

NOVEMBER 2018 DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER



Dear **TechStars** Families,

November is the time of year when my staff and I are thankful for our good fortune and good friends. We at **TechStars** are thankful for the opportunity to share our STEM curriculum with your child and for the continuing support of parents, teachers and directors at Brilliant Little Minds, Caravel Academy, Children's House Montessori School, Concord Preschool & Childcare, Green Acres, Grow and Learn, Kids Korner, Kind Minds Kids, La Petite, MOT Charter, Nannies, Nemours Child Development Center and Tower Hill After School. Thank you for choosing **TechStars**!

Does your child have access to a digital device on a daily basis? For most families the answer is probably yes. Digital devices are becoming more and more a part of daily life in many families – both at home and on the go. Fortunately there is an increasing variety of engaging educational apps designed especially for young children. Research by the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) has shown that screen time can be learning time for young children, especially when this activity is shared with a peer or an adult. As we all know, moderation is key. Digital learning is most valuable when integrated into your child's day with activities like physical play and structured family time. Finding the right mix is determined by what works best for your child and your family. Parents and teachers can benefit from working together to offer children quality digital media experiences that are age appropriate, demonstrate good digital citizenship skills and set time limits for use of digital devices. **TechStars** is proud to provide quality technology lessons in small group settings that teach technology skills as well as reinforce academic skills and promote social skills including collaboration. We are dedicated to staying in close contact with the families of our students so that together we can better prepare our children for the digital world of tomorrow. Find a short article titled "AAP Says Interactive Screen Time for Kids Can Be Healthy" written by Angela Tague for **familyeducation**® at <https://www.familyeducation.com/technology-learning/aap-says-interactive-screentime-kids-can-be-healthy>.

Reminder: Daylight Saving Time **ends** on November 4, 2018. When local daylight time is about to reach Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 2:00:00 AM clocks are turned backward 1 hour to 1:00:00 AM local standard time. Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on Nov 4, 2018 than the day before.

The end of Daylight Saving Time and the increasing chill in the autumn air means more time at home is spent indoors. This is the perfect opportunity to investigate Warren Bukleitner's **Little Clickers** at <http://littleclickers.com/>. Does your child ask questions that you sometimes don't know the answer to? Buckleitner's website encourages safe, fun internet investigations for children – and their families. Encourage your child's curiosity about his/her world by looking into topics of interest. Recent monthly topics include Fred Rogers, Plastics, Caves, Dinosaurs and Exploring Scratch. For more topics that may interest your family, scroll down to the bottom of the page. Choose a favorite and click to begin your internet adventures together.

Each month this newsletter offers a list of several family-friendly, off-screen activities. A few “un-plugged” activities your family may wish to consider for November include:

