

## MAY 2019 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 12. 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 tablets or laptops 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 an informative 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>. Another good read with thoughtful suggestions parents may find helpful is 9 secrets to managing your child's screen time by the Great Schools staff at <https://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/managing-your-childs-screen-time/>.

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

- **Honk!** Wednesday, May 1 - Sunday, May 12. Show times vary. Delaware Theatre Company, 200 Water Street, Wilmington, DE 19801. This heart-warming re-imagining of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Ugly Duckling" tells the story of Ugly, a plucky little bird who gets picked on by the other farmyard animals because he's different. Pushed out of the flock, he embarks on an adventure across the marsh, meeting an array of characters who teach him that it takes all sorts to make a world, and that he is much more than just his fowl looks. This miraculous musical is a "must see" for anyone who can relate to the plight of an outsider trying to fit in. Tickets \$25-\$57; price varies by seating location. <https://www.delawaretheatre.org/honk>
- **86<sup>th</sup> Annual Dover Days Festival** Saturday, May 4. Parade starts at 9:30 am. 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. <https://www.cityofdover.com/old-dover-days-4519>

- **A Year with Frog and Toad** Saturdays & Sundays, May 4, 5, 11, 18 & 19 at 2 pm. Delaware Children's Theatre, 1014 Delaware Ave, Wilmington, DE 19806. With a jazzy upbeat score, this charming show explores the friendship of Frog and Toad with touching life lessons along the way. This one-hour show is suitable for ages 4 years and older. No show on Mother's Day, May 12. Tickets \$14/\$15 online. <http://dechildrenstheatre.org/>
- **Wilmington Flower Market, Inc. 5K Run & Walk** Wednesday, May 8, registration opens 5 pm, race starts 6pm. Rockford Park, 2629 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilmington, DE. Meet at the Tower; \$20 per participant/\$25 day of race. Following the race relax and enjoy an after party combining food, drink (beer for those over 21) and awards ceremony. Per State of Delaware Park regulations all race participants must leave the park at sundown which is 8 pm. All proceeds from the race will be combined with all proceeds from the 3-day 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Wilmington Flower Market and be used to fulfill grant requests from various non-profit agencies across the State to benefit Delaware's Children. <https://www.athlinks.com/event/wilmington-flower-market-5k-run-and-walk-306945>
- **99<sup>th</sup> Annual Wilmington Flower Market** Thursday, May 9; Friday, May 10 & Saturday, May 11; 10 am – 8 pm Thurs & Fri; 10 am – 7 pm Sat. Rockford Park, 2629 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilmington, DE. This traditional 3-day fair and festival is more than just flowers, it's the place where thousands come to celebrate spring and new beginnings. Browse online to help plan your family's visit. 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, 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://www.wilmingtonflowermarket.org/>
- **Mary Poppins** Friday, May 10 & 17 at 7 pm; Saturday May 11 & 18 at 2 pm and 7 pm; Sunday, May 12 & 19 at 2 pm only. Everett Theatre, 47 W. Main Street, Middletown, DE 19709. Everyone's favorite practically perfect nanny takes the stage in this Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious musical adventure. Purchase tickets online: Adult/\$18, Senior/\$15, Student/\$15, Military/\$15 & Children Under 12/\$12. Due to show rights there are NO PHOTOS or VIDEOS allowed during any show performances. After each show the cast will be out front of the theatre for photos and autographs. <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=91406>
- **Casting with Cops** Saturday, May 11, noon - 4 pm. Glasgow Park Fishing Pond, DE 896 & US 40, Bear, DE 19702. A fun day out fishing with the great men and women of the New Castle County Police. Event includes catch-and-release (barbless) fishing, NCCPD Mounted Police and K9 Unit Demonstrations, activities, raffles, giveaways and food vendors. Bring your own rod and bait. A small number of loaner rods will be available. All ages. Free. Rain or shine. (Valid DE State Fishing License is required to fish for anglers between the ages of 16 and 65.) <https://nccde.org/1153/May-11-Casting-with-Cops>
- **Woodside Farm Creamery Mother's Day Fundraiser** Sunday, May 12, noon – 8 pm. Woodside Farm Creamery, 1310 Little Baltimore Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707. Sales from all pink ice cream will be donated to the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition. Click on Events Cowlendar to find this listing. <http://woodsidefarmcreamery.com/>

- **Fifer Orchards Strawberry Food Festival** Saturday, May 18, 10 am – 4 pm. 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. U-Pick Strawberry Patch will not be available; however, there will be special pricing for pre-picked Fifer strawberries by the bucket and by the flat during the Strawberry Food Festival. (The U-Pick Strawberry Patch is open Monday-Saturday from 9 am – 6 pm/weather permitting during the strawberry season, except during this event.)  
<https://www.fiferorchards.com/events/strawberry-food-festival/>
- **Sally Cotter and the Censored Stone** Friday, May 24, at 7 pm; Saturday, May 25, at 7 pm & Sunday, May 26, at 2 pm. Riverfront Theater, 2 South Walnut Street, Milford, DE 19963. When Sally falls asleep while reading books about a certain juvenile wizard, she dreams that she is a student at Frogbull Academy of Sorcery. There she meets Headmaster Albatross Underdrawers, Gamekeeper Ruebenon Ryebread and Professor Shiftia Shape. But danger is lurking, and it's up to Sally and her new friends Dave and Harmonica to defeat the schemes of the evil Lord Murderdeath. Will she become the hero like the one in her favorite series? And who is the mysterious Censor who keeps rewriting the story as it goes along? This loving parody will thrill fans and newcomers alike. 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/aboutSallyCotterAndTheCensoredStone.html>
- **Backyard Bash** Friday, May 31, 6-9:30 pm. Delaware Art Museum, 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806. The Museum's annual outdoor event returns with more sounds, food, art and fun! In partnership with People's Festival organizers, this event features local musicians, food trucks, family-friendly art activities, face painting, arts vendors, lawn games and bar service. Performers include Universal African Dance and Drum Ensemble, Missy Bélgre, Nalani and Sarina, and Nadjah Nicole. Purchase tickets in advance to avoid entrance lines. \$10/Members, \$15/Non-Members. Free/Youth Members, \$5/Youth Non-Members.  
[https://www.delart.org/event/backyard-bash-2/?instance\\_id=17253](https://www.delart.org/event/backyard-bash-2/?instance_id=17253)

Our **TechStars** family appreciates your support of our program during this school year and hopes your child has enjoyed his/her technology lessons as much as my instructors have enjoyed sharing our STEM curriculum. Please visit our website at [www.computerexplorers.com/de](http://www.computerexplorers.com/de) to learn more about the camps **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)