

MARCH 2017 DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER



Dear **TechStars** Families,

Many of you may already be looking forward to Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2 and NEA's Read Across America Day, a nationwide reading celebration that takes place annually on the same date. Did you know Theodore Seuss Geisel published 46 books? How many have you read with your child? *The Cat in the Hat*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, *One Fish Two Red Fish Blue Fish* and *Hop on Pop* are a few of Dr. Seuss' most popular titles. Why not select a Dr. Seuss book that is new to your child to celebrate the 113th birthday of this beloved author? CT, our **TechStars** turtle mascot, suggests *Yertle the Turtle and Other Stories*. This title is a treasure with 3 rhyming fables in 1 book. The collection features rhyming tales about greed ("Yertle the Turtle"), vanity ("Gertrude McFuzz") and pride ("The Big Brag"). Find a complete list of Seuss books at www.seussville.com as well as a fun video, games and activities and an interactive character parade. Check the sections for educators and parents to find lots of great ideas and tips to use all year long.

Did you know **TechStars** very own CT, aka Computer Turtle, the puppet mascot who greets your child at the beginning of every technology class, is also celebrating a birthday in March? I am excited to share that CT will be 33 years old on March 17. We are planning a weeklong celebration in our regularly scheduled technology classes and look forward to surprising your child with a special gift. Watch the weekly updates from your child's **TechStars** teacher to learn more about CT's birthday party. And now, the background story of this turtle's humble beginnings:

COMPUTERTOTS/COMPUTER EXPLORERS began in 1984 thanks to Karen Marshall and Mary Rogers who followed their dream of making a difference by bringing technology directly to children. The goal, then and now, is to help children use the computer as a learning, creating, and communication tool. Today **TECHSTARS by COMPUTER EXPLORERS** brings quality STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) education to tens of thousands of children around the globe each week and continues to be the worldwide leader in technology education for children ages 3-12.

In 1993 I became Director of the New Castle County franchise and am honored to continue to be part of this fine organization. The field of technology is constantly transforming itself, but the excitement of the children is a constant. My staff and I are committed to evolving with the changes and continuing this proud heritage of excellence in technology education. I invite you to visit our website, www.computerexplorers.com/de to discover how we are changing and growing to meet the needs of today's children and families.

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

- **2nd Annual Free LEGO Shipbuilding Contest and Event** Saturday, March 4, 10am-3pm, Copeland Maritime Center, 1124 E 7th St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Don't miss the boat! Create and bring your own ship model with you or build your ship at the event. Learn how to make a LEGO Tall Ship and Navy Ships. Play games, win prizes. Face painting and food trucks too!

This event is part of a partnership between the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation and the Hampton Roads Naval Museum and is sponsored by Discover. <http://kalmarnyckel.org/>

- **James and the Giant Peach. Sat, Mar 11 – Sun, Mar 19.** The Everett Theater, 47 W. Main St., Middletown, DE 19709. This Ronald Dahl favorite is sure to charm your whole family. When James is sent by his conniving aunts to chop down their old fruit tree, he discovers a magic potion that results in a tremendous peach... and launches a journey of enormous proportions. Suddenly, James finds himself in the center of the gigantic peach – among human-sized insects with equally oversized personalities – but, after it falls from the tree and rolls into the ocean, the group faces hunger, sharks and plenty of disagreements. Thanks to James' quick wit and creative thinking, the residents learn to live and work together as a family. The dangerous voyage is a success, but the adventure takes a whole new twist once they land on the Empire State Building. Show times vary. All tickets \$8. <http://everetttheatre.com/james-and-the-giant-peach-tya/>
- **ReZOOvenation Spring Opening, Sat, Mar 11 & Sun, Mar 12, 10am-3:45pm.** Brandywine Zoo, 1001 North Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802. Visit the zoo as the environment is getting ready to burst to life for the spring season! Bring your family for a fun afternoon of activities and learning stations centered on all your child's zoo friends. Don't miss this event! Help welcome spring and leave behind the cold of winter! Free with zoo admission. <http://www.brandywinezoo.org/special-events.html>
- **Woodside Farm Creamery Opening Day. Sat, Mar 18, 12-8pm.** 378 North Star Rd, Newark, DE 19711. 1996, the Mitchell family celebrated their 200th year of family owned farming in New Castle County and was recognized by the state of Delaware as one of the few remaining Centennial farms in the first state. Fresh ice cream is made on right on the farm using milk from the family's 30+ Jersey cows. Opening day special: Bring your own banana for a half price banana split! Toppings will also be free, ALL DAY! <http://www.woodsidefarmcreamery.com/>
- **Science Saturday: Egg Newtons. Sat, Mar 25, 1-4pm.** Hagley Museum, 200 Hagley Creek Rd, Wilmington, DE 19807. Protect an egg as it gets into a car crash. Can you keep it from breaking? Families are invited to discover solutions to science and engineering challenges. Science Saturday is a drop-in activity; stop by anytime in the afternoon. Science Saturday activities are included in museum admission and are free to members <http://www.hagley.org/calendar/science-saturday-egg-newtons>

Best wishes to your family as we celebrate together Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2, the return of Daylight Savings Time on March 12, the beginning of Spring on March 20...and CT's 33nd birthday on March 17.

Sincerely,

Roni Deely

Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



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