



**LAKERIDGE CHESS CLUB 2010/2011
ORIENTATION INFORMATION**

About the Club

Lakeridge Chess Club, now in its 13th year, welcomes you to our Orientation Meeting. We are expecting around 110 students to be enrolled in our program, which makes it one of the biggest elementary school clubs in our area, with the highest level of participation of any club in the Mercer Island School District. We expect to operate six teams - Pups, Tigers, Lynx, Cougars, Bears, and Lions - and cover all ages and abilities from Kindergarten through 5th Grade.

Volunteers Needed!

Teams are taught by our excellent team of chess coaches, but the club is administered entirely by parent volunteers. As you can imagine this requires a great deal of parental involvement, and this is the reason that we mandate all parents of chess club members try to spend at least two sessions in chess club each year (three for parents of Kindergarten members). We do understand that this is simply not possible for some people, and we have other volunteer opportunities available if this is the case. However, we ask that you do try to fulfill the in class volunteer requirement - your session will be scheduled in advance to allow you to plan, and it's the best way to see the benefits of chess club in action.

In addition to these two sessions, the overall operation of the club is managed with the following key volunteers

Club Coordinator and Registrar

Shelly Hirschowitz - 5he11y@comcast.net

Treasurer

Dennis Lee - dtlee2@yahoo.com

WebMaster

Clenn Hirschowitz- 5he11y@comcast.net

Lakeridge Tournament Co-Chair

OPEN—please contact Shelly Hirschowitz if you can help!

Teacher Liaison

Miran Hothi -miranhothi@hotmail.com

Communications: Lion's Pride, Lion's Ledger, Display Case

Irit Snyder - iritsnyder@comcast.net

Volunteer Coordinator

OPEN—please contact Shelly Hirschowitz if you can help!

Registrar

Hilary Benson - hbenson@yahoo.com

Special Events Chair

OPEN—please contact Shelly Hirschowitz if you can help!

Team Managers

Each Team needs a responsible parent to check students in at the beginning of the session, manage discipline throughout the session, and check students out at dismissal. Typically two or more parents share this role and cover the full season between them. We do allow a partial refund of registration fee depending on the number of sessions you are able to attend. The team class **WILL NOT** be able to start until the Team Manager vacancies have been filled.

If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please let us know.

When does the Club meet?

The club calendar varies slightly each year. We develop the calendar based on the date of the Washington State Elementary Chess Tournament which takes place on April 30th. Our last session is set at eight days before the State Tournament. We then count back for 20 sessions to set our timetable. Meeting dates this year will be

	Oct. 22 nd	Oct. 29 th	
		Nov. 5 th	
	Dec. 3 rd	Dec. 10 th	Dec. 17 th
Jan. 7 th	Jan. 14 th	Jan. 21 st	Jan. 28 th
Feb. 4 th	Feb. 11 th	Feb. 18 th	Feb. 25 th
	Mar. 4 th	Mar. 18 th	Mar. 26 th
	Apr. 1 st	Apr. 15 th	Apr. 22 nd

How are the students assigned to Teams?

Each year we get a different mix of ages and abilities registered with the club, so the size and makeup of teams varies year to year. Of the six teams, the Pups is typically made up of Kindergarteners, and the Lions of 4th and 5th Graders. The Teams in between show a gradual progression of ages and ability. As last year, the all girls team 'Lynx' is the team for 1st grade girls or older girls with basic chess knowledge.

Once the registration period is over, a group of chess club committee members meets to assign the students to their Teams. It has been shown that children become more involved with chess when they are taught in friendship and peer groups, so one of our primary aims is to keep children in these groups. We also try to honor requests for individual children to stay with a particular friend. Our overall aim is to have the children happy and motivated within their team.

Parent Volunteer Commitment

Once we have finalized the teams, we then tackle the task of assigning your mandatory volunteer slots. We do try to accommodate your preferences as much as possible, but as this is a complicated task we can't always guarantee this. You should arrive around 3:20pm on your volunteer date, and check in with your Team Manager in the Multi-purpose room. Parent volunteers will generally assist the Team Managers with their duties.

When do we hear about Teams and Volunteer dates?

Our registration is due to close on September 30th, so we will not be assigning team placements and volunteer dates until after that. We should be able to email these details early in the following week, so please check your inbox during that time for your assignment and make sure your child knows the name of his/her team. We will post the team rosters on the chess club notice board, in the library on the first day of chess club, so if you child needs to double check their team they can look there.

We don't usually assign Team Managers until the teams have been determined, so this is a pretty busy organizational time! We **MUST** have Team Managers in place for the full year before we can begin a particular team session.

How do the sessions operate?

Club meets immediately after school on Friday afternoons. All Teams except the Pups meet in the multipurpose room after dismissal. A Team Manager is present for each team, and they will check the students in and give out name tags. The students then sit with their friends and eat a snack (**remember to pack an extra snack for chess club on Fridays, and remind your child to save**

it for after school). **To respect those with allergies, we have designated Chess Club as a NUT FREE ZONE, so please no snacks with nuts.**

Coach Leo gives a short introduction talk, and tells students about exciting news and events that are taking place in the chess world, as well as promoting local tournaments and chess camps that might be of interest. At around 3:45pm, the students are led by the Team Managers to their individual chess sessions.

The Pups Team will meet in the library, where they are checked in by their Team Manager, eat snack, and unwind for a short time before they start their session.

If a child is expected at chess club but does not check in at the beginning of the session, the Team Managers will call your contact numbers to let you know.

**If you know your child will be missing from chess club,
PLEASE LET YOUR TEAM MANAGER KNOW IN ADVANCE.**

Please let us know even if your child has not been at school in the day, we do not automatically have access to school attendance records.

Sessions for the Tigers, Lynx, Cougars, and Bears end at 4:45pm. The Pups session ends at 4:30pm. The Lion's session (typically 4th and 5th Graders) ends at 5pm. Team Managers ensure that all students through 3rd grade are signed out by a parent/guardian. If your child needs to go home with someone else, please provide a note. Sign out is NOT required for 4th and 5th Grade students. If you require sign out for your 4th or 5th Grader please let us know in writing. We will work with Kids Co to have their caretakers collect your child if this is needed, but we do need a signed authorization form.

**PLEASE BE COURTEOUS TO TEAM MANAGERS AND PARENT
VOLUNTEERS AND COLLECT YOUR CHILD ON TIME.**

Communication

As you may already have noticed, the chess club makes full use of email, and this is certainly my choice method of contact. Your individual Team Manager and Coaches will let you know what their own preferences are.

The best point of reference for you is our website, www.lakeridgechess.com. You will find email links for board members, coaches, and team managers on this site. We also have useful articles and links for tournaments and ratings pages. Please take the time to check out the website.

We make use of the school newsletters Lion's Ledger and Lion's Pride so please look out for Chess Club related items there.

Last, but by no means least, we have our own notice board here in the library. Here we will post any fliers for tournaments or events that we might discuss at the chess meetings. Make sure that your student knows about this notice-board and encourage them to come and check it out in the next few days.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN LAKERIDGE CHESS CLUB.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!