

JANUARY 2019 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 bounty. One of our most important tasks is to identify and implement the positive effects that technology offers users of all ages while maintaining a balance of screen time by all members of our families. How many digital screens are found in your home? The answer is probably more than you think! TV used to be the only screen, but that is no longer the case. [8 Rules for Family Screen Time](#), written by Shawn Bean for Parenting shares how some families are adapting to the growing number of digital screens in their homes. Read Bean’s article at <https://www.parenting.com/article/family-screen-time-rules>. Clearly unlimited, unsupervised screen time is not the answer and most likely will result in negative effects on everyone in the home. Using current technology as a parent-child team to grow and learn together can be quite rewarding for all concerned; however, opportunities for face-to-face interpersonal time together remain valuable and important for building strong family connections. 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 2019.

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:

- **Sensory Friendly Train Morning** at Brandywine River Museum, 1 Hoffman’s Mill Rd, Chadds Ford, PA 19317. Sat, Jan 5, 8:30-9:30 am. Individuals on the autism spectrum or with sensory processing disorder and their families are invited for early access to the Museum’s Brandywine Railroad, a holiday favorite featuring O-gauge model trains running on nearly 2,000 feet of track. This unique opportunity was created in conjunction with occupational therapists and local families. **This event is at capacity. To be added to a waitlist or to request information about future sensory-friendly events, contact Laura Westmoreland at LWestmoreland@brandywine.org or 610-388-8120.** <https://www.brandywine.org/museum/events/sensory-friendly-train-morning>
- **Terrific Trains** at Brandywine River Museum, 1 Hoffman’s Mill Rd, Chadds Ford, PA 19317. Sun, Jan 6, 10 am – 12 noon. Last chance this season for your family to see the Brandywine Railroad and get creative with train crafts at the Brandywine River Museum of Art. Free with museum admission; price varies. <https://www.brandywine.org/museum/events/terrific-trains-family-program>
- **Seuss The Musical / Theatre for Young Audiences** at Delaware Children’ Theatre, 1014 Delaware Ave, Wilmington, DE 19808. Jan 5, 6, 12, 13 19 & 20 at 2 pm. Join the fun as Dr. Seuss’s best-loved characters romp in an unforgettable musical featuring Horton the Elephant and the Cat in the Hat. Adults/\$15, Children/\$14. <http://www.dechildrenstheatre.org/>
- **Invention Convention** presented by Agilent Technologies at Hagley Museum. Sun, Jan 20, & Mon, Jan 21, 10 am-4 pm. Buck Rd Entrance (GPS Address) 298 Buck Rd, Wilmington, DE 19807. Learn how to survive in outer space – what to wear, what to eat and drink and how to keep fit in microgravity. Enjoy hands-on activities and learn fun facts about space travel. Enjoy an interactive science fair, Tinkering Tables and Create an Invention where your family can earn

a Hagley Patent. \$8/Adults, \$6/Children 4-14 and Free/Children younger than 4 & Hagley members. <https://www.hagley.org/calendar/invention-convention-presented-agilent-technologies>

- **AltitudeTrampoline 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, Trampoline Basketball, Extreme Dodge Ball, Fitness Classes and Air Bag. Admission prices vary. Waivers are required for all jumpers. <https://www.altitudewilmington.com/Altitude-Wilmington-Best-Trampoline-Park>
- **Family Second Sundays** at Delaware Art Museum, 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806. Sun, Jan 13, 10 am – 3 pm. Drop in for a full day of programs designed for families including Art Museum Babies, Young Artists Storytime, Lunch Bunch and Sunday Studio. Free; suggested \$10 donation. https://www.delart.org/event/family-second-sundays/?instance_id=13517
- **Delaware Children's Museum** at 550 Justison St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Bring your family to the first and only children's museum in Delaware. DCM's mission is to inspire children to explore, discover, and celebrate the power of their potential through interactive experiences in an environment that integrates and stimulates science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. Closed most Mondays. Hours and admission price vary; members free. Don't miss "\$5 Fridays After 5 pm" featuring special extended hours until 8pm, unique programming, and discounted pricing for guests arriving after 5pm. <http://delawarechildrensmuseum.org/>

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. Tues, Jan 1, 2019 from 1-2 pm; meet at entrance to the Rockwood Museum. 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. Dress in layers and wear appropriate footwear. Bring water. Free. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-new-years-day-hike-at-rockwood-park-tickets-50781331329?aff=aff0eventful>
- **Horizon Riverfront Rink** at 301 Justison St, Wilmington, DE has returned for its 5th 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 9, 2019. Helmets are suggested but not required for children under 4 years. Open daily; hours vary. All major credit cards and gift cards accepted for admission and skate rental. **CASH PAYMENT NOT ACCEPTED.** 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 2019!

Sincerely,

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Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



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