



CHESS NUTS

Lakeridge Chess Club ♦ Volume 9 ♦ Issue 1 ♦ November 2006
Building critical thinking and creative problem solving skills

Lakeridge Chess Club welcomes new and returning players

WELCOME!

The Lakeridge Chess Club, now in its ninth year, welcomes many new and returning players. As we nurture our beginning players and watch our "Pups" acquire new chess skills, we appreciate our former club members who have moved on from Lakeridge and continue to volunteer at our club. Mercer Island chess clubs are thriving at all three elementary schools, Islander Middle School and MIHS!

We now have as many as 120 students learning chess at Lakeridge on Friday afternoons, over one fifth of all students!

On-line registration has streamlined the administration process, and given easy access to the team roster.

*To access your student's team roster, go to the registration website and click on the **Your File** tab. This shows students you have registered, and their teams. Click on **Team Name** and this will take you to the team page and roster.*



Your Chess Club Needs You!

The Lakeridge Chess Club depends on our many parent and community volunteers to accomplish the myriad of tasks that are necessary to deliver a quality program for our students.

Students in each chess group benefit from **Team Managers**. Thank you to those taking on this invaluable role, and to all the volunteers who make the club so wonderful for our kids.

Board Vacancies for 2006 - 2007

- **Communications** (Chess Nuts about 3 - 4 x a year, Lion's Pride, Lion's Ledger)
- **Communications** (Web Master)
- **Tournament Coordinator** (NOT the Lakeridge Tournament. This person champions other tournaments and fosters a Lakeridge Tournament Team spirit)
- **Events (Parties!)**

- **Nationals Team Champion**

We are looking to see if there is interest in sending a Lakeridge team to the National Scholastic Elementary Championships in Nashville, TN, May, 2007. This role would be to generate interest and provide coordination of students planning to attend.

Board Vacancies for 2007 - 2008

Next year, we have a number of key volunteers who will be moving on and it would be great if we could line up successors in these roles so that they can learn the role from current volunteers.

- **Coordinator**
- **Registrar**
- **Treasurer**
- **Lakeridge Tournament 2007 Director**
- **Lakeridge Tournament 2007 Food Concessions**

If you are interested in volunteering or simply finding out more about these roles, please contact Carolyn Hassall by email.





ASK DR. LEO

Meet our Head Coach



Dr. Stefurak, or Coach Leo, as students know him, graduated with a B.S., Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Washington and performed graduate research as the Kollmorgen Fellow in Color Technology at the Center for Human Information Processing at the University of California. He holds his Ph.D. in Cognitive Neuropsychology and performed applied post-doctoral research at the Tokyo Institute of Technology as a Monbusho Fellow, the Institute in Neuroscience at Dartmouth College, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), University of Minnesota campus. Dr. Stefurak has won numerous scholarships and academic awards and has published papers in his field.

Dr. Stefurak is active in the chess and strategic gaming community as the President of the Seattle-based Chess Mates Foundation which is the second largest supporter of scholastic chess in the United States. He is a National and Life Chess Master in the United States Chess Federation and has played chess

around the world. Sporting a current rating of 2365, he occasionally finds time to compete in regional and national events.

Even more significant than these credentials is Coach Leo's willingness to give to our school community something that he finds important and fulfilling. "Chess develops your strength of will, increases perseverance, insight, problem-solving ability, creativity, and even helps younger players learn to read." A chess master's greatest resource is his or her imagination. Chess is an art, a science, and a sport.

Coach Leo is skilled at working with students at all ability levels. Dr. Stefurak has taught chess in schools for more than a decade and continues his chess teaching throughout the summer by providing week long chess camps to beginning, intermediate and advanced students of the game.

Dr. Stefurak was the 1999 recipient of the Katharine M. Bullitt Alliance for Education A+ Award. Dr. Stefurak received the Superintendent's Award in 2004 for his work with Seattle Public Schools. In the spring of 2005, Coach Leo was instrumental in leading the Islander Middle School team to a Third Place National Team Title. Coach Leo looks forward to working with students at Lakeridge Elementary during the coming chess season.

Lakeridge Chess Club Welcomes All Students

Please come and enjoy playing chess with your friends while learning from Lakeridge's team of experienced chess coaches. Students are placed with other players of comparable chess-playing strength and are coached appropriate to their own performance level.

Chess is many things to many people. For students, chess is an intellectual contest of mind and will and has become a significant educational tool for stimulating critical thinking and creative problem solving. Chess is much more about figuring things out than about knowing what to do. To play chess is to learn. Parents and students involved in primary and secondary schools throughout America have seen chess make learning fun, witnessed chess bring families together, and seen their children make new friends while using their minds in innovative and insightful ways. Chess has become a part of modern education and is pro-family, pro-education and pro-social.

