

JUNE 2016 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 19, 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.history.com/topics/holidays/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 to learn what's new as you play together to discover what sparks your imaginations and brings joy and learning to your home. Families of young children can find a short list of best websites for young kids to make learning early skills easier at <http://fun.familyeducation.com/toddler/internet/64909.html>. Families looking to interest a wider age range may appreciate the free apps suggested at <http://fun.familyeducation.com/mobile-apps/online-games/69665.html?page=1>. See and read about new family technology products on the horizon like Edwin the Duck, Fisher Price Code-A-Pillar, the tooth brushing Grush and more at <http://www.irishtimes.com/business/technology/ces-2016-family-tech-big-hit-at-tech-show-1.2491768>. Remember that moderation is the best approach, so don't forget to include reading books, taking walks in your neighborhood and playing at the park to make the most of 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, 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 Shop after your game for a yummy snack. \$8/person and free for kids under 3 years with paid adult. <http://riverwalkminigolf.com/>
- **9th Annual Fire Company Appreciation Day at Woodside Creamery** Saturday, June 4, 12 noon – 7pm. Woodside Creamery, 1310 Little Baltimore Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707. Hockessin Fire Company- Station 19 will be on the farm with their fire trucks and ambulance to say hello and promote fire safety. The firemen 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/2016/06/04/410/20/annual-fire-company-appreciation-day>

- **Steamin' Day Birthday Bash at Auburn Heights** Sunday, June 5, 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm. 3000 Creek Road (Route 82), Yorklyn, DE 19736. Bring your family to this once-in-a-century celebration and wish 2 of this museum's antique cars a Happy 100th Birthday. Sign a giant birthday card. Snap a special photo, complete with period costumes. Make your own vintage inspired "operator's" license to take home. Enjoy the birthday cake. Regular admission rates apply; choose from Rides, Mansion Tour or Combo ticket options. <http://auburnheights.org/visit/birthdaybash/>
- **Wilmington Greek Festival** Tuesday, June 7 – Saturday, June 11, 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. <http://greekfestde.com/>
- **Pufferbelly Steampunk Express** Saturday, June 11. Train departures hourly from 10:30 am – 2:30 pm. Wilmington and Western Railroad, Greenbank Station, 2201 Newport Gap Pike (Route 41 North), Wilmington, DE 19808. This steam-infused spectacle is rooted in the neo-Victorian themes of the Steampunk culture. The event will include hourly 40-minute steam-powered train rides, musical entertainment, plenty of unique photo opportunities, food vendors and more. Passengers are encouraged to wear their finest Steampunk and Victorian attire. \$10/person coach seating, children under 2 free. Open air seating option, \$1/person additional. <http://www.wvrr.com/events/50years/steampunk.aspx>
- **St. Anthony's Italian Festival** Sunday, June 12 – Sunday, June 19, recurring daily, hours vary. St. Anthony of Padua Church, 901 N. DuPont Street, Wilmington, DE 19805. Enjoy the beauty and richness of Renaissance art and culture, which continues to inspire us even in today's contemporary, hi-tech society. Food, music, fun for the entire family. <http://www.stanthonyfestival.com/>
- **Family Fun Night at the Brandywine Zoo** Tuesday, June 21, 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 22. <http://www.brandywinezoo.org/special-events.html>
- **New Castle County Ice Cream Festival** Saturday, June 25, 10 am – 7 pm & Sunday, June 26, 10 am – 5 pm. Rockwood Park, 4651 Washington St. Extension, Wilmington, DE 19809. Enjoy this annual frozen festival where locally produced ice creams battle it out in the "Best Sundae on Sunday" competition. After brain freeze sets in, warm up with live music, children's activities and un-iced food from local restaurants and vendors. \$5 Admission/Cash only at Admission Gate. Free for kids 12 and under. <http://rockwoodicecream.com/>
- **Delaware Taco Festival** Saturday, June 25, 11 am – 6 pm. Frawley Stadium, 801 Shipyard Drive, Wilmington, DE 19801. Come out to enjoy over 30 Taco Vendors & food trucks, carnival rides, live entertainment, a Chili Pepper Eating Contest, a Margarita Beach Bar and more. Tickets available online, admission varies. Free for kids 6 years and under. Free parking. <http://www.delawaretacofest.com/>

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, 2016. 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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