

MARCH 2019 DIRECTOR'S NEWS



Dear **TechStars** Families,

Many of you may already be anticipating the celebration of 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 115th 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 class, is also celebrating a birthday in March? I am excited to share that CT will be 35 years old on March 17. We are planning a weeklong celebration in our regularly scheduled STEM 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** has expanded upon the original dream and brings quality STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) education to tens of thousands of children around the globe each week while continuing to be the worldwide leader in technology education for children ages 3-12.

In 1993, I became Director of **COMPUTER EXPLORERS OF NEW CASTLE COUNTY** 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. We are excited to have expanded our curriculum to include STEM offerings in recent years. Visit our website, www.computerexplorers.com/de, to discover how **TechStars** is adapting 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:

- **Ralph Breaks the Internet. Fri, Mar 1 & Sat, Mar 2, 7:30 pm.** The Everett Theater, 47 W. Main St., Middletown, DE 19709. Video-game bad guy Ralph and best friend Vanellope von Schweetz leave the comforts of Litwak's arcade in an attempt to save her game, Sugar Rush. Their quest takes them to the vast, uncharted world of the internet where they rely on the citizens of the internet "the Netizens" to help navigate their way. Lending a virtual hand are Yesss, the head algorithm and the heart and soul of the trend-making site "BuzzzTube," and Shank, a tough-as-nails driver from a gritty online auto-racing game called Slaughter Race, a place Vanellope wholeheartedly embraces - so much so that Ralph worries he may lose the only friend he's ever had. Shown in conjunction with St. Anne's Episcopal School. All tickets \$6. <https://www.everetttheatre.com/movies>
- **4th Annual Free LEGO Shipbuilding Contest and Event. Sat, March 2, 10 am-3 pm,** Copeland Maritime Center, 1124 E 7th St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Don't miss the boat! LEGO fans of all ages and skill levels welcome! Build a ship at our event or create and bring your own ship models to enter. Learn how to make LEGO models of historic and Naval ships. Prizes for all ages and skill

levels. You don't need to be present to win. Face painting. Free & Open to Public. (Food truck generously funded by Discover!) <https://www.JerryPinkneyandw.visitwilmingtonde.com/event/lego-shipbuilding-day/34014/>

- **Girl Scouts: Sensational Senses! Sat, Mar 2, 9:30 am - 12 noon.** Brandywine Zoo, 1001 North Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802. Explore your senses through interactive games and compare to the awesome senses some of our special animal friends have – and even meet a few! Work to earn Brownies Senses Badge. Daisies welcome. \$12/participant & \$5/chaperone; zoo admission included. <https://brandywinezoo.org/event/girl-scouts-sensational-senses/>
- **Disney's Peter Pan Jr. Sat, Mar 9 & 16, 2 & 7 pm. Sun, Mar 10 & 17, 2 pm only.** The Everett Theater, 47 W. Main St., Middletown, DE 19709. Based on the Disney film and J.M. Barrie's enchanting play, this show is a modern version of the timeless tale about a boy who wouldn't grow up. Wendy Darling loves to tell stories to her brothers, Michael and John. But when her father announces she must move out of the nursery, Peter Pan comes to visit the children and whisks them away to Neverland. Their journey introduces them to the Lost Boys, Mermaids, Indians and even the infamous pirate, Captain Hook! It's Peter to the rescue when Wendy is taken captive by the dreaded captain, who has his own sinister plans in mind for our hero. All tickets \$10. <https://www.everetttheatre.com/page4>
- **An Afternoon with Jerry Pinkney: Book Readings & Signings. Sat, Mar 16, 2-3:30 pm.** Delaware Art Museum, 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806. Meet celebrated children's author and illustrator Jerry Pinkney. Listen as he reads from his Caldecott-winning *Lion and the Mouse*. A selection of Jerry Pinkney's books will be available for purchase from the Museum Store. Free with paid museum admission. https://www.delart.org/event/an-afternoon-with-jerry-pinkney/?instance_id=14048
- **Girl Scouts: Animals & Me. Sun, Mar 17, 9:30 am - 12 noon.** Brandywine Zoo, 1001 North Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802. Learn which animals make better pets than others and how to care for them. Girls will also learn how zoo keepers take care of zoo animals and meet some up close! Work to earn Daisies 3 Cheers for Animal Bird Bath Award and Brownies Pets Badge. \$12/participant & \$5/chaperone; zoo admission included. <https://brandywinezoo.org/event/girl-scouts-animals/2019-03-17/>
- **St. Patrick's Day Stuffed Animal Clinic. Sat, Mar 17, 1-2:30 pm.** Delaware Museum of Natural History, 4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807. Bring your favorite stuffed critter for a check-up by a museum stuffed animal doctor. Your beloved animal friend will receive some TLC and a special prescription for a healing touch before settling down for story time, "tea" and a delicious treat. Pre-registration required; space limited. \$5 + museum admission. <http://www.delmnh.org/event/st-patricks-day-stuffed-animal-clinic/>
- **Woodside Farm Creamery Opening Day. Sat, Mar 23, 12-8pm.** 1310 Little Baltimore Rd, Hockessin, DE 19707. Opening day special: Bring your own banana for a half price banana split! Toppings will also be free, ALL DAY! <http://woodsidefarmcreamery.com/events-cowlender/icalrepeat.detail/2019/03/23/625/20/opening-day-2019>

Best wishes to your family as we celebrate together Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2, the return of Daylight Savings Time on March 10, the beginning of Spring on March 20...and CT's 35th 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