

Two events this weekend:

Meyonohk versus Stratford in first 2017-18 School Match

Saturday afternoon, October 28, at Roving ChessNuts

Winning School will then go against G.P. Nicholson School

Girls-Only Program Open House & Organizational Meeting

Sunday afternoon, October 29, at Roving ChessNuts

See details below

In this issue:

**Three pages
of new items**

Page 4 is last issue for those
who may have missed it

**Commando Chess
returns in November**

Roving ChessNuts CHESS Teasers



NEWS, RESULTS, UPCOMING EVENTS, PHOTOS AND INTERESTING STUFF
MAINLY ABOUT SCHOLASTIC CHESS IN EDMONTON & CHESSNUTS ACTIVITIES FAR AND WIDE

Volume 10, Issue 5 • October 23, 2017



**Top Runners-Up in Section B
of Richard Roberts Memorial Tournament**

Kylie Neth (above) was a gold medalist as was Carter Stokes (right) in the B section of competition at the October 15 tournament at Greenfield Hall while Harrison Doyle won the third place trophy after some tiebreak games.

Hastings Radbourne of Grande Prairie is a semi-regular participant in Edmonton scholastic tournaments. He won Section A third place trophy and holds a chess pencil and memorial scorebook given to all participants.

**Be a Chess Ambassador
this Halloween & School Year**

Details on Page 3

GIRLS ONLY CHESS PROGRAM

Recommended for Grades 4 through Junior High

This program is meant to not only promote better chess among all levels of female players, but also develop chess friendships involving other fun and interesting learning experiences.

**Join us for an Open House at The Roving ChessNuts, 12019 76 Street
Sunday, October 29, 2017, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

Activities: Organization and naming of the program, a fun and learning experiencing, involving speaking/acting, survey of participants regarding activities, frequency of meetings, ideas about how to improve female participation in chess, and, of course, two Chess'n Math rated games. A snack will be served as well. **Please e-mail rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca if you plan to attend!**

This Open House is sponsored by The Roving ChessNuts



Like any sport, your child should have the proper items to practice with between their coaching times, classes, training activities and events

Available at Roving ChessNuts ...

Tournament Chess Pieces with pouch & vinyl board

RC student price: \$23.00+GST

These pieces are used in classes and tournaments



DGT1001 Chess Clock

\$41.95+GST Now used at Edmonton Scholastic Tournaments • Practice with a clock - time your checkmating abilities and speed up play at home with slower-thinking opponents!



Clocks make for fairer games!

Roving ChessNuts

12015 76 Street, Edmonton • 780-474-2318

rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca

Orders can be placed by e-mail or phone; delivered to students in school programs or classes

Commando Chess returns in November

Daniel Zhang (photo) won the first major Commando Chess event held at Borden Park on a chilly April day.

Commando Chess is a combination of chess playing and participation in athletic and fitness activities. Play a game of chess and then test your body in a physical challenge.

Roving ChessNuts are pleased to have found a gym with adjacent chess playing area to host the first major indoor Commando Chess and a late November date is being arranged.

This first indoor version is being restricted to boys, Grades 4 through 7, so that logistics can be worked out before larger, both gender events can be held later in the winter.

If you are interested and want to be among the first to get details, e-mail your name, school and "I am a Commando" message to rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca as soon as possible as enrollment will be limited.



Be modest in your chess victories, be a good sport in your defeats!

November Scholastic Blast CHESS Tournament

Round Robin Sections:

4-player for top two rated sections, others 6 players

Sunday, November 5, 2017

at Greenfield Community Hall, 3803 114 Street

Sign-in time: 12:30 to 12:45 - Earliest finish likely to be 3 p.m.

1st and 2nd Place Trophies, Medals 3rd through 6th
Special trophies awarded to male and female players who gain the most rating points at this tournament
(These awards will be presented after the C'n Math rating report is posted)

Entry Fee: \$20 with PREPAID entry by 6 p.m., October 29;

\$25 all entries after that date; No entries accepted tournament day;

Second player from same Family: \$10 PREPAID before October 29; \$15 after that date

You can pay in any manner, including debit, by visiting the Roving ChessNuts headquarters at 12015 76 Street, Edmonton T5B 2C9; you can call in credit card payment, 780-474-2318, or you can send cheque by mail or give to instructor(s) at classes and school programs. Only cash or cheque at hall on tournament day.

Other details available with online registration and with updates on www.rovingchessnuts.com

General Tournament Notes:

Please bring a water bottle with you. If you have to withdraw prior to tournament day, send e-mail to: rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca. On tournament day if you suddenly can not attend or will not be able to sign in by 12:45 p.m., **call or text 780-554-7280**.

Frequently look for updates on the Roving ChessNuts website where the Players List will be updated frequently as registrations are received. Entrants are responsible for checking to make sure they are on the Players List within a day of entering and for checking before coming to the hall on November 5 to see which section they have been assigned to according to their Chess'n Math or CFC rating. Unrated players not enrolled in a Roving ChessNuts school program or class should be evaluated at no charge prior to entering the tournament so they are placed in the right section. Call 780-474-2318 to arrange. Call the same number if further information about this tournament is needed.