- **Autumn Leaf Special Train Ride to Hockessin. Greenbank Station**, 2201 Newport Gap Pike, Wilmington, DE 19808. Sat, Nov 3 & Sun, Nov 4. Final weekend! Bring your camera and enjoy the autumn colors of the Red Clay Valley. **MT. CUBA PICNIC GROVE** *1½-hour round-trip*: Enjoy a ½-hour layover at our secluded picnic grove along the banks of the Red Clay Creek. Pack a picnic lunch (or purchase food and drinks at Greenbank Station) to enjoy during the stop. **HOCKESSIN** *2½-hour round-trip*: Travel the entire length of the railroad (a 17-mile round-trip) to the town of Hockessin and spend a ½-hour layover in Hockessin, where your family can browse the local shops or purchase food for the return trip from one of several eateries near the tracks. Reservations are strongly suggested. Sell out is very likely. Prices vary. <http://wwrr.com/ride/events/autumn-leaf.aspx> (Don't miss the **Santa Claus Express** on Sat, Nov 24 & Sun, Nov 25.)
- **34th Annual Holiday Fair Fine Craft Show**. Rehoboth Art League, 12 Dodds Lane, Henlopen Acres, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971. Sat, Nov 3 & Sun, Nov 4. RAIN OR SHINE. Take a family road trip to the beach and stop for a unique art and shopping opportunity. Stroll the historic Homestead, Chambers Studio, and the Corkran and Tubbs galleries where more than two dozen artisans will exhibit and sell jewelry, glassworks, pottery, clay sculpture, painting, woodworking, mixed media and decorative and wearable fiber creations. Pastries, coffee and lunch options will be for sale in the Children's Studio by The Point. Event underwriter, Dogfish Head, will offer craft beer in the 'Paynter's Pub.' Weekend entry fee is \$5/adult. No charge for children under the age of 12. Purchase tickets at the door. <https://www.rehobothartleague.org/events/holiday-fair/>
- **Science Saturday: Invention Convention Sneak Peek. Hagley Museum and Library**, 200 Hagley Creek Rd, Wilmington, DE 19807. Sat, Nov 10. Visitors of all ages are invited to discover solutions to science and engineering challenges. This is a drop-in activity, feel free to join the fun at any time from 1 to 4 p.m. Activities are included in admission and free to members. Use Hagley's main entrance off Route 141 in Wilmington, Delaware. <https://www.hagley.org/calendar/science-saturday---invention-convention-sneak-peek>
- **Special Sensory Event. LEGOLAND Discovery Center**, Plymouth Meeting Mall, Unit #1055, 500 W Germantown Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462. Tues, Nov 20, 5-7 pm. Tickets \$8. Limited to families with children and adolescents 17 and under on the autism spectrum. Special accommodations include staff training by The Ruttenberg Autism Center, music therapy sessions with Music Works, reduction of sound and light levels in certain areas, quiet spaces and reduced center capacity. <https://philadelphia.legolanddiscoverycenter.com/whats-inside/events/special-sensory-day/>
- **Scrooge The Musical. Delaware Children's Theatre**, 1014 Delaware Ave, Wilm, DE 19806. Sat & Sun, Nov 17, 18, 24 & 25. (also Dec 1, 2, 8 & 9). The Christmas Carol story always delights and touches the heart as Scrooge and Tiny Tim deliver the best of the holiday season. Admission \$14/child & \$15/adult. <http://www.dechildrenstheatre.org/>
- **Elf The Musical JR. The Everett Theater, 47 W. Main St., Middletown, DE 19709**. Fri, Nov 23; Sat, Nov 23 & Sun, Nov 25. Buddy, a young orphan, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he

is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity. Faced with the harsh reality that his father is on the naughty list and that his half-brother doesn't even believe in Santa, Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas. Show times vary. All tickets \$10. <https://www.everetttheatre.com/2018-2019-tickets>

- **Thanksgiving Weekend Family Programming. Hagley Museum and Library**, 200 Hagley Creek Rd, Wilmington, DE 19807. Fri, Nov 23 – Sun, Nov 25. 10 am – 4 pm daily. Bring your family and friends to enjoy the holidays at Hagley. While in the Visitor Center, view the entries of the gingerbread house competition and try your hand at gingerbread decorating. Visit Eleutherian Mills Residence decorated for the holiday season featuring “The Magic of Miniatures”. Don't forget to visit Workers' Hill where you can sample ginger cookies in the Gibbons House and write with a quill pen in the Sunday School. Included in admission and free for members. Use Hagley's main entrance off Route 141 in Wilmington, Delaware. <https://www.hagley.org/calendar/thanksgiving-weekend-family-programming> (**Annual Holidays at Hagley Exhibit** opens Fri, Nov 23 and runs through Tues, Jan 1; closed Tues, Dec 25)
- **Holiday Bricktacular. LEGOLAND Discovery Center**, Plymouth Meeting Mall, Unit #1055, 500 W Germantown Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462. Starting Sat, Nov 24 & continuing through Sun, Dec 30; weekends only. Meet LEGO Santa. Stop by hot cocoa and cookie station in Coffee Shop & Café. Take part in holiday scavenger hunt. See MINILAND Philadelphia as a Winter Wonderland. Build a LEGO Ornament to decorate the holiday tree. Visit Creative Workshop for holiday tips from our Master Model Builder. Trade minifigures with the staff. Dress up in your favorite ugly sweater. <https://philadelphia.legolanddiscoverycenter.com/whats-inside/events/holiday-bricktacular/>

Best wishes to your family for a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday!

Sincerely,

Roni Deely

Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



www.computerexplorers.com/de