

## JANUARY 2018 DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER



Dear **TechStars** Families,

Technology continues to grow and shape our world. Children as “digital natives” take these advances in their stride, never having known anything else. Adults as “digital immigrants” play a constant game of catch up as new devices and software are added to our technology toolboxes. With new advances coming into our daily lives faster and faster, it is important to identify and put to use the positive effects that technology offers us while maintaining a balance of digital use by all members of our families. Get started by reading 5 Simple Steps to a Healthy Family Media Diet written by Caroline Knorr for Common Sense Media at <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/5-simple-steps-to-a-healthy-family-media-diet>. Then watch the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s short informational video titled The Digital Diet: 5 Tips to Maintaining Healthy Balance at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UjSpzEVnNoQ&feature=youtu.be>. The common sense tips discussed in these resources are a good spring board for creating the digital balance that will work best for your family. Too much unsupervised screen time is certainly not the answer and may likely have negative effects on growing children. Quality family time together can never be replaced with a digital device; however, using new technology as a parent-child team to grow and learn together is the best of all worlds. We at **TechStars** take our role in introducing your child to new technology seriously and understand the benefits of developing interactive social skills in young children. We hope the knowledge our teachers share with your family is helpful and look forward to continuing with this mission in 2018.

January is set to arrive on the Delaware scene with chilly temperatures, harsh winter weather and the inevitable “cabin fever” that makes parents and children alike yearn to get out of the house and try new experiences. Consider these “un-plugged” activities your family can enjoy indoors at local venues:

- **Invention Convention** presented by Agilent Technologies at Hagley Museum. Sat, Jan 13; Sun, Jan 14 & Mon, Jan 15. Use Buck Rd Entrance, 298 Buck Rd, Wilmington, DE 19809. Explore the wonderful world of insects! Learn how the design and capabilities of insects inspire innovations that improve people’s lives. What do house flies, wasps, hawk moths, and dragonflies have in common? They are the muses of drone technology by helping engineers build them smaller, more durable, and more maneuverable. Look closely at a butterfly wing and marvel at how its structure informs high-tech computer screens. Want to survive in the desert? Look no further than the desert beetle, whose strategy to collect water informed a device that could provide enough water per day for the survival of humans. Have trouble hearing? Thank locusts and crickets for some of the latest innovations in hearing aid technology. Each day of this event, visitors can enjoy a science show, investigate the “insides” of an electronic gadget at the Tinkering Tables, and express their creative side in the Create-an-Invention area. To celebrate a job well done, a Hagley “patent” will be issued for every invention. Admission: \$8/Adults, \$6/Children 4-14 and Free/Children younger than 4 & Hagley members. Lunch and snacks are available at the Belin House Organic Café.  
<https://www.hagley.org/calendar/invention-convention-presented-agilent-technologies>
- **Movie – Boss Baby** at the Everett Theatre, 47 W Main St, Middletown, DE 19709. Fri, Jan 5 & Sat, Jan 6, at 7:30. A suit-wearing, briefcase-carrying baby pairs up with his 7 year old brother to stop the dastardly plot of the CEO of Puppy Co. Shown in partnership with Silver Lake Elementary. Rating/PG. Running Time/97 minutes. All seats/\$5.  
<http://everetttheatre.com/event/movie-boss-baby/2018-01-05/>

- **Movie – Inside Out** at the Everett Theatre, 47 W Main St, Middletown, DE 19709. Fri, Jan 26 & Sat, Jan 27, at 7:30. After young Riley is uprooted from her Midwest life and moved to San Francisco, her emotions – Joy, Fear, Anger, Disgust and Sadness – conflict on how best to navigate a new city, house, and school. Shown in partnership with Townsend Early Childhood Center. Rating/PG. Running Time/95 minutes. All seats/\$5.  
<http://everetttheatre.com/event/movie-inside-out/2018-01-26/>
- **Madagascar: A Musical Adventure / Theatre for Young Audiences Version** at Delaware Children' Theatre, 1014 Delaware Ave, Wilmington, DE 19808. Jan 13, 14, 20, 21, 27 & 28 (also Feb 3 & 4) at 2 pm. Based on the DreamWorks animated motion picture, this performance follows a merry band of animals as they escape from New York's Central Park Zoo and travel to the madcap world of King Julien's Madagascar. Filled with zany characters, wild adventures and upbeat songs, Madagascar will make you want to "Move It, Move It!" Adults/\$15, Children/\$14.  
<http://dechildrenstheatre.org/shows/madagascar/>
- **Altitude Trampoline Park** at 510 Justison Street, Wilmington DE 19801 on the Wilmington Riverfront is open 7 days a week, year round. Amenities include Main Court, Obstacle Courses, Kid's Court, Gymnastic Tumble Track, Extreme Dodge Ball and Fitness Classes. Book a birthday party. Take advantage of special offers for single jumpers, toddlers and teens. Waivers are required for all jumpers. <http://www.altitudewilmington.com/Altitude-Wilmington-Best-Trampoline-Park>

When your family is ready to explore the great outdoors, consider the following "un-plugged" suggestions:

- **New Year's Day Hike at Rockwood Park** at 4651 Washington Street Extension, 4651 Washington Street, Wilmington, DE 19809. Mon, Jan 1, 2018 from 1-2 pm; meet at Rockwood Park entrance. Start the New Year off right with a hike! Bring the whole family to enjoy a 1.5 mile easy to moderate hike along paved paths and wooded trails surrounding the beautiful Victorian Mansion. Warm up afterwards inside the Mansion with a cup of hot chocolate. Hikers receive a free pedometer while supplies last. Dress in layers and wear appropriate footwear. Bring water. Free. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-years-day-hike-at-rockwood-park-tickets-41123049147>
- **Horizon Riverfront Rink** at 301 Justison St, Wilmington, DE has returned for its 4<sup>th</sup> season! This 72' by 120' temporary public open-air ice skating rink can accommodate up to 350 skaters at once and is scheduled to remain open for skaters daily through Mar 4, 2018 with extended hours during the Holiday Break through Tues, Jan 2. Helmets are suggested but not required for children under 4 years. Open daily; hours vary. Operation is contingent upon weather and ice conditions. <http://riverfrontrink.com/>.

January brings a New Year full of hope, anticipation and challenges. Best wishes from our **TechStars** family to your family for a safe, happy and successful 2018!

Sincerely,

**Roni Deely**

Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



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