Magnet Byte

April 2023

Reedy Creek Magnet Middle School Center for the Digital Sciences Monthly Magnet Snapshot

The FSU Visit is a Blast! 🚀

Reedy Creek students in Level 3 Robotics and Mechatronics, Emerging Technologies, and Engineering and Design classes had the chance to imagine themselves as space explorers collecting samples of the Moon's surface. The best part? They did this with a Fayetteville State University (FSU) team that conducts grant-supported research advancing NASA's Artemis mission to establish a sustainable presence on the Moon.

It was the real deal as Dr. Sambit Bhattachayra and undergraduate students from the Artemis program at FSU taught our middle schoolers about the fascinating topic of space exploration. Students were updated on the Artemis mission, learned about the new astronauts who will be heading into space, and discussed some of the technologies and science involved with NASA missions. They then tried their hand at coding a video game where a rover collects samples from the surface of Mars. Our students loved this learning experience and had many great comments for Dr. Bhattachayra and his team. This is the second year we have been visited by FSU, and we are looking forward to future collaborations. To see photos from this event, visit the WCPSS Facebook page.

Mission Possible, Indeed! Congrats, Science Olympiad

Congratulations to Reedy Creek's Science Olympiad participants who competed this month in our first visit to the State Tournament! States began with the Parade of Champions where our Eagles proudly marched holding our Reedy Creek banner.

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Our Science Olympiad team then went on to compete in 27(!) different events the following day. We had much success. A big congratulations to Sadie and Kayden for earning first place in the Flight event out of 44 other participating schools. This was a major achievement! Congratulations, also, to Akshay and Vivaan for placing eighth in Solar Power, and to Aditri and Sohana for placing ninth in Mission Possible events. Well done, everyone! The Reedy Creek community is #EagleProud of your accomplishments.

The Trophy Comes Home

Loyal Magnet Byte readers may remember this year's February issue and its mention that our Bots by the Creek team competed in the State Tournament. Bots by the Creek was one of the only all-middle-school teams in the tournament. Against tough competition they were selected for Final Alliance playoffs, they participated in semi finals, and they won a First Place Connect Award for their team outreach. Well, the trophy has come home to Reedy Creek and it sure looks cool! Have a look next time you pass the display case near the cafeteria. While you're there, check out the many additional trophies various Eagle teams have won since Reedy Creek became a Digital Science magnet school. Can we say #EagleProud two articles in a row? Yes.Yes we can. #EagleProud.

Left: Bots by the Creek member, Eli R., holds the Connect Award trophy.

Oh, Baby! Wearing and Preparing in FACS

Exploring Childcare students recently were visited by guest speaker, Alex Sparrow, a Certified Postpartum Doula, Certified Babywearing Consultant, and Cloth Diaper Educator. Ms. Sparrow taught students about the role of a postpartum doula in a family's life, including providing family support and basic care for infants and young children. Students were excited to see how the skills they're currently learning align with occupations in childcare.

The lesson included environmental and financial connections as students learned about cloth diapers and how they contribute to sustainability and help families of young children to save money. Finally, students learned and practiced how to properly wear a young child and the pros of babywearing for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

