

MARCH 2018 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 114th birthday of this beloved author? 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 34 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. Visit our website, 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 the following suggestions that your family is sure to enjoy:

- **3rd Annual Free LEGO Shipbuilding Contest and Event** Saturday, March 3, 10am-3pm, Copeland Maritime Center, 1124 E 7th St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Don't miss the boat! LEGO enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to participate. Build your ship at home and enter it into the home-build contest. Build your ship at the Copeland Maritime Center using the provided STEM-based design plans. Have fun in the free-play area. Model ships entered in the contest will be judged based on difficulty level, with lots of great prizes for the winners! <http://kalmarnyckel.org/>
- **Coco (Disney PIXAR Movie). Fri, Mar 2 & Sat, Mar 3, 7:30 pm.** The Everett Theater, 47 W. Main St., Middletown, DE 19709. Aspiring musician Miguel, confronted with his family's ancestral ban on music, enters the Land of the Dead to find his great-great-grandfather, a legendary singer. This movie is shown in partnership with Townsend Elementary. PG. All tickets \$5. <https://everetttheatre.com/movies-everett/>

- **Junie B. Jones The Musical. Sat, Mar 10 – Sun, Mar 18.** The Everett Theater, 47 W. Main St., Middletown, DE 19709. It's Junie B.'s first day of first grade and a lot of things have changed for her: Junie's friend, Lucille, doesn't want to be her best pal anymore and, on the bus, Junie B. makes friends with Herb, the new kid at school. Also, Junie has trouble reading the blackboard and her teacher, Mr. Scary, thinks she may need glasses. Throw in a friendly cafeteria lady, a kickball tournament and a "Top-Secret Personal Beeswax Journal," and first grade has never been more exciting! Show times vary. All tickets \$8. <https://everetttheatre.com/junie-b-jones/>
- **Brandywine Zoo Spring Opening, Sat, Mar 10 & Sun, Mar 11, 10am-3:45pm.** Brandywine Zoo, 1001 North Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802. Visit the zoo as the environment gets ready to burst to life for the spring season! Help welcome spring and leave behind the cold of winter in a fun afternoon of activities and learning stations highlighting our zoo friends! Free with paid zoo admission. <http://www.brandywinezoo.org/special-events.html>
- **Woodside Farm Creamery Opening Day. Sat, Mar 17, 12-8pm.** 1310 Little Baltimore Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707. In 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. In 2017 Woodside Creamery was voted Delaware's Best Ice Cream Shop by the News Journal Readers' Choice Awards. Fresh ice cream is made 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! <https://www.facebook.com/WoodsideCreamery/?v=wall> and <http://www.woodsidefarmcreamery.com/>
- **EGGstraganza Breakfast and Egg Hunt, Sun, Mar 18, Time TBD.** Delaware Museum of Natural History, 4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807. Enjoy a pancake breakfast for the whole family at the museum. After a wonderful meal, watch your child/children hunt for treat-filled eggs throughout the museum gardens. Pre-registration required. Registrations not refundable or exchangeable. \$7/Members, \$14/Non-Members. <http://www.delmnh.org/event/eggstravaganza-breakfast-egg-hunt-2/>
- **Easter Bunny Express. Sat, Mar 24 – Sat, Mar 31.** Wilmington & Western Railroad – Greenbank Station, 2201 Newport Gap Pike, Wilmington, DE 19808. The Easter Bunny hops aboard this train for a 1-1/2 hour round-trip ride to Ashland. All children will get a special treat. Bring your camera and have the Easter Bunny pose for a picture with your child. This event is powered by an historic diesel locomotive. Departures at 12:30 & 2:30 pm. Reservations strongly suggested. \$19/Adults, \$18 Seniors(60+), \$17/Children (2-12) and Free/Children under 2. <https://www.visitdelaware.com/event-detail/easter-bunny-express/33927/>
- **50th Annual Great Delaware Kite Festival. Fri, Mar 30, 10 am-3pm.** Cape Henlopen State Park, 15099 Cape Henlopen Drive, Lewes, DE 19958. Registration begins at 10 am. Egg Hunt at 11 am. Competitions begin at 11:30 am. This event is co-sponsored by the Lewes Chamber of Commerce and the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation. This 50th Anniversary event will include a visit by the Easter bunny, a bounce house for children, a Make Your Own Kite table and an egg-tossing competition. Food vendors, face painters and community organizations will be set up around the field. <https://www.leweschamber.com/event/chamber-events/50th-great-delaware-kite-festival>

Best wishes to your family as we celebrate together Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2, the return of Daylight Savings Time on March 11, the beginning of Spring on March 20...and CT's 34th birthday on March 17!

Sincerely,

Roni Deely

Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



www.computerexplorers.com/de