

Oakland Students show their game in the 2nd Annual Berkeley Chess School Oakland Tournament

Over 200 students, teachers, and parents converged at Learning Without Limits Elementary School on Wednesday, June 2nd to compete in a quad tournament for individual and school-wide awards.

The students had just finished a year of chess instruction, had just completed the serious work of California State Exam testing a few weeks earlier, and were ready for some fun competition between their peers!

The competition was held in the auditorium, which was festively decorated with balloons, checkered tablecloths, and large cubes with chess pieces. Students arrived in chartered buses and were greeted by chess instructor and organizer Stephen Shaughnessy, who assigned them to their quad play groups and a final pep talk. Then they entered the large auditorium to find their assigned section among rows of excited students. Upon sitting, each student discovered a water bottle and pencil. (Parents and teachers were hosted with



Peet's coffee.) The water was well-served as the competition and the auditorium heated up.

Chairperson of Berkeley Chess School Board of Directors Queen Graham greeted the group. She thanked the tournament host, Principal Leo Fuchs, and acknowledgments of honored guests Brad Stam, Oakland Unified School District's Chief Academic Officer, and Rodney Brooks, Chief of Staff to Supervisor Keith Carson's office (Fifth District, Alameda County).



Then the students were given a final run-down of the tournament rules, they shook hands, and the battles began.

The students recognized Roger Poehlman and Robert Hamm, who along with Stephen, taught all the chess classes in Oakland, but they also were greeted by eleven other tournament directors, all of whom were Berkeley Chess School instructors. The tournament directors answered student questions as they arose and monitored all the quad results.

As each round finished, students were keenly interested in their overall scores, taking peaks at the results and calculating whether they would win their quad and collect a trophy. Others kept working on their games when they realized their score counted toward overall school trophies. Every child received a medal for their hard work.



Learning Without Limits swept first place in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade category, to great applause from the home crowd. Futures Elementary, Maxwell Park Elementary, and Santa Fe Elementary were the 2nd place winners in each grade, respectively. A loud cheer arose from the students whenever their teachers were announced. The teachers accepted the trophies. All schools received place trophies.



The outreach program and the tournament was provided at no cost to the students through the support of the Arthur and Toni Rock Foundation, Berkeley Chess School friends and family, In Dulci Jubilo, Inc., and the Irene S. Scully Foundation.



The final standings of the tournament are:

Place	Grade	School	Teacher
1st	3rd	Learning without Limits	Ms. Shever
2nd	3rd	Futures	Ms. Rubin
3rd	3rd	Esperanza	Ms. Nibblet
4th	3rd	Maxwell Park	Mr. Hamilton
5th	3rd	Learning without Limits	Mr. Imwalle
6th	3rd	Santa Fe	Ms. Parker
1st	4th	Learning without Limits	Ms. Carson
2nd	4th	Maxwell Park	Mr. Ervin
3rd	4th	Santa Fe	Mr. Smith
1st	5th	Learning without Limits	Ms. Alconcher
2nd	5th	Santa Fe	Ms. Chan