

## FEBRUARY 2019 DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER



Dear **TechStars** Families,

Chances are by the time February appears on the calendar, your family has had its fill of Winter and can't quite imagine that Spring will ever arrive. Instead of focusing on the dreaded cabin fever indoors or suiting up your little ones in full on layered garb for yet another round of outdoor play, turn your focus to celebrating during the month that has so many reasons to be cheerful, rejoice and maybe even plan a party or two. Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, American History Month, Black History Month, American Heart Month, National Children's Dental Health Month, National Snack Food Month, International Friendship Month, National Cherry Month, National Embroidery Month, National Grapefruit Month, National Wild Bird Feeding Month and Responsible Pet Owners' Month are some of the reasons Apryl Duncan suggests to make the best of even the coldest, darkest days in February. Read her brief article, Fun Activities for Families to Enjoy in February, published in the spruce at <https://www.thespruce.com/family-activities-to-enjoy-in-february-4134466>. Then ask your children to decide on their favorites and get to work planning your family's festivities together. By the time the fun stops, Spring may be just around the corner!

News reports tell us that flu season has arrived in Delaware. Hopefully your family has already received their annual flu vaccine which is the best way to avoid contracting this dreaded virus. Frequent handwashing and keeping away from sick people are proven common sense ways to avoid illness. Following these guidelines can lessen the severity of symptoms and shorten the duration of sickness for those who are unfortunate enough to suffer with the flu. Learn more about the symptoms of influenza and how influenza differs from a common cold at <https://www.stanfordchildrens.org/en/topic/default?id=influenza-flu-in-children-90-P02514>. Get answers to frequently asked questions about the 2018-19 influenza season at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/flu-season-2018-2019.htm>.

Consider the following "un-plugged" local resource activities for February that are sure to warm hearts and bring smiles to family members of all ages:

- **Showing the Love Event: Dedicated to DMNH's Live Animals. Fri, Feb 2, 5:30-8 pm.** Delaware Museum of Natural History, 4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807. We LOVE our live animals and we know you do too! Come out to an evening of family fun celebrating our amazing animals and Valentine's Day. Activities include Valentine's photo booth with live animals, raffles, animal toy workshop, animal art station, make & take animal valentines, trivia and games, vinegaroon naming contest, meet & greets with celebrity creatures and more. Bring an item from our wish list (coming soon) to receive one free admission per family/group. ALL proceeds from this event benefit the Museum's live animals. Valentine's snacks and beverages (including adult beverages) available for purchase. \$3 Members; \$3 plus the cost of admission for Non-Members. <http://www.delmnh.org/event/showing-the-love-event-dedicated-to-dmnh-live-animals/>
- **Fifer's Mid-Winter Sale. Fri, Feb 8 & Sat, Feb 9, 10 am – 4 pm.** Fifer Orchards Farm and Country Store, 1919 Allabands Mill Rd, Camden-Wyoming, DE 19934. Re-stock all your Fifer favorites during this 2-day sale! Find local honey, jams and jellies, ice cream,

Kilby Cream milk, Valentine's caramel apples, red velvet doughnuts, cider doughnuts and many other unique locally made items. <https://www.fiferorchards.com/events/mid-winter-sale/>

- **Victorine's Valentine's Day. Sat, Feb 9, 11 am – 4 pm.** Hagley Museum, 200 Hagley Creek Rd, Wilmington, DE 19807. This is a sweet family event with something for everyone. During Victorine's Valentine's Day, visitors can make a Victorian valentine using the "scrap" method, enjoy sweet sugar cookies, write valentine verses with a quill pen, and even take a photo with Victorine! This is a drop-in activity, included with admission; members free. Check [www.hagley.org](http://www.hagley.org) for updates in event of inclement weather. <https://www.hagley.org/calendar/victorine-s-valentine-s-day>
- **Chinese New Year Celebration: The Year of the Pig. Sat, Feb 10, 11 am – 3 pm.** Delaware Art Museum, 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806. This 13<sup>th</sup> annual celebration includes traditional Chinese art, activities and demonstrations with a special presentation by the Renaissance Chinese Opera Society. The Chinese American Community Center Folk and Lion Dance Troupes and Yo-Yo Club will perform. This program is co-presented with the Hanlin Chinese Culture Association. Free; donations accepted. [https://www.delart.org/event/chinese-new-year-celebration-year-of-the-pig/?instance\\_id=13638](https://www.delart.org/event/chinese-new-year-celebration-year-of-the-pig/?instance_id=13638)
- **OrKid Day, Mon, Feb 18, 11am-2pm.** Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348. Bring your family to the flower-filled Conservatory for art activities, storytelling and more. Discover the colors, patterns, and beauty of orchids. (OrKid Day is also scheduled for Sat, Mar 9.) Included with Gardens Admission. <https://longwoodgardens.org/events-and-performances/events/orkid-days>
- **Annie. Sat, Feb 23 & Sun, Feb 24, 2 pm. (also March 2, 3, 9 & 10).** Delaware Children's Theater, 1014 Delaware Ave, Wilmington, DE 19806. Everyone loves redheaded Orphan Annie and her dog Sandy, who find love and a home in one of the best family musicals ever written. All performances are fundraiser shows to support the historic theatre. Recommended for children 4+. Tickets \$16/\$18. <http://www.dechildrenstheatre.org/>

In the coming weeks, Mother Nature is almost certain to remind us that winter rules. Please know that when **TechStars** classes are cancelled due to inclement weather, your child's teacher will contact the site director to re-schedule this missed time. Families will be notified of the new class date as soon as possible. Stay safe, warm and happy this February.

Sincerely,

**Roni Deely**

Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



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