Have a Blast at this Tournament!



By October 23, over a dozen players had already entered!

If you love chess, then help get more youths involved by joining the Roving Chess Ambassadors Program

Start with handing out Halloween treats with chess link!

Sam Hoekman is a busy student plus also performs with the Alberta Ballet, is an accomplished piano player, is learning the trumpet and has become involved in badminton. But another of his loves is chess and he has been avid about tackling the game.

Sam is so keen about chess that he has spent many hours at his local playground and other places, teaching others to play chess. Many parents and their children have come to the Roving ChessNuts for evaluations or to inquire about classes and when asked how they got turned onto chess, the reply has often been "Sam".

Now others can also become Chess Ambassadors and get more young people involved in the benefits and fun of chess. Ambassadors get cards to give to relatives, friends and other young people they meet. The cards carry a Free Chess Evaluation invitation and when they are used and the recipients become involved in scholastic chess, the Ambassador is awarded discounts in his or her own chess activities such as tournament entries and programs.

And Roving ChessNuts will provide you 10 Halloween treat bags with cards inside to give out next Tuesday if your home is providing treats to the public.

Email rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca or call 780-474-2318 to become an ambassador!



Derek Thomas of Roving ChessNuts awards a special trophy to Sam Hoekman for being the first Ambassador.

Scholastic Coaching Tips for Parents and Coaches

By Susan Polgar, world-famous Grandmaster and chess coach

This was first published in my column a while back at ChessCafe

Winning and losing is just a part of the game. There are valuable lessons that all children can learn with either result. Therefore, it is up to the parents and coaches to motivate them to learn and do the right things. Here are some of my suggestions to the parents and coaches of young players:

Coaching Tips

There are thousands of children competing in a National Scholastic Events each year. Since I started attending a few years ago, this is the first time I am here as a chess mom and coach, because my son Tommy is playing his first ever national scholastic event in the K-1 division. I see things in a different light and there are routines my son and I follow.

The most important thing is that my son has to enjoy playing chess, studying the game and competing in tournaments. I have seen too many incidents of parents and coaches screaming at their children because of a lost game. Some of these kids were frightened to tears and that is so unfortunate.

Winning and losing is just a part of the game. There are valuable lessons that all children can learn with either result. I and coaches to motivate them to learn and do the right things.

1. Control yourself

I realize that parents and coaches are disappointed when their youngsters do not win. But that is when they need you the most. Screaming, yelling, and hitting will not help and it can backfire. The children can get intimidated and may not be able to play at their full strength. In addition, they may start to hate chess or hate competing.

2. Stay strong, give support and encouragement

When your youngsters win, that's great. Congratulate them. However, when they lose, give them even more support and encouragement. That's when

they need you the most. That is when their psyche is most vulnerable and when they need reassurance that you still love and support them.

3. Make it fun and motivating

Young children usually have difficulty focusing and concentrating for a long period of time. Therefore, you should take one game at a time and avoid discussing future games or opponents. Teach them to focus and concentrate on each move and each game, and when that game is over then focus and concentrate on the next game.

4. Rating does not matter

Too many parents and coaches are preoccupied with ratings. It's just a number. Ratings are unimportant at such a young age and they tend to be skewed depending on where the youngsters live. Additionally, many children play chess on the Internet and can improve in between tournaments, so their over the board rating may not reflect this. Teach the youngsters to play the positions and not the opponents. Do not let your youngsters overestimate or underestimate their opponents.

5. Follow the principles of chess

Teach your children to follow the basic principles of chess:

1. Control the Center! – The center consists of the squares e4, d4, e5 and d5. So when you start the game place your pawns in the center to occupy and control it as much as you can.

2. Develop Your Pieces as Soon as Possible! – Get your knights and bishops out. This should be done before you try to checkmate your opponent.

3. Castle as Soon as Possible! – Castle at the very first chance you have in order to keep your king safe. Remember, you can't win if your king isn't safe and you get checkmated first. So don't forget to castle! Then after you castle, connect your rooks

by developing your queen.

4. Keep Your Pieces Protected! – Don't leave your pieces unprotected. Each and every piece you have is very valuable, so don't lose them.

5. Have Fun! Win with Grace and Lose with Dignity! – First and foremost, chess should be fun. Sometimes you win and sometimes you lose, it's all part of the game. When you win, be a good sport and don't trash talk or make fun of your opponent. When you lose, be an even better sport and not a sore loser. Shake hands and congratulate your opponent.

6. Do not dwell on the past

Every youngster will have bad games here and there. If you want to go over the game quickly to learn from the mistakes, that is fine. But do not be so preoccupied with the loss. The players need to move on and focus on the next game. Help your youngsters relax and concentrate in subsequent rounds. It will not help getting angry and upset over a bad loss. Otherwise, it can affect the next games.