In elementary schools throughout the Puget Sound region, it is typical to see as many girls as boys participating in chess club and playing in scholastic chess tournaments on fall and winter Saturdays. The skills useful to generating successful chess play facilitate academic success and



ASK DR. LEO *Continued*

help to build personal confidence in expressing one's own ideas in concrete form. Chess is a robust game which engages much of the human mind and heart when played enthusiastically. Chess requires and uses many intellectual and perceptual competencies: careful observation, verbal strategy building, and insight into another's purposes and intentions.

Chess is narrative: each game tells a story and has a beginning, a middle, and an end with plot twists generated through the mutual creative efforts of two inventive minds at work. The players (i.e., opponents) create applicable chess sentences as they navigate their way through the course of a game. Chess players write their own script ('play-write') as they imagine their game into being.

Chess, like music and mathematics, has its own notational system, a collected body of work (games) dating back centuries, and permits innovation and improvisation in its expression. Chess helps to develop and support decision making skills in the face of incomplete information. Chess facilitates a powerful unification of perception, thought, will, and action in student development.

Girls learn chess in chess club and play with boys and girls in scholastic chess tournaments on an even playing field. Seattle is home to some of the strongest girl players in America. Girls regularly

win chess tournaments by defeating 5 boys in a row. Seattle area schools annually field teams with participating boys and girls which finish in the top ten in national competition.

Congratulations, girls and boys!

"Seattle is home to some of the strongest girl players in America. Girls regularly win chess tournaments by defeating 5 boys in a row."

Parents support extracurricular chess with their efforts and leadership as a supplement to their child's classroom education. Chess play and practice serve as positive, challenging, and character-building activities. Parents see the need for their children to develop healthy habits of mind and value the critical thinking and creative problem solving skills inherent in studying and playing chess.

The Lakeridge Elementary School Chess Club invites all students to participate in chess club on Friday afternoons. Boys are welcome; girls are welcome: all parents and students are welcome! Chess is a fun and educational activity that teaches logic, goal-oriented thinking, and creativity by means

of a hands-on cooperative dialog between two players. Chess as a sport, a science and an art allows students to interact in a positive, life-affirming, and enriching way.

Q. Do you have any software packages or books that you can recommend to our novice students?

A. I recommend the instructional chess software, "ChessMaster 10,000" by Mindscape. I suggest that parents do not invest in hand-held chess playing devices. They tend to be overpriced and underpowered.

I have found the following chess books to be good for novice and beginning players:

- Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess by B. Fischer, S. Margulies, and D. Mosenfelder, 1966,
- Better Chess for Average Players by Harding.
- Learn Chess by John Nunn, 2000
- Chess Tactics for Students by John Bain, 1993

Let's play chess!

— *Dr. Leo*

© Dr. Leo/Dr. Chess, October 2006



ALL ABOUT TOURNAMENTS

An Introduction to Tournament Play

When is it time for my student to start playing tournaments? The answer is usually when they ask, and tournament play is not for everyone.

Most tournaments include five games of chess regardless of outcome. However, players are free to leave at any time as long as they inform the Tournament Director.

Students are paired with players from other schools and grouped by grade level. Usually Kindergarteners through 3rd graders play against each other and 4th through 6th graders play against each other. As games are won and lost, players are matched to play others with similar scores. A lot of learning happens at chess tournaments as new game and personal strategies are explored.

Tournaments generally last all day, and students need to be supervised by an attending adult. There is usually a concessions stand to buy food and drinks. Between rounds you can talk about your game, reflect on your mistakes or quietly savor your victory. Bring your chess set, books and games. It's also fun to bring a ball, Frisbee or jump rope for outside play between rounds. Moms, dads and siblings can play chess with you between rounds, watch you play your match, read a good book or talk to friends.

Pairing sheets are posted before the start of each round of play. The pairing sheet tells you who you play against, the table number where you will play and the color, black or white, of the chess pieces for that game.

The tournament director will tell you when to start. Shake hands with your opponent and make your move. Remember the touch piece rule and think **checks, captures and threats!** No talking. If you have a question or need to go to the bathroom during play, raise your hand for the judge to help.

When you finish your game, leave the pieces where they are and raise your hand. A judge will come over to your table and ask you who won and record the result. Shake hands with your opponent and set up the board for the next game. Leave the play area quietly. Remember to be humble when you win and a good sport when you don't.

