SCHOLASTICS:
The Soul of the Chess Club

The Saint Louis Chess Club’s scholastic offerings go well beyond school-based chess instruction. Page SC2.
SCHOLASTICS: The Soul of the Chess Club

BY KAREEM TALHOUNI
Saint Louis Chess Club

The Saint Louis Chess Club’s scholastic program is a vital component of the club’s overall mission to promote chess at all levels. Founded in 1994 and run through a cooperative arrangement with Saint Louis University, the scholastic program is designed to attract students by offering various levels of instruction, ranging from basic chess lessons to advanced strategy and tactics. The program is open to students of all ages and skill levels, and it is staffed by a team of experienced chess instructors who are dedicated to providing a supportive and enjoyable learning environment.

SCHOLASTIC CHESS AND STUDENT OUTCOMES: WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

BY BRIAN KISIDA AND HUI F. FOGGUERAT
Saint Louis Chess Club

Scholastic chess is a common and growing element of school curricula across the globe, and it is currently compulsory in many countries. In the United States, scholastic chess has been introduced into the school day in states like Illinois, where the scholastic network of charter schools in New York City, as well as the Broward County, Florida school district. Saint Louis Public Schools joined the ranks of scholastic chess programs in 2011, and thanks to the leadership of Dr. Jeanne Sinquefield, over 170,000 Boy Scouts have earned the Chess Merit Badge nationwide.

One such “gold-standard” study that chess has benefits greater than just student achievement and may extend to so-called non-cognitive skills. Many educators believe that scholastic chess increases executive function, improves self-esteem, and enhances social skills. The Chess Club is partnering with researchers at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine in this important area of study.

Crown Jewel

The king’s image can be seen in the many angles of his crown jewel: circle the two identical kings.

Where can the black king move to escape capture?

Rook Maze

Circle the Queens

Word Search

Bishop knight

Rook chess

Pawn square

Queen king

The knight looks like a horse and often has a decorative mane. Draw your own crazy mane or wig on these knights.

Draw or write the name of each of the six chess pieces to fill in the holes in the grid:
pawn, rock, knight, bishop, queen, king. The object is to have each shape appear only once in each row or column.

Scholarly Chess and Student Outcomes: What the Research Says

Scholarly Chess and Student Outcomes: What the Research Says

The cognitive benefits of chess may also be of value beyond the classroom setting. Some psychologists and education specialists believe that it may be valuable for students with autism. Other studies suggested that there may be benefits that counter the social, physical, and mental effects of aging in later life populations. Limited research has linked chess to lower rates of dementia.

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Feature Image for SCHOLASTICS: The Soul of the Chess Club

From top, Turkey Tango Scholastic Tournament; Mason Elementary Field Trip; Margot in May Scholastic Tournament; Normandy Field Trip; From top, Turkey Tango Scholastic Tournament; Mason Elementary Field Trip; Margot in May Scholastic Tournament; Normandy Field Trip.
The Sinquefield Effect

BY NICK RAGONE
Assistant, Chief Marketing & Communications Officer

On behalf of Ascension, we would like to congratulate the Saint Louis Chess Club for an extraordinary ten years of making a difference in our community.

Thanks to the Chess Club—and Rex Sinquefield’s vision—Saint Louis is now the chess capital of the United States; the Sinquefield Cup—in our vision—Saint Louis is now the new headquarters of the world’s premier chess tournament.

It began with the Saint Louis Chess Club and Saint Louis University. But where the Chess Club has had the greatest impact has been withSaint Louis Chess Club and Saint Louis University.

Now in the third year of the program, we’ve been fortunate to touch thousands of local students who might not otherwise be exposed to competitive chess and its culture. The Chess Campus has been teaching them chess, but as one student noted, “I learn a lot about life. I’ve learned that it’s important to be patient and work hard.”

Not every student in the Youth Move program will become a Grandmaster, or even an elite player, but hopefully they’ll all take away a life-long love of the game.

Boy Scouts of America Chess Merit Badge

BY EMILY ALLRED
Ascension Executive, World Chess Hall of Fame

September 2016 marked the 50th anniversary of two important events in the Saint Louis Chess Community—a scholarship program hosted by the World Chess Hall of Fame (WCHOF) and the launch of the Boy Scouts of America Chess Merit Badge.

