

NOVEMBER 2016 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 technology curriculum with your child and for the continuing support of parents, teachers and directors at AstraZeneca Child Development Center, Brilliant Little Minds, Chinese American Community Center/CACC, Children's House Montessori School, Concord Preschool & Childcare, Green Acres, Hockessin Montessori School, Kids Korner, Kind Minds Kids, Nannies, St. Helena's Early Learning Center, Tower Hill After School and Tutor Time. Thank you for choosing **TechStars**.

TechStars is proud to report that a new federal policy brief on screen time and young children advocates active, meaningful, and socially interactive learning --- exactly what we have been doing for years! The report's 4 guiding principles for families and early childhood educators on the use of technology with young children mesh perfectly with our **TechStars** beliefs:

- Technology, when used properly, can be a tool for learning.
- Technology should be used to increase access to learning opportunities for all children.
- Technology may be used to strengthen relationships among parents, families, early educators, and young children.
- Technology is more effective for learning when adults and peers interact or co-view with young children.

For more details read the recently published **eSchool News** article, [DoE compiles new report on using tech with young learners](http://www.eschoolnews.com/2016/10/24/doe-compiles-new-report-on-using-tech-with-young-learners/?ps=dmscard%40msn.com-0013000000j0wTG-0033000000qi2LS), by current editor Steven Noonoo at <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2016/10/24/doe-compiles-new-report-on-using-tech-with-young-learners/?ps=dmscard%40msn.com-0013000000j0wTG-0033000000qi2LS>.

Reminder: Daylight Saving Time **ends** on November 6, 2016. When local daylight time is about to reach Sunday, November 6, 2016 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 6, 2016 than the day before.

The end of Daylight Saving Time and Fall's increasing chill in the air mean more time at home is spent indoors. This is the perfect opportunity to invite your child to join you in exploring **eStars**, also known as **CT's Technology Club**. The link is <http://www.computerexplorers.com/e-stars-2> and the password for November 2016 is **gear411**, the last 3 characters are numerals. **eStars**, a free added value benefit extended to all **TechStars** families, is curated by Playrific. Upon entering this child-

safe, user-friendly learning portal, choose from English Language Arts, Mathematics, Earth Science, Life Science, Engineering and Technology activities. Each of these content areas offers a variety of games, videos, puzzles and e-stories. Time spent together exploring **eStars** allows your child to share what he/she is learning in technology class. This time together provides an opportunity for your child to practice using a mouse to guide the cursor, helping to develop hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. **eStars** activities are designed for children up to 5 years of age. Families are invited to share this learning portal with older siblings; the Explorer level targets ages 5-7 and the TechStar level targets ages 8-10. FYI: **eStars** activities are different from those presented in your child's technology classes. **eStars** is not compatible with mobile devices.

A few "un-plugged" activities your family may wish to consider for November include:

- **Delaware Children's Museum**, 550 Justison St, Wilm, DE 19801. **Open Studio**. Fri, Nov 4 - Sun, Nov 6. 10 am - close each day. Use a variety of leaves to create beautiful leaf stampings, check out the sensory bins and/or test your skills and try corn tweezing. Paint at one of the museum's easels or relax and read a great book. Admission \$8.75/person, children 12 months and under free. No charge for museum members. Free parking. Call 302.654.2340 for tickets. <http://www.delawarechildrensmuseum.org/>
- **World Café Live at the Queen**, 500 N. Market St, Wilm, DE 19801. Peanut Butter and Jams welcomes **Lolly & YoYo**. Sat, Nov 12. Doors open 10:30 am / Show begins 11 am. All ages. Larissa "Lolly" Hopwood began her lifelong love with children's music and entertainment when she was a little girl dancing in front of a turned-off television to Cat Stevens, Joni Mitchell and Harry Nilsson. Since those early days, Lolly has performed on stage as both a children's musician and in indie bands. Yvonne Kusters, fondly called "YoYo" by kids, is the creator and founder of LET'S PLAY TODAY®, a company designed to inspire and empower children and adults to see fitness as fun, playful and lifelong. LET'S PLAY TODAY® has blossomed into a mobile, educational fitness program for children from ages 16 months through 12 years old and has spread internationally, reaching Australia, Canada, Japan, England, South Africa, Ireland and Dubai. Admission \$8/person. Call 302.994.1400. www.worldcafelive.com/event/1322899-lolly-yoyo-wilmington
- **Delaware Children's Theatre**, 1014 Delaware Ave, Wilm, DE 19806. **Willy Wonka**. Sat & Sun, Nov 19, 20, 26 & 27 (also Dec 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 & 18). All ages. Shows begin 2 pm. Roald Dahl's classic story of a magic candy man's exciting quest to find an heir to run his chocolate factory is this year's delightful holiday confection! Admission \$14/person. Call 302.655.1014. <http://www.dechildrenstheatre.org>
- **Hagley Museum and Library**, 200 Hagley Creek Rd, Wilm, DE 19807. **Thanksgiving Weekend at Hagley**. Fri, Nov 25 – Sun, Nov 27. 10 am – 4 pm daily. Bring your family and out-of-town guests to enjoy activities, crafts and games. Sample historic holiday dishes inspired by nineteenth-century recipes from "The Hagley Cookbook," play hide-the-thimble and other parlor games and

dress up in nineteenth-century clothes for a picture-perfect memory. Admission \$14/Adults, \$5/children 6-14, Free/children 5 and under, Free/Members. Use Hagley's main entrance off Route 141. **(Annual Holidays at Hagley Exhibit opens Fri, Nov 25 and runs through Sun, Jan 1.)** <http://www.hagley.org/>

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

Sincerely,

Roni Deely

Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



www.computerexplorers.com/de