

## MAY 2018 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 13. 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>.

Do you find "screen time" and use of mobile devices becoming more and more commonplace in your life? If you answered "Yes" rest assured that you are not alone. With adults increasingly abandoning land lines and desktop computers in favor of cell phones and laptops or tablets this outcome is inevitable. As responsible parents, we wisely seek to limit "screen time" for our young children. In doing so, we must be careful not to become hypocritical. Leading by example is wise and helps to build good habits for adults and children alike. Where "screen time" is concerned, setting clear limits, prioritizing use, practicing what you preach and enforcing the rules now can build a better tomorrow for our families. We cannot predict how changes and improvements in technology will impact daily life in the future, but we can begin now to prepare our children to make responsible choices as they grow up in this progressively complex world. Find a short article on this subject by Vivian Manning-Schnaffel for NBC News at <https://www.nbcnews.com/better/health/realistic-screen-time-solutions-kids-their-parents-ncna850056>.

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

- **Horses to Horsepower / 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Dover Days Festival** (Saturday, May 5) & **NASCAR Spring Races** (Friday, May 4 – Saturday, May 6). Dover Days, one of Delaware's largest and longest-running free events, is entirely dedicated to promoting our state's heritage and culture. Dover Days parade is easily the biggest parade in Kent County, with Delaware's Governor serving as Grand Marshall. In addition to the parade, activities include traditional Maypole Dancing, vintage automobile rides, games, moon bounce village, 125+ craft and food vendors, music, colonial artisans' village and historic re-enactment groups for the Revolutionary War, WW II and the Civil War. Dover Days is a true celebration of the First State – right in the heart of the first capital. NASCAR weekend starts with the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race on Friday, May 4, and continues with the "OneMain Financial 200" NASCAR XFINITY Series Dash 4 Cash race on Saturday, May 5. The "AAA 400 Drive for Autism" Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series is set for Sunday, May 6. This is truly a weekend in Dover with something for everyone! <https://www.visitdelawarevillages.com/events-calendar/top-dover-events/dover-days/>
- **Disney's Aladdin Jr** Saturdays & Sundays, May 5, 6, 12, 19 & 20 at 2 pm. Delaware Children's Theatre, 1014 Delaware Ave, Wilmington, DE. 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 Jasmine's hand. Based on the beloved animated film, Disney's Aladdin Jr. will send your family soaring on a flying carpet ride filled with music and magic! This one-hour show is suitable for ages 4 years and older. No show on Mother's Day, May 13. Tickets \$14/\$15 online.