These milestones would not have been possible without the vision, leadership, and support of Dr. Jeanne Sinquefield. She and her husband Rex founded the Saint Louis Chess Club in 1967 and, in 1981, they provided the funding to move the WCHOF to Saint Louis, raising the foundation for the city’s eventual designation as the national chess capital of the United States. At the same time that preparations were being made for the opening of the WCHOF, Jeanne was leading the process to create the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Chess Merit Badge.

Jeanne Althea Sinquefield was passionate about the BSA and the benefits it provides to participants. When she learned that the Boy Scouts did not have a merit badge for chess at the time of her death in 2016, she approached BSA officials with the idea of creating a chess merit badge for 60 years, but it had not yet been realized. She dedicated herself to making it a reality. Through her friend Cristine Gales, the Troop Committee Chair for Troop 6, the Western Los Angeles Council, she was able to contact the Boy Scouts and worked with Janice Downey, Senior Program Innovation Manager, to begin the process of creating the badge.

Ralph Bowman, Innovation Manager, to work the program to accomplish a goal. “We at Ascension are grateful for the cooperation with the Chess Club in creating the Youth Move program to serve underserved school districts that would like to offer chess to their students.”

It began with the Ferguson School district, and has gradually expanded to other communities, including in Chicago and St. Louis.

Now in its third year, the program, we’ve been fortunate to touch thousands of local students who might not otherwise be exposed to competitive chess and its culture. The Chess Campus has been teaching them chess, but as one student noted, “I learn a lot about life. I’ve learned that it’s important to be patient and work hard.”

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Saint Louis’ Reputation as Chess Capital Grows as Another Grandmaster Makes the City Home

GM Alejandro Ramirez reflects on Saint Louis’ thriving chess scene, and recent addition to the city’s chess-playing residents.

Your Move Chess: Ascension Partnership Elevates Ferguson–Florissant School Students

BY ALEJANDRO RAMIREZ
Grandmaster, Coach of the St. Louis University Chess Team

Saint Louis University powerhouse of chess

The world’s No. 4 player and the Saint Louis University team, Saint Louis will be moving to the city with a high presence. The reigning U.S. Champion, the Saint Louis Chess Club. The Club is becoming a magnet for aspiring chess professionals will be making their way to the chess capital of the United States. "With the revitalization of American chess, lead by America’s top 10, young and not-so-young across the country will be moving to the city that the game of chess is Co-Coach of the USA's national chess team, and Michael Khodorkovsky, the Club’s executive director, said "It’s a great place to be for a chess player," said Ramirez. "It’s a great place to be for a chess player with the club’s youth, team, and other elements. We are excited to have them here."

Ramirez is a former chess Olympiad veteran and participated in the 2016 Chess Olympiad, which begins September 1st, in Baku, Azerbaijan. With Ramirez’s recent transfer to the USA and as the top board, America’s chances to medal are significantly increased. Competition will be stiff, however, because the Russian team will be sending a very strong contingent. The reigning champions from China are always extremely well-prepared.

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Chess Pocket Parks Popping Up

BY RYAN CHESTER
Club Manager
Saint Louis Chess Club

The Saint Louis Chess Club has several Pocket Parks scattered throughout the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD) district. These small designated areas provide a place for students to learn, interact, and play chess. Our first Pocket Park was built by hand in the “Old North” neighborhood.

"The pocket parks are a way for the Saint Louis Chess Club to immerse itself in communities around the city."

The Chess Pocket Park is sustainable not only because of designs to keep it low maintenance, but also substantially provides the community with something they didn’t have before, something that makes the whole surrounding community better," said Nancy Rodney, the Old North project’s manager. "The idea is finding places where people are supported, places where they can get something they need, taking it from there. Along the way, tangible benefits, and then you use that to attract other families into the neighborhood."

Our next Pocket Park was built in the world famous Forest Park near the St. Louis Zoo. We hold a ribbon cutting ceremony and invited local Boy Scouts to help celebrate! "The Pocket Parks are a way for the Saint Louis Park Forest President L多福 said, "[St. Louis Chess Club] is a partnership that we learn from that are transferable to so many different areas. And fitting something like this partnership—the chess tables in Forest Park—is only going to strengthen Forest Park’s mission within the community."

