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Press Release

Berkeley Chess School Students Score 6 First Place Trophies in Grade-Level State Championship

Out of 400 participants statewide, 75+ BCS students from 41 Bay Area schools competed. Trophies to be awarded Friday, January 7, 2011.

Berkeley, CA, January 5, 2011: On December 4th and 5th, 2010, over seventy-five Berkeley Chess School (BCS) students competed at the Grade-Level State Championship at the *University of the Pacific* in Stockton, CA. The nearly 400 championship participants came from all over the State to play a formidable schedule of 5 to 6 games (depending on grade level) over the weekend. Berkeley Chess School students placed first statewide for six grades. The standings were as follows:

Ben Rood, 1st Grade State Champion
Josiah Stearman, 2nd Grade State Champion
Joel Alcaraz, 6th Grade State Champion
Tudor Muntean, 8th Grade State Champion
Gabriel Lee, 10th Grade State Champion
Ruslan Bulguchev, 12th Grade State Champion

Besides the first place winners, many BCS students placed in the statewide top-ten for their grade. Out of the 41 schools whose teams were made up of BCS students, 8 school teams earned statewide top-ten team placements.

Trophies will be awarded this Friday, January 7, 2011, from 6:45pm-7:15pm at the Berkeley Chess School: 1581 Le Roy Avenue, Berkeley, CA.

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About the Berkeley Chess School: *Each year for the past twenty-nine years, BCS (a nonprofit organization) has enriched the lives of thousands of Bay Area children through a standardized program of chess classes, both after school and during the school day. Through its educational chess programs, BCS seeks to enhance cognitive development, nurture self-esteem, build character, and develop a lifelong love of learning. The BCS emphasizes equal access to the benefits of chess regardless of socioeconomic status, cultural background, gender, or academic ability. One quarter of BCS students are on full or partial scholarship. BCS serves the greater San Francisco Bay Area and Title I schools in Oakland and Richmond.*