

PRESS RELEASE

Mountain View School
77 Hampden Road
East Longmeadow, MA 01028



The 5th Grade Robotics Team from Mountain View School won two top awards at the Southern New England Regional VEX IQ Robotics Competition in early March. One award was the STEM Research Award and one was the Excellence Award for having the highest accumulation of points in four categories: Skilled Driver Challenge, Team Driver Challenge, Autonomous Driver Challenge and Research Presentation. The teams competed against 23 teams to earn the right to compete in the VEX IQ Robotics World Competition in Louisville, Kentucky.

From April 23-26, the team competed against 272 teams from all over the world such as Hong Kong, Australia, Japan, China, Canada, Syria, Lebanon, New Zealand, Mexico, South America and the United States. An Opening Ceremony Parade of Nations kicked off the event at the Kentucky EXPO and Convention Center. Alliances were scheduled amongst the teams, and for three days, scores were accumulated in Research presentations, Skilled Driver Challenges, Autonomous Driver challenges, and Team Driver Challenges. The two teams scored well and were told their research presentations were "brilliant." China swept the top scoring divisions, but our students learned so much about STEM and about communicating and collaborating with children from all over the world.

The 5th grade students met with Deborah Barry, the Gifted & Talented Program Teacher, after school to build, re-engineer, rebuild, program, and test their robots. They also completed STEM research presentations about robotics in the modern world to demonstrate their understanding of robotics in the community. The team reached out to several local businesses to fundraise. We want give a huge "Thank

You” to the following businesses and families who contributed to the trip and made it possible:

- Chipotle Restaurant (Enfield) Fundraiser - \$1042
- Power Specialists, Associates, Inc. (Somers) - \$850
- Lockwood Farms Maple Syrup fundraiser (Van Buren Family) - \$740
- 28 Prinz & Northern Builders, Inc. (Luke family) - Team t-shirts
- Lenox - \$300
- Smith Associates Surveyors, Inc. - \$250
- Gomez, DaCruz, & Tracy, P.C.- \$200
- Robert Charles Photography (Zemba Family) - \$200
- Make It Metro - \$200
- Fast Switch (Wotoywicz Family) - \$500
- Fiduciary Investment Advisors (Wotoywicz Family) - \$250
- Pioneer Valley Wellness DBA: Elements Massage (John Pantera) - \$100
- Whispering Horse Therapeutic Riding Center (Pat Bean) - \$100
- Baystate OB/GYN Group Inc. - (Dr. Hallowell Pelletier & Family) - \$200
- DBA TipTop Nails & Spa (Mai Family) - \$50 and \$150 in gift cards
- Boino Family - \$50
- Steffan Family - \$15
- Barry Family - \$100
- Robert Zemba - \$20
- Walsh Family-\$25

The team would also like to thank GoGraphix and White Stone for printing two team banners and procuring team swapping buttons, Michael Cady for designing the “Robominds” logo featured on the banners, t-shirts and buttons, and all of the families that came out to Chipotle to support our fundraiser.

