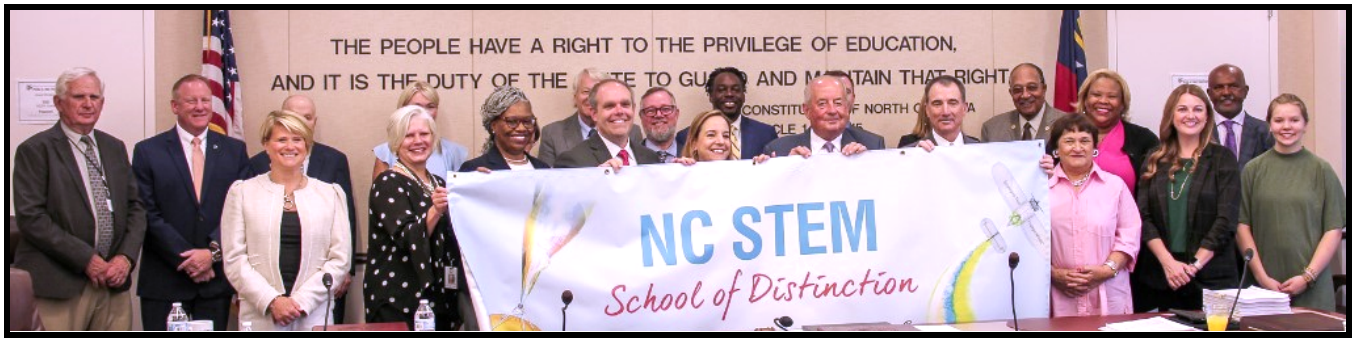
Magnet Byte

September 2023

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

This Issue: NC STEM School of Distinction; CT Review; Meet Ovaltine; Congrats, Ivan; SPIKE Prime Time

Congratulations, Reedy Creek! NC STEM School of Distinction



This month Reedy Creek was formally recognized before the State Board of Education as a **North Carolina STEM School of Distinction**. Congratulations, Reedy Creek! So, what does this recognition mean? The NC Department of Public Instruction's website explains this honor: "The STEM Recognition Program and application process was developed in partnership with representatives from NCDPI, NC schools, business and industry, post-secondary institutions, and STEM-related experts leading a review team, as a way to identify and recognize outstanding STEM schools and STEM programs. It has been established as one of the country's most rigorous programs to commemorate educational excellence. These recognized schools represent the very best in STEM education in North Carolina which exemplify outstanding leadership and learning and empower keen creative thinking, reasoning, and teamwork: the underpinnings of 21st-century skills..."

Thank you to our RCMMS families, teachers, staff, partners, and the entire Reedy Creek community for helping us to achieve this honor! Eagle Proud!

How Many on the Penny? CT in 8th Grade Science

Eighth grade Science students recently reviewed Computational Thinking and lab procedures in an engaging, hands-on way. Students used droppers to add water droplets to the surface of a penny to determine just how many the penny would hold. As with any well-conducted experiment, they began with a hypothesis then followed an algorithm to complete the lab. So, how many drops of water do *you* think can fit on a penny? Not sure? Our 8th grade scientists are here to help!

Magnet Byte continued…

New Snake; Who's This?

Reedy Creek's Animal Science classroom has a new ~~Eagle~~ snake! This wonderful new class member resides at the front of the room near Ms. Crofton's desk where he can keep an eye on all the action taking place in this active elective. So, who is this slithery creature?

Readers, meet Ovaltine, the rat snake who was found at a PetSmart in desperate need of a home. Why the name Ovaltine? Well, Ovaltine just so happens to be Ms. Crofton's favorite drink, so it was destined to become a snake's name.

Ovaltine, welcome to the Eagle's nest! An eagle's nest is not usually a happy place for snakes, but this one is a GREAT home for our beloved Animal Science dwellers.