7. Don't play too quickly

Teach your children to use their time properly in all phases of the game. Too many children move at the speed of their opponents. Don't! Play at your own pace. Even when they have a winning position, they should still take their time and be very careful of traps and counter-attacks. As the saying goes, it isn't over until it's over. Therefore, every move in every position is important.

8. Conserve energy

I understand that this is tough to do. However, try to help your children conserve their energy. Many children want to run around and play actively. That is OK but not 15-30 minutes before the round. They should take a walk, get some fresh air, concentrate, and get the mind ready for the next battle.

See Back Page - October 18 Issue for the Chess Calendar which has not been changed since that issue!

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Over 50 players put best effort into Richard Roberts Memorial Scholastic Tournament



Winners and runners-up at Richard Roberts Memorial Tournament: (left to right) Pascal Lacroix, 2nd place Section B; Caleb Menard, winner Section B; James Windram, winner, Section A; and Nathan Thunder, 2nd place, Section A.

Chess Calendar

The following scholastic chess competitions and activities in Edmonton and area are subject to change. Keep updated: regularly check the website: www.rovingchessnuts.com

Make sure you are on ChessNuts' e-mail contact list so you get newsletters, updates on school programs and other information. To subscribe e-mail: rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca

If you need clarification or have questions, call: 780-474-2318.

Saturday, October 28: Small School Team Tournament: Meyonohk Elementary vs Straftord Elementary at Roving ChessNuts, 1:15 p.m.

Sunday, October 29: Open House and Girls-Only Group organizational meeting at Roving ChessNuts, 1:00 p.m., e-mail rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca for more information and an invitation to this new group for elementary and junior high girls combining chess and fun/learning activities.

Sunday, November 5: Afternoon Tournament at Greenfield Hall. Regular round-robin sections with trophies and medals to be awarded. Online registration and details will be posted Thursday, October 19. Sign-up early for a discounted fee!

November 9 & 10: Fall School Break Chess Camps at R.C. Watch website for details

November: Commando Chess returns for Boys, Grades 4 to 6! Watch for details

December 10: Sunday Afternoon Christmas Tournament at Greenfield Hall.

January 13: Tournament at Beaumont Public Library, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.; open to Beaumont and Edmonton players.

March 11: Giant Scholastic Tournament at Rogers Place!

The late chess instructor and player Richard Roberts lived by the motto that it is better to be a participant than to sit on the sidelines. He definitely believed that whether you win, lose or draw, your enjoyment should come from participation and the improvements you make when you put forth your best efforts!

Over 50 players with chess ratings ranging from unrated beginners to a Chess'n Math rating of 1300, put in a good effort on Sunday, October 15 at Greenfield Hall. There was joy of victory and sadness over losses but everyone went home with either a trophy or medal. The rating report for this event will be posted via rovingchessnuts.com later this week.

This tournament was directed by Derek Thomas, Prayus Shrestha and Taya Van Dyke. Helping with other duties: Patricia Thomas, Michelle Casorso, Carol Windram. Thanks to many players and parents for helping out with set-up and take-down.

Richard Roberts Memorial Scholastic Chess Tournament results

Sunday, October 15, at Greenfield Hall

SECTION A: RATINGS OVER 800

ANNUAL TROPHY will bear name of **JAMES WINDRAM** and he also received an individual trophy for scoring a perfect 4.0

2nd place trophy: Nathan Thunder, 3 + tiebreak

3rd place trophy: Hastings Radbourne, 3 - tiebreak

Gold medalists with 3.0 points each: Garrick Johnson and Alex Wang;

2.5 points each: Pranavan Mahendran, Tetyana Shelevach and Haywood Huang.

Silver Medalists with 2.0 points each and top tiebreak scores: Michelle Enkhtaivan, Rogan Eskow, Nick Pkhovelishvli, Andrew Xiao, Jeff Weston and Anu Purevjants.

Bronze Medalists with 2.0 points down to 0.0 and lower tiebreak scores: Aedan Lobo, Terry Li, Eric Jin, Dehai Yu, Aywen Ko and Max Hiew.

SECTION B: RATINGS UNDER 800

ANNUAL TROPHY will bear name of **Caleb Menard** and he also received an individual trophy for perfect score of 4 plus tiebreak

2nd place trophy: Pascal Lacroix, 4 - tiebreak

3rd place trophy: Harrison Doyle, 3 on tiebreak

Gold medalists with 3 points each: Kylie Neth, Dana Lee, Caleb Casorso, Peter Stretch, Carter Stokes, Matei Lupu and Shreyas Prasanna.

Silver Medalists with 2 points each and top tiebreak scores: Jasmyan Lobo, Jotis Kung, Eric Johnson, Syenne Ko, Leo Wang, Jie Xu, Victor Merritt, Jothymius Kung, Armaan Patel, Alex Qu and Preston Russell.

Bronze Medalists with 1.5 to 0.5 points each:

1.5 points: Arthur Jiang, May Li and Alexa Stewart; 1.0 points: Wangin Yu, Joshua Kung, William Gao, Liam Cerbas, Liam Dalton and Ryan Atkinson; 0.5 point: Tyler Atkinson, Eddie Shapka and Frank Xia.