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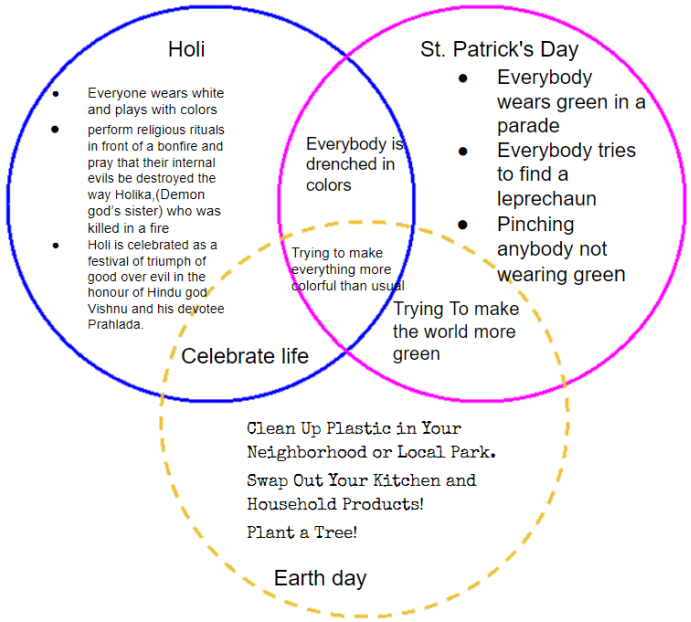
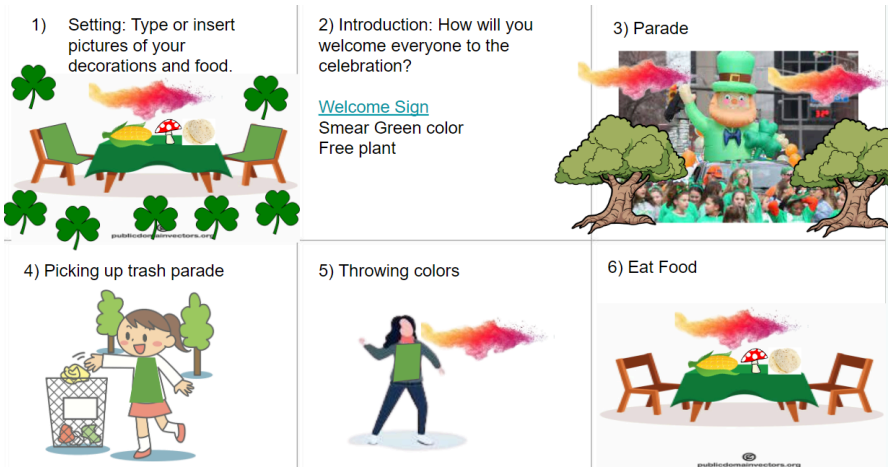
Computational Thinking Spotlight

Let's celebrate! This month, Bits & Bytes students used CT to design a multicultural celebration:

Decomposition & Pattern Recognition: Students broke down three cultural holidays into different elements of each, then they worked to find similarities between them and placed them together on a Venn Diagram.



Algorithms: Now for the fun part! Students planned a celebration with a beginning, middle, and end that would honor and celebrate all three holidays.



Abstraction: Students generalized to identify items needed for a celebration. They took into account the idea of celebrations and their prior knowledge of what celebratory events include.

Food	Decorations	Activity Supplies
• Corn • Mushroom • Roti+curry • Salad • Carrot Cake • Soda Bread	• Green table dressing • Green hats+shirts • Disposable utensils • Reusable glasses • Shamrocks • Giant leprechaun inflatable • Green chairs	• Powdered color • Plants • Shamrocks • Giant leprechaun inflatable • Trash can • Plastic bag • Gloves • pick-up stick • separate bag for recyclables.

Magnet Byte, continued…

RCMMS Girls Code!

Did you know that without Heidi Lamarr we wouldn't have bluetooth? Did you know that without Kathrine Johnson we would have never gone to the moon? These are just some of the cool facts our Girls Who Code club members have learned about women in tech. Girls Who Code (GWC) is an international club led by female technology professionals. The club was created to spark women's interest in technology and to increase the number of women in tech professions. It is similar to Girl Scouts, execpt the focus is coding.

Reedy Creek's awesome club includes girls from each grade level. The club is hosted by ELA teacher, Ms. Green, and volunteers from IBM, led by Ashley Brown-Harris, a Manager for AI & Data Transformation, Lead Data Scientist, and CIO Network Engineering at IBM. Every week during GWC meetings, our girls learn about a new woman from a technology-related field. Last semester, after researching women in tech, club members created Scratch code for different women in tech to share what they had learned. Currently, our girls are working on a ChatBot to help students with questions they may have about various topics. What is the club planning for the future? "We are looking forward to continuing our learning next year and encouraging more girls to join us!"

Outside Science

Peter Pan is not the only child who has looked for his shadow. In fact, 6th grade science students in Mr. Barth's class have been heading outside most days to look for shadows. When they find them, they measure them.

Sounds like fun, but why measure shadows? This data gathering exercise allows students to see the relationship between the earth and the sun. After taking measurements, students graph the data back in the classroom. When students go outside at the beginning of the day and then again at the end of the day, they see the same pole with different shadows. Their graphs are progressing to reflect this.

While outside, students also look for the moon. As long as the skies are not too cloudy, they can find the moon and note its shape and position for their moon journals. Far out!

Trivia Time

You will need a masterful memory to answer this question. (Or you just have to know how to scroll up and count.) **Today's trivia question is…** ***How many times was the moon mentioned in this issue?*** (including in this trivia question). You've got this one, readers! Shoot for the moon! The answer will appear in next month's Magnet Byte!

Look for more highlights from our Center for the Digital Sciences in the upcoming May issue!

Read previous issues of the Magnet Byte.