

## APRIL 2018 DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER



Dear **TechStars** Families,

April is a month to enjoy and embrace the re-awakening of the Earth in our local communities following this year's REALLY long, cold and snowy winter. Did you know April 22<sup>nd</sup> marks the annual celebration of Earth Day? What started as a grassroots movement in the late 1960s generated public support for the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and contributed to the passage of the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Improvement Act, the Endangered Species Act and several other environmental laws. Today, the Earth Day Network claims to collaborate with more than 17,000 partners and organizations in 174 countries. According to EDN, more than 1 billion people are involved in Earth Day activities, making it "the largest secular civic event in the world." Learn more about Earth Day at <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/earth-day>. Taking care of our Earth to insure that future generations will inherit a sustainable and livable planet is paramount. Teaching our children the finite reality of our natural resources does not need to be a daunting or formidable task. Start by switching off electric lights, televisions, computers and other appliances when leaving a room. Identify and sort household recyclable items from general trash for curbside pickup. Carry recyclable bags in your car to use when shopping. Your little ones will pick up on your cues and soon remind you of these Earth-friendly practices as well other ways to be kind to our planet every day of the year.

Making the most of our existing resources naturally turns our thoughts to the Maker Movement. Wilmington's Barrel of Makers (started December 3, 2012) is Delaware's FIRST and ONLY makerspace: a community center where makers of different skill levels and ages can come together to build and showcase projects. Members share space, tools, and knowledge with one another. Local makers are always excited to meet new people, because everyone adds a new perspective and ideas. Currently Barrel of Makers sponsors Maker Mondays from 6-8:30 pm at the Route 9 Library and Innovation Center, 3022 New Castle Ave, New Castle DE 19720. Jessica Taylor, Barrel of Makers event organizer, shares her enthusiasm and expertise at the Bear Library, 101 Governors Place, Bear, DE 19701 on selected Saturdays to help interested children and families build their own simple robot in a 1 hour class. Hagley Museum's annual Maker Fest is a great opportunity to meet local makers and learn about their passion for creating. Discover more about these meetups and events at <https://www.meetup.com/BarrelofMakers/events/calendar/>. If you are a maker at heart, mark your calendar for the World Maker Faire in New York City, New York on September 22 and 23, 2018. The Greatest Show (& Tell) on Earth. Maker Faire is part science fair, part county fair and part something entirely new! As a celebration of the Maker Movement, it's a family-friendly showcase of invention, creativity and resourcefulness. Learn more at <https://makerfaire.com/new-york/>.

With more daylight time and warmer weather, many families are eager to enjoy the outdoors again. At **TechStars** we value "un-plugged" activities that encourage family fun and build lasting memories. Consider the following suggestions for your family:

- **Wilmington Blue Rocks Open Practice. Tues, Apr 3, 5:30-7 pm.** Frawley Stadium, 801 Shipyard Drive, Wilmington, DE 19801. Baseball is back! This first event of the season is totally **free** and fans can watch the 2018 team taking batting practice, grab dinner, meet the players, get autographs and gear up at The Quarry Team Store! <http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t426>
- **Wilmington Blue Rocks Opening Game at the Riverfront. Thurs, Apr 12, Gates open 5:30 pm/First pitch 6:35 pm.** Frawley Stadium, 801 Shipyard Drive, Wilmington, DE 19801. Bring the whole family to watch the Blue Rocks, Delaware's Minor League baseball team, take the field to play the Lynchburg Hillcats. The first 5,000 fans through the gates will receive a 2018 Schedule Magnet Giveaway presented by Kunzler & Company, Inc. <http://www.milb.com/schedule/index.jsp?sid=t426>
- **Christina River Watershed Cleanup. Sat, Apr 14, 8 – 11 am.** Volunteers are needed to support Delaware's largest urban clean-up throughout the Christina River Watershed. Pre-registration is required. Select your location of choice along the Christina River from Newark to Wilmington.

Free/Children welcome. Register at <http://www.christinarivercleanup.org/> or call Shirley Posey, Cleanup Director, at (302) 307-2757.