What can parents do at chess tournaments?

Tournament play is habit forming! Here are some ideas that may help make the day more fun for both our kids and parents...

- Come a little early and save a few tables so that the Lakeridge team can hang out together
- Encouraging our kids to wear their new Lakeridge chess shirts so that they look like a team and are easy to spot and connect with.
- Encouraging carpools, especially when more than one parent can come.
- Host a small potluck with a few families and invite a coach. These evenings are usually informal and a lot of fun for all.
- Let others in the club know if you've signed up for a tournament. Sometimes other families will follow your lead.
- Identify the whole Lakeridge team on team trophies and have kids present their team trophy to Mr. Allen on Monday morning before school.
- Bring different sports equipment, puzzles and/or games and drawing supplies that encourage between game play.
- Start a team score sheet. Focus on "playing ones' best", good sportsmanship and learning from mistakes, rather than winning and losing.
- Volunteer! There are lots of jobs that parents can help out with at tournaments.





Lakeridge Chess Tournament December 9th, 2006

The Lakeridge Chess Club will host its Seventh annual Scholastic Chess Tournament on December 9th at Islander Middle School. Lakeridge students are given a head start on registration process through the on-line system. This tournament fills up quickly, so reserve your space!

As you can imagine, hosting a scholastic tournament for over 300 students requires many volunteers to tackle many tasks.

Many thanks once again to Aninda Mattoo for agreeing to coordinate the Tournament this year. We are looking for someone to take over the role of Coordinator for the 2007 event, and this would be a great time to get in touch and shadow Aninda on this year's event.

We still need to recruit parents to assist with all aspects of this event, including Facilities, Trophies, Concessions, and Check-in/Runners. In addition to the advance planning volunteers we will need lots of willing hands on both Friday 8th and Saturday 9th December. If you can spare some time, please contact Aninda on anindamattoo@yahoo.com.



We need you all!



Chess Tournaments and Events Calendar

November 2006

Nov 4 St. Louise State Qualifier (K-3 U/800, K-3 Open, 4-6 U/800, 4-6 Open), Bellevue, WA. <http://www.chess4life.com/chess-event/St-Louise-Fall-Qualifier/50>. *Note this tournament has stronger players with a rating of over 800 playing in a separate group.*

Nov 11 Terrace Park Kickoff K, U-800(1-3), U-800(4-6), 1-3 Open, 4-6 Open, Mountlake Terrace, WA, register at: www.signup4chess.com. *Note this tournament has the stronger players with a rating of over 800 playing in a separate group.*

Nov 24 Thanksgiving (WA Class) Scholastic, North Seattle Community College, Seattle, WA.

December 2006

Dec 2 Bryant Elementary School Fall Classic (K, 1-3, 4-6), Seattle, WA, NWSRS rated, on-line registration and info at www.sigup4chess.com or contact: jroseto@comcast.net.



Dec 9 Lakeridge Elementary Chess Tournament (K, 1-3, 4-6), IMS on Mercer Island, WA, sign up at www.lakeridgechess.com.

January 2007

Jan 20 Medina Elementary Chess Tournament (K, 1-3, 4-6), Medina Elementary School, 8001 NE 8th Street, Medina, WA 98039, Marianne Mowat, mgmowat@msn.com, www.signup4chess.com

Jan 27 NW Grade Level Chess Tournament (K-8), Bryant Elementary School on-line registration and info at www.sigup4chess.com or contact: jroseto@comcast.net. *Note, this is a Grade Level Tournament, which means that students compete only with other students in this grade.*

February 2007

Feb 3 2007 UCDS Tournament (K, K-3, 4-6, K-3

U800, 4-6 U900) Contact: Elena Donaldson. *This is also a tournament that separates out stronger players.*

Feb 10 The Evergreen School Nightmare's Gauntlet. Shoreline, WA. Contact: Mary Clarfield. chesstournament@evergreenschool.org

March 2007



Mar 17 All Mercer Island Tournament (K-1, 2-3, 4-6), open to Mercer Island residents and those attending Mercer Island schools only, accelerated pairings, NWSRS rated, on-line registration will be open soon at www.lakeridgechess.com.

