

## APRIL 2019 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 the long, dark, 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 1960's 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.

Ever evolving technology offers more and more opportunities for families – both adults and children – to interact with others in a virtual world; keeping our children safe as they navigate these cyber surroundings is extremely important. Three fathers in the UK wanted to make a difference and banded together to create [National Online Safety](https://nationalonlinesafety.com). This group's mission is to provide information that empowers parents, teachers, caregivers and others with the tools needed to keep ALL children safe online. Find helpful posters and guides that can spark meaningful conversations with children of all ages at <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/>. Families of young children may especially appreciate the 7 Questions Poster, Age Ratings Parent's Guide and Online Bullying Children's Guide. Please share this link with friends and families with older children who may already be more active online than your preschoolers. Note: **TechStars** does not endorse the products provided by this group, but rather offers this information as a free resource for your reference.

With more daylight hours 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 Opening Game at the Riverfront. Thurs, Apr 4, Gates open 1 hour before game starts/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 Salem Red Sox. The first 3,000 fans through the gates will receive a 2019 Schedule Magnet Giveaway courtesy of Kunzler & Company. <http://www.milb.com/schedule/index.jsp?sid=t426>
- **Christina River Watershed Cleanup. Sat, Apr 6, 9 am – 12 noon.** Volunteers are needed to support Delaware’s largest urban clean-up throughout the Christina River Watershed. This watershed provides more than 75% of the water supply for residents and businesses in New Castle County, Delaware. Since the Cleanup began in 1992, more than 360 tons of tires, appliances, household items, and other trash have been cleared from within the watershed. 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.
- **BunnyFest. Sat, Apr 6, 10 am – 12 noon.** Brandywine Zoo, 1001 North Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802. Visit the zoo on this “egg-cellent” day. Enjoy a special story time with the most popular bunny of spring - a real-life, giant bunny from the Zoo. Get your bunny whiskers painted on, make a bunny-ear craft and take part in a golden egg scavenger hunt with special prize eggs for the first 100 guests. Free with paid admission to the zoo. <https://brandywinezoo.org/event/bunnyfest/>
- **EGGstravaganza Breakfast and Egg Hunt. Sun, Apr 7 & Sun, Apr 14, 10 am – 12 noon.** Delaware Museum of Natural History, 4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807. Enjoy a morning at the Museum and we’ll fix a pancake breakfast for the whole family. After a wonderful meal, watch your children delight as they hunt for treat-filled eggs in the Museum’s backyard (weather permitting), explore the Museum’s exhibits including the current traveling exhibit *Design Zone*, visit our Nature Nook, and make a themed craft. Pre-registration required; varied seating times. \$7/DMNH Member or \$14/Non-Member, includes Museum admission, breakfast and event. Vegan option available for an additional \$2 per person. <http://www.delmnh.org/event/eggstravaganza-breakfast-egg-hunt-3/>
- **The Adventures of Princess Truheart. Sat, Apr 6, 13 & 27 and Sun, Apr 7, 14 & 28, 2 pm.** Delaware Children’s Theatre, 1014 Delaware Ave, Wilmington, DE 19806. An original musical introducing a feisty girl named Tru and her journey to meet the mysterious Sorcerer and become a real Princess. Featuring Snow White and Cinderella too! (No shows on Easter weekend, April 20 & 21) [http:// www.dechildrenstheatre.org/](http://www.dechildrenstheatre.org/)
- **2019 Everett Theatre Kids Gala. Sat, Apr 13, 6 - 9 pm.** The Gibby Arts Center, 51 W. Main St, Middletown, DE 19709. Support The Everett Inc at this annual event targeting ages 7-18. Enjoy a night of fun, food, friends, music, games and prizes. Come dressed as a favorite Broadway Character. \$10/Ticket, includes food & drink. Make reservations now, only 50 tickets available. <https://www.everetttheatre.com/2019-kids-gala>

- **Family 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Folktale Fun Performance. Sat, Apr 14, 1 pm.** Delaware Art Museum, 2301 Kentmere Pkwy, Wilmington, DE 19806. Folktale Fun is an interactive performance blending, story, music and call-n-response into a high-energy program. Folktale Fun features nationally recognized storyteller TAHIRA. Clever spiders, signifying monkeys and grinnin' buzzards are just some of the characters in the delightful tales TAHIRA will spin for families. Museum open 9am -3 pm with other special activities including Family Yoga, Art Museum Babies, Young Artist Storytime, Lunch Bunch and Sunday Studio. Free, suggested donation \$10.  
[https://www.delart.org/event/family-second-sundays/?instance\\_id=17191](https://www.delart.org/event/family-second-sundays/?instance_id=17191)
- **2019 Wilmington Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration. Wed, Apr 17, 11 am – 2 pm.** Rodney Square, 10<sup>th</sup> & Market Streets, Wilmington, DE 19801. The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) will help facilitate this celebration. Expect tree-themed activities and artwork, plus more unique places to lounge and enjoy the entertainment. The Wilmington Earth & Arbor Day Celebration is sponsored by the City of Wilmington with the PDE as its chief collaborator. Also featured: free native plants and other giveaways; vendors offering green products, services and tips; food trucks selling lunches and more; live music and a student art contest award ceremony and celebration. <http://www.delawareestuary.org/calendar-of-events-and-workshops/wilmington-earth-day-celebration/>
- **Party for the Planet Earth Day Celebration. Sat, Apr 20, 10 am – 1 pm.** Brandywine Zoo, 1001 North Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802. What can YOU do to help save species? Learn about what you can do to make EVERY DAY Earth Day during this special event. Free with paid admission to the zoo.  
<https://brandywinezoo.org/event/party-planet-earth-day-celebration/>
- **Hagley MakerFest. Sat, Apr 27, 11 am – 4 pm.** Hagley Museum, 200 Hagley Creek Rd, Wilmington, DE 19810. Enjoy a family-friendly festival of invention, creativity and resourcefulness as well as a celebration of the Maker movement. This event features demonstrations from area makers showcasing craftsmanship and technology in a wide variety of pursuits, from 3-D printing and robotics to fiber arts and woodworking. Admission: \$5/adults, \$3/youth 6-18 and FREE/Hagley members & children under 6. Agilent Technologies is the presenting sponsor.  
<https://www.hagley.org/calendar/maker-fest-0>

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,

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Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County