- **Sensory Friendly Show: Acrobats of Cirque-tacular®. Sun, Apr 15, 3 pm.** The Grand Opera House, 818 N. Market St, Wilmington, DE 19801. This grand show brings the best of entertainment from across the genres to one stage for a singular awe-inspiring, breath-taking display... bigger, better, and bolder than before. Sensory-Friendly Family Programming welcomes children of all ages with autism or other sensory, social, or learning disabilities to enjoy the experience of live entertainment together with their families in a safe and comfortable environment. These performances are made possible by **Next Generation-North of the Delaware Community Foundation** and **DFRC**, in partnership with **Autism Delaware** and **Easterseals**. Tickets \$18/person. <https://www.thegrandwilmington.org/productions/223-acrobats-of-cirque-tacular>
- **2018 Wilmington Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration. Friday, April 20, 11 am – 2 pm.** Rodney Square, 10<sup>th</sup> & Market Streets, Wilmington, DE 19801. Visitors will enjoy free native plants and other giveaways (while supplies last), free raffles, dozens of vendors offering green products/services/travel tips, food trucks selling lunches and live bluegrass music by Acoustic Turnpike. This Rain or Shine wheelchair accessible annual event is sponsored by the City of Wilmington and its chief collaborator, the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. <http://www.delawareestuary.org/calendar-of-events-and-workshops/wilmington-earth-day-celebration/>
- **Hagley Maker Fest. Sat, Apr 28, 10 am – 5 pm.** Hagley Museum, 200 Hagley Creek Rd, Wilmington, DE 19810. Part science fair, part community fair and part something entirely new, this event is an all-ages gathering of tech enthusiasts, crafters, educators, tinkerers, hobbyists, engineers, science clubs, authors, artists, students and commercial exhibitors. All of these “Makers” are eager to show what they have made and to share what they have learned. This event features demonstrations from area makers showcasing craftsmanship and technology. Food and beverages available for purchase; free beer samples. Held on Hagley's upper property and in and around the Soda House. Use Hagley's 298 Buck Road entrance. Admission \$10 for Adults, \$5 for Hagley Members and Youth 6-18, Free for children under 6. (Discounted tickets available online until April 26<sup>th</sup>/\$8 for adults & \$3 for Hagley Members and Youth 6-18) <https://www.hagley.org/calendar/maker-fest>
- **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Bug & Bud Festival. Sat, Apr 28, 9 am – 4 pm.** Walnut St, Front St and Mispillion Riverwalk, Milford, DE 19963. This festival serves as a celebration of Arbor Day, the City of Milford's designation as a Tree City U.S.A. and Milford's role in the ladybug's designation as the State Bug of Delaware. Festival highlights are the traditional Ladybug and Tree, costumed parade for kids and pets, local entertainment, 100+ arts & crafts vendors, Kid's Korner, children's art show and “green-themed” nature related hands-on activities including seedling tree giveaways and flower plantings. Popular attractions include paddle boat rides, children's games, a Chalk Art contest and more. RAIN or SHINE. FREE. <http://downtownmilford.org/events/2018-annual-bug-bud-festival/>
- **Disney's Aladdin Jr. Sat, Apr 28 & Sun, Apr 29, 2 pm.** Delaware Children's Theatre, 1014 Delaware Ave, Wilmington, DE 19806. When street urchin Aladdin falls in love with the beautiful Princess Jasmine, he needs help from a clever Genie to outsmart the devious Jafar and win her hand. Based on the beloved animated film, this one-hour show will send you soaring on a flying carpet ride filled with music and magic! Recommended for children age 4 and older. Tickets \$14/\$15. (Additional shows on May 5, 6, 12, 19 & 20/No show on May 13<sup>th</sup>, Mother's Day) <http://dechildrenstheatre.org/shows/aladdin-jr/>

Best wishes to your family for a healthy, active and happy month. When the weather sends you indoors this month, just remember the familiar saying, “April showers bring May flowers.”

Sincerely,

**Roni Deely**

Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



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