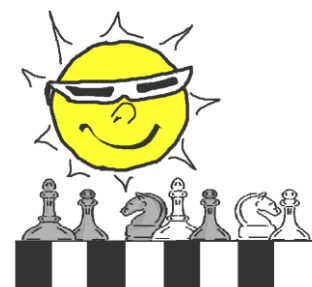


News:

The chess club has started the year with a blast. Meeting after school on Wednesdays, the club provides the students with a combination of learning and fun. Each class is split into two periods of supervised play and two short lectures. During the class, the students learn the fundamentals of chess as well as more complicated ideas. In the first four weeks, the students have mastered a number of the basic checkmates (Queen and Rook, two Rooks, King and Queen) and a number of important tactical ideas (Forks, Skewers). In addition, each student receives a personal lesson from Aleksey Kazakevich.



In the following weeks, the students will continue to develop their existing knowledge while also acquiring new tactical and strategic skills. The classes will focus on the proper piece development; the basics of the opening, middlegame, and endgame; and, most importantly, the ability to see several moves ahead, a quality which is essential both in chess and in real life.

Finally, in the last four weeks of the class, the students will participate in a tournament. In the end of the tournament, trophies and medals will be awarded. Parents (and grandparents) are encouraged to attend the award ceremony (which will take place at the end of the last lesson).

Problem of the Day***(Intended for both students and adults):***

White: King c1, Queen d3, Rooks d1, h1, Bishop d2,
Pawns a2, b2, c2, f2, g2, h2

Black: King e8, Queen g4, Rooks a8, h8, Bishop c8,
Knight e4, pawns a7, b7, c7, f7, g7, h7

White to move and checkmate in 3 moves

Pearls of Wisdom:

And, of course, each chess lesson has its share of fun conversations. Two examples from the past week are especially entertaining:

- Student: Who invented chess?
 Instructor: Chess was invented in India a long time ago
 Student: Whoever invented it probably made a lot of money
- Student: How old is chess?
 Instructor: It is about 1500 years old
 Student: Is it older than my *bubbie*?



Announcements:

- **Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis** (www.saintlouischessclub.org)
 Special thanks to St. Louis' newest state-of-the-art chess club, located in the Central West End, for helping get our chess club equipped, with a donation of 4 new chess sets. Thank you!
 For a low cost of a student membership (\$30/year), this club offers weekly FREE lessons for children, given by their in-house Grand Master, on Sundays at 1 PM. In addition, they hold periodic beginner tournaments and other learning opportunities to help the kids further their chess skills. See their website for more information. Their next beginner's tournament will be held this Sunday, **January 23rd**, with registration at **2pm**.
- **Private instruction:** Aleksey Kazakevich offers private chess lessons, willing to come to your house to work with you or your child. For more information, e-mail alekseykazakevich@gmail.com.

About the Instructors:

~~ *Aleksey Kazakevich:*

Formerly, a top-10 high school player in Missouri, Aleksey is now one of the top 100 players in the state. Having taught in the Chesterfield Day School and the Forsyth School and having given a large number of private lessons, Aleksey brings both experience and enthusiasm to the (chess) table

~~ *Rabbi Moshe Shulman:*

In addition to being knowledgeable about Torah and *halacha*, Rabbi Shulman is an avid chess player. He recently tied for first place in the initial Sunday tournament held by the prestigious Chess Club of Saint Louis. We are honored that Rabbi Shulman decided to share his chess expertise with the Epstein students.