and Sunday only, set to Sesame Street music. Paid park admission required in addition to dinner reservations. <https://sesameplace.com/en/langhorne/events/memorial-day-bbq>

As your family heads outdoors and away from home this month, please be reminded that your child can enjoy age appropriate, quality technology games and activities with our free **TECHSTARS TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION** app curated by Playrific. Download this app to your mobile device from the App Store or Google Play. The username is **TechStar** and the password is **TechTurtle**, valid through August 31, 2016.

Sincerely,

Roni Deely

Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



www.computerexplorers.com/de