

Computers & Kids

A Newsletter for the Parents of

NEWS

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**COMPUTER
EXPLORERS**

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Happy Holidays!

Giving Back Makes for a Warm Holiday Season

Holiday traditions differ from home to home regardless of faith or cultural background, however we all spend time at this point in the year to celebrate our families and communities. Volunteerism is a great way to teach your child to give back and to be grateful for all they have. It is never too late or too early to instill the spirit of giving in children

A simple hand made card can brighten the day for a sick child at your local children's Hospital or a recovering soldier. Cards can be sent to wounded soldiers: A Recovering Soldier, c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20307-5001.

Your preschooler can start their own give back campaign during your holiday celebrations by collection Pop Caps and donating them to The Ronald McDonald House. More information about the PopCap program visit: <http://rmhc.org/how-you-can-help/other-ways-to-get-involved/pop-tab-collections/>.

COMPUTER EXPLORERS chooses a charity each month on its Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/computerexplorers>. Donations are made in the name of new fans. Donations in October went to Breast Cancer Research and November was Operation Uplink <http://www.operationuplink.org/>. Our December charity is The Ronald McDonald House. If you are not already a Fan, check out our page and share the joy of the season.

Keep In Touch all Year Long

As an alternative to a Holiday Newsletter consider building a YouTube channel for your family. Videos can be set to private so that only 25 people can see them. Not only will your family be able to hear about Little Suzie's brilliant dance recital, they can see her! Check out The Flip camera for one that is easy to use and easy to upload <http://www.theflip.com/en-us>



Buckleitner Box

Dear CE Friends:

Recently, I had the good fortune to attend a conference at Google headquarters. One of the benefits of working at Google, it seems, is that you get free food. In addition, several times a day, a cart is wheeled around with funny looking smoothies on it. Not knowing they were for the employees, I grabbed one, and took a sip. The thick orange fluid — which I think was some sort of carrot juice — had a surprising non-sweet taste (I was hoping for an ice-cream treat). Before I knew it, I suddenly felt incredibly smart; enough to put together a wonderful guide to YouTube (which is owned by Google) for kids. The next day, I visited YouTube's headquarters, where I learned that every minute, 20 hours of new video is processed. So what does this all mean? There's no magic smoothie of knowledge. But there is a vast reservoir of video content, containing the answer to just about any question. Our job is to give our children access to the best of the best. Hopefully this month's LittleClickers column will help. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Warren Buckleitner, Ph.D.
Editor, Children's Technology Review



If you would like to learn more about COMPUTER EXPLORERS check out some of our Videos on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/computerexplorers>. Keep watch for a special holiday message from CT to be broadcast on this channel!