In 2017 we built another pocket park in south Saint Louis with one of the oldest parks in Saint Louis, Francis Park. Saint Louis Chess Club and the St. Louis Public Schools. The initiative, C.H.E.S.S.—program became Sustainable not only because of designs to keep it low maintenance, but also a priority and the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the Saint Louis Public Schools. The initiative, C.H.E.S.S.—program became a certification process to get students certified in chess. Officers serve as mentors, build constructive relationships and ultimately makes a difference in the lives of young people."

While there are a number of sports programs that connect youth and police officers, not every child is athletic inclined. Introducing chess to students provides yet another opportunity for positive interactions of a different level. "We are very pleased to see organizations like the Saint Louis Chess Club working to promote programs that actively involve our city’s youth," said Kelvin Adams, superintendent of the St. Louis Public Schools. "Chess gives our students a constructive outlet. Now, when our students see a police officer, no hope they will see a mentor."

C.H.E.S.S. Cops! City of St. Louis Police Work with Students in Public Schools

BY EMMERICH JACOB
Executive Director
Saint Louis Chess Club

The current climate of community and police relations in our country has fostered law enforcement agencies to examine what tactics work well and what areas pose challenges. Officers work extremely hard day in and day out to keep the citizens of our community safe.

The focus on building relationships with young people is a priority and the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department is committed to finding opportunities to build better community relationships, especially with youth. Now, they are doing so through chess.

So, when the SLMPD was approached by the St. Louis Police Foundation with a plan to interact with students in a unique setting, the police welcomed the opportunity. After months of observation, planning and training, the Saint Louis Cops Helping Enhance Student Skills—C.H.E.S.S.—program became a reality. The program is a collaborative effort between the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the Saint Louis Public Schools, the Saint Louis Chess Club and the Saint Louis Public Schools. The initiative, which started February 22, 2017 pairs Saint Louis police officers with students in the Saint Louis Public Schools. Officer Nate McCraw enjoying a chess game with St. Louis Public School students.

"Our officers are so excited about the opportunity to work with students, to mentor, to work with kids, and help them grow," said Lt. Bertliman. "It is crucial for law enforcement to establish positive relationships with members of the Saint Louis community early on, and the program helps us do just that."

At this point, eight police officers have gone through a certification process to become certified chess instructors. Once certified, the police officers teach fundamental chess elements to students. The curriculum incorporates lessons in critical thinking, planning and logic. The program is also designed to foster positive relationships between the police department and the community. After all, by playing chess both students and officers interact in an environment where they may not otherwise have a chance to bond. During the opening, our founder Rex Sinquefield, and St. Gabriel’s School, which is located near our founder’s alma-mater Bishop DuBourg. Mike Hummer is also a graduate of Bishop DuBourg, and St. Gabriel’s School, which is located near our founder’s alma-mater Bishop DuBourg.

"The program is a collaborative effort to help mentor kids and build a better community through chess," said Officer Nate McCraw. "This is a unique way to bring the community together and help students improve their cognitive skills."

The program is a collaborative effort between the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the Saint Louis Public Schools, the Saint Louis Chess Club and the Saint Louis Public Schools. The initiative, C.H.E.S.S.—program became a certification process to get students certified in chess. Officers serve as mentors, build constructive relationships and ultimately makes a difference in the lives of young people."

Thank you for your partnership

Your support helped create the Your Move Chess program

"We are very pleased to see organizations like the Saint Louis Chess Club working to promote programs that actively involve our city’s youth," said Kelvin Adams, superintendent of the St. Louis Public Schools. "Chess gives our students a constructive outlet. Now, when our students see a police officer, no hope they will see a mentor."

Chess Club Hosts Grandmasters in Residence

BY KATERINA NEMCOVA
Woman Grandmaster

The Saint Louis Chess Club has been an incredibly important figure for chess in the United States and Saint Louis is deservedly seen as our Chess Capital. Most chess players know that the STLCC has been promoting chess globally, through elite tournaments, tournament broadcasting, and support of both young talent and top players. I think it is also very important to highlight the STLCC’s great efforts in teaching our royal game through scholastic programs and the Grandmaster in Residence program. I have never seen the Grandmaster in Residence program implemented anywhere else in the world and I feel fortunate to be part of it.

