

## MARCH 2016 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. This year, the 112th celebration of Theodore Seuss Geisel's birthday, is all about pets. Consider sharing with your child the newest Seuss book *What Pet Should I Get?* (which lay undiscovered for more than fifty years until it was found and published). If you're looking for other *purrfect* titles to read, try *The Cat in the Hat* or *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*? You might also check out the Cat in the Hat's Learning Library books *What Cat Is That?* and *If I Ran the Dog Show*. Visit <http://www.seussville.com/> to learn more about Dr. Seuss, find a comprehensive list of Seuss books, a fun video, games and activities and a character parade as well as sections for educators and parents with 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 32 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](http://www.computerexplorers.com/de), and our facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Computer-Explorers-of-New-Castle-County-Delaware-105425499501141/?fref=ts>, 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 are the best fits for your family:

- **Free LEGO Shipbuilding Contest and Event** Saturday, March 5, 10am to 3pm, Copeland Maritime Center, Wilmington, DE. 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. Presented in partnership with Hampton Roads Naval Museum. <http://kalmarnyckel.org/>

- **PNC Arts Alive First Sundays for Families “Crayon-a-thon”** Sunday, March 6, 11 am to 1 pm. Brandywine River Museum of Art, Chadds Ford, PA. FREE! Add color to your day and be inspired by the creative possibilities of crayons. Coloring outside the lines is encouraged. <http://www.brandywine.org/museum/events/first-sundays-families-crayon-thon>
- **Children’s Dessert Theater – The Snow Queen** Friday, March 11 through Sunday, March 13, Second Street Players, Milford, DE. Show times and ticket prices vary. No reservations needed. Friday night performance is “pay what you can” donations only. Children's Dessert Theater series provides families with high fun, low cost entertainment. Shows can be enjoyed by anyone, age 4 and up, and are designed for children to experience and discover the magic of live performances in a friendly setting. <http://www.secondstreetplayers.com/aboutSnowQueen.html#top>
- **Eggstravaganza – Breakfast and Egg Hunt** Saturday, March 19, 9:30am to 12 noon, Delaware Museum of Natural History, Wilmington, DE. \$5/person, pre-registration strongly suggested as space is limited. Enjoy a pancake breakfast for the whole family at the Museum. Then watch your child hunt for treat-filled eggs in the gardens. <http://www.delmnh.org/event/eggstravaganza-breakfast-egg-hunt/>
- **Town of Elsmere’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt** Saturday, March 19, starting at 1pm, Vilone Park, Elsmere, DE. Free and open to children ages 1-12 years old. Participants will be divided into 3 age groups. <http://www.visitwilmingtonde.com/includes/calendar-of-events/Town-of-Elsmere-Annual-Easter-Egg-Hunt/26501/>
- **Science Saturday – Egg Crashes** Saturday, March 26, 1pm to 4pm, Hagley Museum, Wilmington, DE. Families work together to solve this engineering challenge. Protect an egg as it gets into a car crash. Can your family keep the egg from breaking? Activity is included with regular admission and free for members. <http://www.hagley.org/event/science-saturday-eggcrashes>
- **Family Hop-py Hour** Fridays, March 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2 pm to 7 pm, Stratosphere Trampoline Park, Wilmington, DE. Beat cabin fever by jumping out that extra energy with your family at this recurring event. All participants must have a completed waiver form and a valid photo ID is required for persons 18 years of age and older. (Bonus: Parents can enjoy jump time with their children free of charge on Fridays from 10 am to 3 pm with the purchase of a child’s ticket. Only \$15 for an hour jump!) [http://northdelaware.happeningmag.com/event/family-hoppy-hour?instance\\_id=1963706](http://northdelaware.happeningmag.com/event/family-hoppy-hour?instance_id=1963706)

Best wishes to your family as we celebrate together Dr. Seuss’ birthday on March 2, the return of Daylight Savings Time on March 13, the beginning of Spring on March 20...and CT’s 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday on March 17.

Sincerely,

**Roni Deely**

Owner/Director

[Roni.Deely@computerexplorersde.com](mailto:Roni.Deely@computerexplorersde.com)

TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



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