

OCTOBER 2018 DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER



Dear **TechStars** Families,

Thank you for choosing **TechStars** for your child! As the Owner/Director of **TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County** since 1993, my staff and I are dedicated to providing your child with an outstanding technology experience during each and every weekly class. Our curriculum is written by educators and designed to provide a balance of laptop, iPad and screen free learning experiences. My staff attends monthly in-service training and is committed to delivering STEM lessons that are both fun and educational for our students. We also pride ourselves on our regular email communications with our **TechStars** families. Just as you have been receiving weekly updates about your child's technology class from your child's teacher, you can also expect to receive a monthly newsletter from me. If you have questions or need more information about **TechStars**, do not hesitate to contact me directly by email at any time.

Coding and young children may seem like an unlikely combination, but they really do mix well. Coding is a 21st century skill that is fast becoming equally as important as reading, writing and arithmetic. Introducing coding to students helps build more than just programming skills. Problem solving, logic, sequencing, following directions, creativity and more are all wrapped up in computational learning – and are useful not just during interactive time spent with an iPad or laptop, but in many aspects of a young child's daily life. Download the free **Hopster Coding Safari** iPad app at <https://itunes.apple.com/nz/app/hopster-coding-safari-for-kids/id1348232140?mt=8>. Then join your child to explore this colorful and fun learning app together. Start with easy drag and drop block coding commands that help cute characters get to where they need to be. The animals in this app were chosen to represent the 7 continents: Bear/North America, Fox/Europe, Tiger/Asia, Elephant/Africa, Monkey/South America, Penguin/Antarctica and Kangaroo/Australia. The challenges get more difficult as the puzzles at each level are successfully solved. Once your child has mastered the beginning levels, you may choose to continue coding with a small In App Purchase (\$.99) to unlock the remaining levels. **Hopster Coding Safari** is sold by Plato Media Ltd, requires iOS 8.0 or later and is compatible with iPhone, Pad and iPod Touch.

At **TechStars** we understand that “un-plugged” activities are important for healthy and happy families. The season of Fall is a great time to pick apples and pumpkins, navigate your way through a corn maze, enjoy a hayride, meet barnyard animals, marvel at the changing colors of the leaves and more. Check out one or more of these local resources with your family soon.

Farms & Orchards:

- **Fifer Orchards and Country Store, 1919 Allabands Mill Rd, Camden-Wyoming, DE 19934** Sat, Oct 6, 13, 20 & 27, 10am – 6pm. Fall Fest Saturdays offer lots of family fun including hayrides, tractor train, pony rides, U-Pick apples and U-Pick pumpkins. Don't miss the annual Harvest Hustle 5K on Sat, Oct 20, 8am-11am, to benefit American Cancer Society in memory of Pat Vincent. Fifer Orchard also offers Corn Maze Fun Park Weekdays. Closed on Sundays. <http://www.fiferorchards.com/>
- **Linvilla Orchards, 137 W Knowlton Rd, Media, PA 19063** Check Linvilla's event calendar for details about Pumpkinland, Jack-O-Lantern Exhibit, Hayrides to the Friendly Witch's House, Corn Maze, Straw Bale Maze, Train Rides, Fishing at Orchard Lake and more. Oct 28 (1day only!) get all the pumpkins you can carry for \$29.99. <http://www.linvilla.com>
- **Milburn Orchards, 1495 Appleton Rd, Elkton, MD 21921** Enjoy themed events on Saturdays & Sundays, 10am - 4 pm/October hours. Pumpkin Harvest Weekend, Oct 6 & 7. Family Fun on the Farm Weekend, Oct 13 & 14. Autumn Colors Weekend, Oct 20 & 21. Trick or Treat Weekend, Oct 27 & 28. BarnYard Buddies (farm animal area) and the BIG BackYard with lots of children' activities are open all week long and provide more family fun. <https://www.milburnorchards.com/>
- **Mr. Pepper's Pumpkin Patch, 13500 Laurel Rd, Laurel, DE 19956** Hours through Oct 31, Sundays-Fridays/12 noon until dark & Saturdays/10 am until dark. Pumpkin picking, corn maze, hayrides! Choose gourds, mums and other Fall produce. Grab lunch at the BBQ Shack on Saturdays and Sundays or bring your own lunch to enjoy at the picnic tables. Observe bees making honey in a glass-walled beehive. Don't forget your camera to take lots of family photos. <http://www.mrpepperspumpkinpatch.com/>
- **Ramsey's Farm, 500 Ramsey Rd, Wilmington, DE 19802** Open weekends to the public through Oct 31. Hours vary, check website calendar for specifics. This farm is an outdoor event and closes in adverse weather; call voicemail at (302) 477-1499 and choose mailbox option 4 to check on farm closings/late openings due to weather. Travel around the world an 8 acre corn maze. Learn about agriculture, farmers, and food around the world as your family travels (by foot) from continent to continent and country to country. Learn how new technology and modern farming practices help fewer farmers feed more people every day. Visit many locations along the way and learn about the agriculture in that country or state! Choose from corn maze, sorghum maze, hay maze, pumpkin painting and hayrides. Hay play area is free. All activities wrist band \$10/Adults & Children or \$6/ages 5 and under. Watch the new farm video before your visit to this farm. <http://www.ramseysfarm.com/>

Museums, Parks and More:

- **Delaware Nature Society's Coverdale Farm Preserve, 543 Way Rd, Greenville, DE 19807** Sat, Oct 6, 10 am – 5 pm. (Rain Date: Sun, Oct 7) Harvest Moon Festival offers family fun with children's activities, hayrides,

artisans, food trucks and live music. Members free. \$7/non-members ages 5 and older. Free/age 4 and under. Pay or become a member at the gate.

<https://www.delawarenaturesociety.org/activities/events/harvest-moon-festival/>

- **Delaware State Parks, various locations, dates & times.** Hayrides, hikes, special harvest projects and lots of outdoor fun and learning offer something for everyone. Find a comprehensive list of Fall activities at <https://www.destateparks.com/Programs/Index>. Visit a state park near you to enjoy some of this Fall's scheduled family friendly activities. Find general information at <http://www.destateparks.com>.
- **Hagley Museum and Library, 298 Buck Rd, Wilmington, DE** Sat, Oct 20, 10 am - 5pm & Sun, Oct 21, 10 am – 4 pm. 40th Annual Hagley Craft Fair: This artisans' marketplace brings talented artisans from the Mid-Atlantic area to display and sell fine arts, crafts, and gourmet items. This premier show will feature works in wood, pottery, jewelry, fibers, metal, and other media. The fair will include a specialty food market. Admission is \$5 and free for Hagley members and children five and under. Use Hagley's Buck Road East entrance off Route 100. <https://www.hagley.org/calendar/hagley-craft-fair-3>.
- **Brandywine Zoo, Wilmington, DE** Fri, Oct 19 & Sat, Oct 20, 5-7 pm. (Rain Date: Sun, Oct 21) Boo at the Zoo: Kids trick-or-treat through the zoo as it gets dark in their Halloween costumes! Members Free/Just bring your Brandywine Zoo membership card and ID with you to the gate; no pre-registration required! Non-members pay \$5/person for ages 3+/Register online. Guest passes not accepted for this event. <https://brandywinezoo.org/booaathezoo/>

Wishing all the best to you and your family for the month of October!

Sincerely,

Roni Deely

Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



www.computerexplorers.com/de