The STLCC offers classes for players of all ages and levels, opening chess to all people who are interested in playing, learning, improving, or just enjoying the game. I think this is by itself wonderful, it doesn’t focus on the smartest and young- est as is common in today’s world. Teaching skilled and focused players and watching their interest and skill improve is as enjoyable as teaching young chil- dren to pick up on the game and find the sparkle in it. What I probably enjoy the most is the total begin- ners, those who are hesi- tant about starting their chess journey and who per- ceive chess as a game for others, who come here to try their hands at chess, to see if it’s something for them. The authentic surprise and hap- piness as they learn to play is beautiful and rewarding.

The “Ladies’ Knight” class, intended for female begin- ners, is beautiful and rewarding. It is a new generation of female players who enjoy the game and play it with their friends and family members.

The STLCC is involved in events, like the Caisna Club Dinner and the annual Campus Holiday Party. We offer dis- counts and host community events during tournaments, and we even help with extra space for World Chess Hall of Fame programs and events. The Chess Campus in Saint Louis is a truly unique expe- rience, and we’re thrilled to be a part of it. There is not another restaurant concept like this in the world that we know of. We are grateful to Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield for making this possible, and for the support and partner- ship by Bray and the Chess Campus has shown us.

As owner, I couldn’t be more proud of Kingside Diner and to be a part of this one- of-a-kind Chess Campus. It has exceeded all of my expec- tations and dreams so far, and we look forward to growing the business and the brand with the Saint Louis Chess Campus.

The Chess in Residence pro- gram also provides grat- ifying experience for the grandmasters and benefits them as well. It is important to understand that when grandmasters play chess, they tend to think about chess in terms of perfor- mance and competition. They work hard to play the best possible games and to fin- ish at the top of the table. Viewed only through this narrow perspective, we sometimes forget that chess is not only about results, but also about the appreciation of and love for the game.

The activities at STLCC provide us with a unique perspective. In teaching chess through various weekly les- sons, responding to people’s questions, analyzing games with those eager learners, or playing blitz and baghouse, we can “zoom out” and remember how to truly enjoy our royal game.

It also doesn’t hurt that the magnificent facility has a dream come true for chess players. Filled with pictures of historical and modern chess heroes, and with the atmosphere created by the presence of all the chess legends who competed here over the years, the environ- ment in the STLCC fosters the realization that chess is something extremely spe- cial, beautiful, and enjoy- able. It is much more than wins, titles, or fame.

I eat— but certainly not least— I find it important to stress the professionalism and friendliness of STLCC’s staff. Their attitude and respect for chess and grandmasters makes this residency program such a unique and excellent pro- gram that I feel fortunate to be part of. Thank you, Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield, for supporting and promoting chess and for changing the way we enjoy chess. Thank you for making it better.

The Saint Louis Chess Campus.

From top to bottom. WGM Katerina Nemcova participates in a Pop-up Chess Demo during the 2018 U.S. Championships. Katerina Nemcova poses with her Ladies’ Knight class in front of the green screen at the opening reception of PQW Capturing Superheroes, Chess & Comics. 2017.

Kingside Diner

STLCC

Eat Like a King

BY AARON TEITELBAUM
Owner, Kingside Diner

Three years ago, leadership at the Saint Louis Chess Club approached the Herbie’s team with a request. Could we jointly create a restaur- ant in the vacant space east with the Saint Louis Chess Campus. With the help of Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield, and the Club’s creative genius, we came up with a great concept. The Kingside Diner was born.

We decided that the Dinner should be a place where peo- ple could play chess, take lessons, learn about the his- tory of chess, and enjoy great food and drink. Today, we have accomplished just that. You can learn about chess in classes managed by the Chess Club in our side room, from displays on the walls, and in the chess library. You can play chess freely in the chess room or out on the patio that overlooks the cam- pus and the Central West End neighborhood.

We serve a full breakfast and lunch menu seven days a week in a welcoming, unas- suring, and friendly manner. Our menu is expansive and lunch menu seven days a week in a welcoming, unas- suring, and friendly manner. Our menus are expansive and lunch menu seven days a week.

The Kingside facility has two distinct patios, one on the roof and one on the front sidewalk. It also has a chess classroom, a private room for up to 12 guests, known fondly as the Bobby Fischer Room—and our large main dining room that seats 90 guests. Reviewers have lauded the service at Kingside as both friendly and efficient.

The team at Kingside quickly became part of the Chess Campus and their amazing team. The Kingside Diner is involved in events, like the Caisna Club Dinner and the annual Campus Holiday Party. We offer dis- counts and host community events during tournaments, and we even help with extra space for World Chess Hall of Fame programs and events.

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