Mar 31 Terrance Park "Last Chance Before State" Tournament. Mountlake Terrace, WA. www.signup4chess.com/terranceparkfall2006

April 2007

Apr 21 WA State Elementary Championships, Vancouver, WA. [More Info](#) More Details TBA

Apr 21 I Love Chess Too Tournament, (K-12), Vancouver, WA, Contact: Norm May, nmay@pacifier.com Details TBA

May 2007

May 11 - 13 National Elementary Championships, Nashville, TN. Details TBA

April 2008

Apr 26 WA State Elementary Championships, Redmond, WA. More Details TBA

***REMEMBER TO SIGN UP
EARLY!***

***MANY OF THESE EVENTS FILL
UP FAST***



LAKERIDGE Students! Coach Leo's

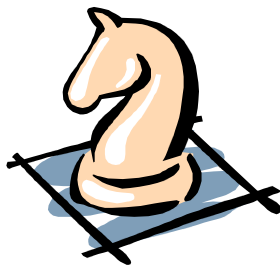
Fall Tournament Recommended List!

Choosing the right Chess Tournaments, especially when you are first starting out, can be a daunting process. Our head coach Dr. Leo Stefurak has put together his list of four tournaments recommended for Lakeridge Chess students this fall. These are great local tournaments and they fill up fast, ***so don't forget to sign up early!***

- ◆ **Nov 11 Terrace Park Kickoff**, K, 1-3 U/800, 4-6 U/800, 1-3 Open, 4-6 Open, Mountlake Terrace, WA, register at www.signup4chess.com. This tournament separates out the stronger players with ratings over 800 into a separate group.
- ◆ **Nov 25 Thanksgiving (WA Class) Scholastic**, North Seattle Community College, Seattle, WA, David Hendricks, This is a one day side event to the main 3-day "adult" tournament. PDF files at http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/Thanksgiving_Scholastic_2006.pdf for the Scholastic flyer/entry form. **NOTE ENTRY REQUIRED 7 DAY BEFORE THE EVENT.** If you are considering going to the Nationals in Denver in May 2007, this is one of the few opportunities to get a US rating rather than the WA rating that most tournaments give. A US rating is a big advantage at Nationals since it allows a student to play in a restricted group based on skill level.
- ◆ **Dec 2 Bryant Elementary School Fall Classic** (K, 1-3, 4-6), 5 Round Swiss, WSRS rated, on-line registration and info at www.signup4chess.com
- ◆ **Dec 9 Lakeridge Elementary** (K, 1-3, 4-6), Mercer Island, WA, www.lakeridgechess.com.
- ◆ **Dec 16 Skagit Chessfest** (K-4, 5-8), Evergreen Elementary School, Sedro-Woolley, WA. TD Randy Walther randywalther@msn.com, <http://mysite.verizon.net/kaech/>

FIND ALL THESE LINKS AND MORE ON OUR OWN WEBSITE,

www.lakeridgechess.com



November 2006

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| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

December 2006

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |



Team Details

PUPS with Coach Al

Team Managers
 Dana Pruchno (206) 230-5655
dpruchno@comcast.net
 Shing Ma (206) 230-8098
sillymas@yahoo.com
 Meet in ROOM 13 for nut free snack
 Session in Library, pick up at 4:30pm promptly
 Sign out REQUIRED

TIGERS with Coach Mike

Team Managers
 Donita Lacrampe (206) 275-4655
Lacrampe1@comcast.net
 Mike & Susie Cero(206) 419-0657
mscero@comcast.net
 Meet in MPR for nut free snack
 Session in ROOM 12, pick up at 4:45pm promptly
 Sign out REQUIRED

COUGARS with Coach Chouchan

Team Manager
 Tracy Dubofsky (206) 232-1270
dubofsky@comcast.net
 Meet in MPR for nut free snack
 Session in Room 30, pick up at 4:45pm promptly
 Sign out REQUIRED

BEARS with Coach Bill

Team Managers
 Katinka Boksem (206) 232-6029
Katinka@boksem.com
 Nancy Lee Evans (206) 275-4116
NLEvans@NextStrategies.com
 Meet in MPR for nut free snack
 Session in MPR, pick up at 4:45pm promptly
 Sign out REQUIRED unless 4th Grade

LIONS with Coach Leo

Team Managers
 Kathy Tsai (206) 275-1222
ketsai@earthlink.net
 Steve Chess (206) 695-7129
tripickle6@yahoo.com
 Meet in MPR for nut free snack
 Session in Music Room, pick up at 5:00pm promptly
 Sign out only required for Grades K-3

Parent Reminders

Some pointers to help Chess Club as smoothly as possible

- **Remind** your child each Friday morning that they have Chess Club after school
- Pack a **NUT FREE** snack. We do have students with nut allergies, please always follow this rule



