

Roving ChessNuts CHESS Teasers

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

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Top section players compete at Dead of Winter tournament in late January.

Chess Activities 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, please e-mail: rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca or call: **780-474-2318**.

February: Roving ChessNuts' winter classes underway - Limited number of seats available for Saturday Knights classes at 12019 76 Street while weekday evening classes at Greenfield Hall are starting their spring sessions on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting 6:30 p.m.. Please call or e-mail to check on availability if you are not already a member of a Greenfield class. **Thursday, February 22 and March: Training session** for first time tournament players at **Greenfield Hall, 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.** \$10 fee. Practice using clock, learn tournament rules. Great for those less experienced, younger players entering Chess Faceoff on March 11. Please use back entrance to hall. **Other training sessions are being arranged during February**, along with special workshops to get players ready for the individual and school team competition March 11 at Rogers Place. Also during February and early March, invitations to interested school class players to attend a Roving ChessNuts class at either the northeast training facility or Greenfield Hall in order to meet and compete against opponents other than those involved in their school classes. Facing a variety of opponents and facing that challenge is essential to develop chess skills.

March 1 & 2: Teachers' Convention Chess Camps at Roving ChessNuts. Limited enrollment. E-mail or phone to reserve a spot. Details on back page. spaces are being filled quickly, so don't delay!

March 11: Giant Scholastic Tournament at Rogers Place! Please go to website for order form and details. Over 50 players now entered!

Check www.rovingchessnuts.com & future newsletters
for updates, new events and online registration for tournaments
plus information on school programs and classes

Player puts effort into practice and playing to improve her chess

By Derek Thomas

Michelle Enkhtaivan will be the first of over 50 active chess players at George P. Nicholson school to reach a Chess N Math rating of over 1000.

When asked what has contributed to her success, Michelle points out that she attends the chess program at her school as well as the Greenfield Hall Wednesday advanced class. On top of that Michelle will frequently play practice games online at home, and attends nearly every Roving ChessNuts tournament.

Michelle especially enjoys learning new openings and the traps that come with them. Her favourite opening is the high-risk high-reward opening named Bird's Opening where white's first move is 1. f4.

Michelle is not only a progressing chess player, but also an exemplary citizen. Whether Michelle wins or loses she always displays proper sportsmanship and treats her opponents with respect. After classes, Michelle usually helps put away the chess sets and tidy the class space. She also uses the time to talk to the instructor or fellow players about games just played and what she may have done right or wrong.

At competitions, if Michelle loses she does not get discouraged or upset, instead she reflects on why she lost and how she can learn from her mistakes. After that she is ready to play another game and try to get revenge!

Luckily, Michelle has stiff competition to practice against in her school program. With six other players at George P. Nicholson in the 800 and 900 rating group, it is a race to see who the next player to join Michelle in the over 1000 group will be!



Lee brothers from Meyonohk School playing chess at Vancouver Airport while travelling!

Excerpts from a Parents Magazine article:

The Brainy Benefits of Chess

Schools that encourage chess are reacting to studies like that of New York City-based educational psychologist Stuart Margulies, Ph.D., who in 1996 found that elementary school students in Los Angeles and New York who played chess scored approximately 10 percentage points higher on reading tests than their peers who didn't play.

James M. Liptrap, a teacher and chess sponsor at Klein High School in Spring, Texas, conducted a similar study in 1997. He found that fifth-graders who played chess scored 4.3 points higher on state reading assessments and 6.4 points higher on math tests than their non-chess-playing peers.



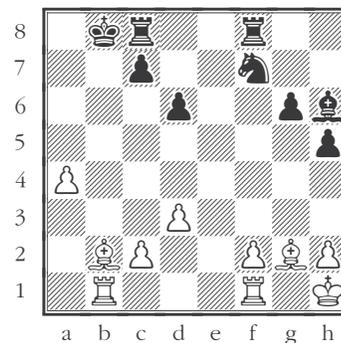
Further proof comes from the doctoral dissertation of Robert Ferguson, executive director of the American Chess School in Bradford, PA. He studied junior-high students, each of whom was enrolled in an activity -- either working with computers, playing chess, taking a creative writing workshop, or playing Dungeons and Dragons -- that was designed to develop critical and creative thinking skills. By the time the students had spent about 60 hours on their chosen activities, the chess players were well ahead of the others in several psychological tests, scoring 13 percentage points higher in critical thinking and 35 percentage points higher in creative thinking.

Experts attribute chess players' higher scores to the rigorous workout chess gives the brain. Studies by Dianne Horgan, Ph.D., dean of the graduate school of counseling, educational psychology, and research at the University of Memphis, has found that chess improves a child's visual memory, attention span, and spatial-reasoning ability. And because it requires players to make a series of decisions, each move helps kids learn to plan ahead, evaluate alternatives, and use logic to make sound choices.

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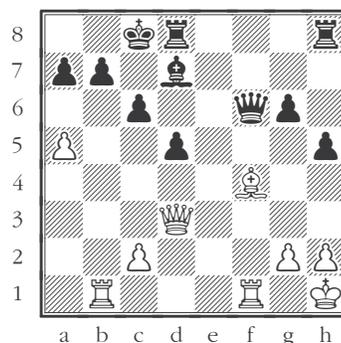
New Chess Puzzles for You!

White to Move and Checkmate in one move!



Your winning move for white is _____ !

White to Move and Checkmate in two moves



White's move: _____

Black's move: _____

White's winning move: _____

Some tips for solving checkmate problems:

Always check which pieces can create a check.

Check all three ways of how the enemy king can get out of check (capture attacker, block the check, which squares the checked king can move to).

Look for tactics such as forcing the king to a checkmating square, discovered checks, pawns or pieces pinned to the enemy king, and moves that trap the enemy king.

You must assume the other side is going to make the best move to avoid checkmate!

Teachers Convention Chess Camps

at the Roving ChessNuts 12019 76 Street, Edmonton

Full Day (8:30 to 5 p.m.) Half Day (8:30 to 12:30 or 1 to 5 p.m.)

Thursday & Friday, March 1 and 2, 2018

(Limited enrollment of 12 students, priority to full-day and those entered in Chess Faceoff at Rogers Place on March 11)

(Full-Day players bring a bag lunch; a.m./p.m. healthy snacks provided to morning and afternoon)

If a student can only attend one-day, Thursday is best for beginning players while Friday would be best for more experienced player - if preferred is both days that is fine because two instructors on hand to divide lessons and coaching according to skill level.

Special workshops on Friday conducted by women's International Master Agnieszka Matras-Clement Alberta's Highest Rated Female Player • Third in 2017/18 Canadian Women's Championship

Full Day: \$49 plus GST Two Full Days \$90 plus GST

Half-Day: \$29 plus GST Two Half Days: \$52 plus GST

Family Discounts 15% applied for second student; 30% third

Payment can be made by cheque, credit card, debit card or cash and must be arranged at time of enrollment. Refund, minus \$15 administrative fee can be requested for cancellations received one week prior to start of camp. In case of illness or other reasonable absence, credit can be extended to other camp dates or other Roving ChessNuts programs and classes.

E-mail rovingchessnuts@shaw.ca or call 780-474-2318 to register for camps, specify date and times; or for further details



Mail: 12015 - 76 Street NW
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Educational benefits of Chess:
<https://gardinerchess.com.au/educational-benefits-of-chess/>