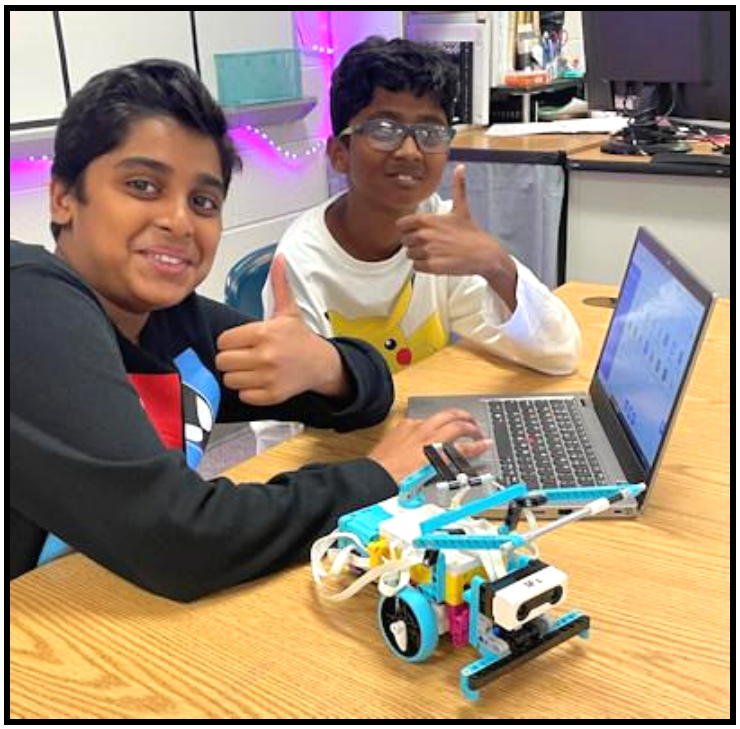
This Eagle is Soaring: National and International Academic Success

Congratulations to Ivan T., a Reedy Creek 8th grader who had an incredible opportunity this past summer. Ivan qualified as one of the few middle schoolers from our state to represent North Carolina in the prestigious National Academic Competition held in Arlington, Virginia in June. Ivan competed in both the History and Geography competitions, and his scores were so high that he qualified for the International Competition, which was held in Rome in July. The long journey proved to be well worth it. Thanks to an exceptional performance on the topic of Sardinian History, Ivan brought home a 3rd place medal! He proudly held North Carolina's state flag at the awards ceremony. Way to go, Ivan!

This competition was the world's largest ever buzzer-based quiz bowl tournament for students. This was also a first for Ivan who had never participated in an academic quiz bowl prior to this year. Ivan truly enjoyed the experience, and not just because he was so successful. According to Ivan, his favorite aspects of this amazing experience included the opportunity to travel and to meet and compete with students from around the world. We are so proud of you, Ivan! This Eagle is soaring!

Magnet Byte continued…

It’s Prime Time for Robotics



Reedy Creek’s Level 1 Robotics and Mechatronics classes have always been an outstanding way for students to learn the fundamentals of robots and programming. These hands-on elective classes have students programming robots to move through a series of challenges that simulate real-life scenarios. For example, students set-up and code robots to make turns and move back and forth across a table, simulating machines that travel along rows of crops in a field for watering or picking berries. Students also program their robots to go when they see the color green, slow down when they see yellow, and stop when they see red. We all know what that relates to in our everyday lives!

As exciting as this learning is, it just got even more so. Thanks to our generous families who contributed to a Donors Choose project for RCMMS Robotics and Mechatronics teacher, Ms. McKenna, we were able to provide 12 LEGO® Education SPIKE™ Prime Sets for our students! These SPIKE™ Prime robots will allow our students to continue the creative and innovative learning they are involved in, and to strengthen their skills as they go. Coding options include a Scratch-based drag and drop format as well as the option to explore text-based coding with Python. (Be on the lookout for a Donors Choose grant for Mr. Boehm to provide the remaining 12 robots to fully supply our classes.)

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

Read previous issues of the Magnet Byte.