- Honor your **volunteer** obligation, arrive at 3:20pm on your designated dates to support the Club
- If you know your child will be **absent** from Chess Club, let your Team Managers know **IN ADVANCE**. We do not automatically have access to school records, so please call even if your child has been absent from school.
- Arrive **ON TIME** to collect your child from Club. Pups finish at 4:30pm in the library, Tigers at 4:45pm in Room 12, Cougars at 4:45pm in Room 30, Bears at 4:45pm in the Gym, and Lions at 5:00pm in the Music Room. We will exclude students from Club if you are repeatedly late in collecting your child.
- Always **SIGN OUT** your child if they are in K - 3rd grade, we need to know that they have been safely picked up.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



The Lakeridge Chess Season

October 20
 October 27
 November 3
 November 10 - no school; non contract day
 November 17 - no club meeting (Noon Dismissal)
 November 24 - no club meeting (Thanksgiving)
 December 1
 December 8
 December 9 LAKERIDGE TOURNAMENT
 December 15
 December 22 - no club meeting (Winter Break)
 December 29 - no club meeting (Winter Break)
 January 5
 January 12
 January 19
 January 26
 February 2
 February 9
 February 16
 February 23 - no club meeting (Mid-Winter Break)
 March 2
 March 9
 March 18
 March 23
 March 30
 April 6 - last meeting of the year!
 April 13 - Spring Break
 April 27 - Washington State Chess Tournament
 May 11-13th National Elementary Championships

*WA State Chess Tournament will be in Vancouver, Washington this year (Saturday, April 27th, 2007)

*Nationals will be held in Nashville, Tennessee

In order to qualify to play at State, a child must play in a tournament during the 2005-2006 school year and receive 3 out of 5 points in single tournament. LKD Chess Club hopes to have a strong showing at State again this year. There is no prequalification for Nationals.

For the latest chess info, check our Website:

www.lakeridgechess.com

Lakeridge Chess Club Board

Club Coordinator & Registrar

Carolyn Hassall (275-0519) —
carolynhassall@comcast.net

Treasurer

Mihyung Kim — mihyung@hotmail.com

Communications/WebMaster

Carol Petrucci (230-8851), petrcarol@comcast.net

ChessNuts

OPEN—please contact Carolyn Hassall if you can help!

Local Tournament Coordinator

OPEN—please contact Carolyn Hassall if you can help!

Tournament Reports/Newspaper Liaison

Hilary Benson

Special Events Chair

OPEN—please contact Carolyn Hassall if you can help!

Lakeridge Tournament Chair

Aninda Mattoo - (236 9917), anindamattoo@yahoo.com

Past Club Coordinators

Carol Petrucci (230-8851), petrcarol@comcast.net

Mitch and Lisa Eggers (232-9661) leggers@comcast.net

Buffi Guffi (Founder. Now living in West Virginia)

Lakeridge Chess Club Coaches

Head Coach

Leo Stefurak (Lions) — leolion@seanet.com

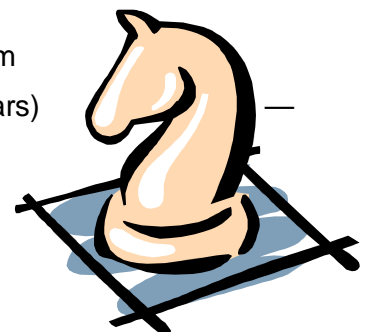
Coaches

William Schill (Bears) —
williamschill@hotmail.com

Coach Chouchan (Cougars)
chornyAA@msn.com

Mike Miller (Tigers) —
jocemike@seanet.com

Al Walker (Pups) —
buckluckly@hotmail.com





Useful Websites and Links

Don't forget to check out our own website at <http://www.lakeridgechess.com>

To check out your WSRS rating, visit the Ratings tab on our website and use the password 'thelion'

The latest on chess on Mercer Island and around the region <http://chess.apacible.com/>

WA High School Chess Association for ratings and tournament listings <http://www.whsca.org/>

US Chess Organization for national events and news <http://www.uschess.org/>

Northwest Chess for local news, tournaments, and events <http://www.nwchess.org>

The Week in Chess, Coach Leo's favorite news site <http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html>

To play chess online <http://www.yahoo.com>, and <http://www.chessclub.com>

STUDENTS, ALWAYS GET YOUR PARENTS' PERMISSION BEFORE GOING ONLINE!



Challenger Puzzles

EASY

White to move and mate in one



MODERATE

White to move and mate in two



EASY Solution
f8(N)++
Moderate Solution
1. Qa2!
1... Kc4 2. Qg2++; 1... d3 2. Rb4++; 1... e4 2.
Rb5++; 1... Kc4+ 2. Rf3++