<http://dechildrenstheatre.org/shows/aladdin-jr/>

- **First Sundays for Families/Once Upon a Masterpiece** Sunday, May 6, 11 am - 2 pm. Brandywine River Museum of Art, 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd, Chadds Ford, PA 19317. Join in the fantasy of folklore and fairytales inspired by illustrations from the Museum's collection and "Folktale Fun" with internationally acclaimed storyteller TAHIRA at 11 am and noon. (TAHIRA is a storyteller, musician and vocalist whose high-energy performances delight listeners of all ages. She had the prestigious honor of representing the National Association of Black Storytellers, Inc. at the internationally acclaimed PANAFEST festival in Ghana, West Africa.) At 11 am and 1 pm, take part in a "Rapunzel" meet and greet. Throughout the event, families are invited to participate in ongoing art activities with teaching artists: make your own fairy-tale finger puppets, create a friends and family coat of arms and assemble a wearable crown or hat. First Sundays for Families presents free, hands-on workshops designed to engage visitors of all ages in creative art activities and performances. Free; no registration necessary. <http://www.brandywine.org/museum/events/first-sundays-families>
- **98<sup>th</sup> Annual Wilmington Flower Market** Thursday, May 10; Friday, May 11 & Saturday, May 12; 10 am – 8 pm daily. Rockford Park, 2629 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilmington, DE. This traditional 3-day fair and festival celebrates growth and new beginnings, through the saplings that are for sale and for the children's causes it supports. From perennials to petunias, with some herbs thrown in for flavor, you'll find everything you need to start your garden for the year, along with music from nationally touring bands, crafts and food vendors and carnival rides for the kids. Rain or shine. Free. (*Wilmington Flower Market Inc. is a tradition, a corporation and an all-volunteer fundraising organization dedicated to improving the lives of Delaware's children. Money raised is distributed to a wide range of charities throughout the state supporting Delaware's most valuable resource - our children.*) <https://wilmingtonflowermarket.org/>
- **The Frog Prince** Friday, May 11, at 7 pm; Saturday, May 12, at 7 pm & Sunday, May 13, at 2 pm. Riverfront Theater, 2 South Walnut Street, Milford, DE 19963. This Children's Theater live performance by the Second Street Players is sure to delight families. General admission/Pay at the door/No reservations. Friday performance is Pay What You Can/Donations only. Saturday and Sunday tickets are \$5/Child & \$10/Adult. <http://www.secondstreetplayers.com/aboutTheFrogPrince.html>
- **Disney's Sleeping Beauty Kids** Saturday, May 12 & 19 at 11 am & 2 pm and Sunday, May 13 & 20 at 2 pm only. Everett Theatre, 47 W. Main Street, Middletown, DE 19709. Based on one of Disney's most treasured animated films of all time, and featuring some of the world's most memorable songs, this show is sure to delight families. It's Princess Aurora's sixteenth birthday, and three fairies – Flora, Fauna and Merryweather – must use their magic to save her from the spell of the evil sorceress, Maleficent! The fairies ensure that Aurora only falls into a deep sleep that can be ended with a kiss from her betrothed, Prince Phillip. To prevent Phillip from rescuing Aurora, Maleficent kidnaps and imprisons him. The good fairies are the last hope to free Phillip so that he can awaken

Aurora. Running time is 30 minutes. All seats \$8; purchase tickets online.  
<https://everetttheatre.com/disneys-sleeping-beauty-kids/>

- **Fifer Orchards Strawberry Festival** Saturday, May 19, 10 am – 4 pm. Rain Date/Saturday, May 26. Fifer Orchards Farm and Country Store, 1919 Allabands Mill Road, Camden Wyoming, DE 19934. Strawberries, delicious foods and family festival fun awaits with free live music and pay-as-you go family activities including farm tours, tractor-train rides, jump pad, face painting, kids' bounces and a farm animal exhibit. Please bring cash as some vendors do not accept credit cards. Pick your own strawberries in the fields or purchase pre-picked berries in the store.  
<https://www.fiferorchards.com/events/strawberry-festival-2018/>
- **Follies: Architectural Whimsy in the Garden** Ongoing from April 1, 2018 - January 5, 2020. Winterthur, 5105 Kennett Pike (Route 52), Winterthur, DE 19735. Escape into the imaginative world of garden follies to enjoy Winterthur's first-ever exhibition of whimsical and classic garden structures. Thirteen fantastic structures await discovery and exploration—from a Gothic-inspired tower, an Ottoman tent, and neoclassical follies to a Chinese pavilion, American summerhouses, an enchanting faerie cottage, and creative contemporary follies—all set within Henry Francis du Pont's majestic garden. Whether by foot or tram, plan for outdoor adventure with a twist of fun! All admission tickets include Enchanted Woods, an award-winning garden for children, and an introductory tour of du Pont's mansion. Members Free; Admission price varies.  
<http://www.winterthur.org/follies&src=hpslider1>

Our **TechStars** family appreciates your support of our program and hopes your child has enjoyed his/her technology lessons as much as my instructors have enjoyed sharing our STEM curriculum. Much success and happiness in the future is wished to our students who will be moving on to new schools at the close of this academic year. We look forward to continuing our STEM classes with students who will remain in their current schools, as well as their siblings and friends. Please visit our website at [www.computerexplorers.com/de](http://www.computerexplorers.com/de) to learn more about the classes and camps that **TechStars** will offer during the summer months.

Sincerely,

**Roni Deely**

Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



[www.computerexplorers.com/de](http://www.computerexplorers.com/de)