

THE MAGIC OF CHESS



In a crowded third-floor room of the Barnes & Noble bookstore on the corner of Broadway and 66th Street, something magical happened on the evening of July 20th.

Harry Potter look-a-likes of all shapes and sizes gathered to await the release of the final book in the Harry Potter series, and Chess-in-the-Schools was there to help count down to midnight with a very unique celebration of chess.

Most of the Harry Potter enthusiasts were already familiar with the game of chess, but very few had ever been part of a live-action human chess game before this event. A lively new breed of "wizard's chess" was created for the evening through the addition of memory-testing trivia questions for the passionate fans.

Chess-in-the-Schools partnered with Barnes & Noble for this magical evening as a way of sharing our innovative mission with the public. We were pleased to donate our time to bring this exciting evening to the kids of New York City. ♔

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 Chess-in-the-Schools, 520 Eighth Avenue, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10018 Phone: 212-643-0225 Fax: 212-564-3524
www.chessintheschools.org

sixty-four SQUARES

FALL 2007 EDITION THE NEWSLETTER OF CHESS-IN-THE-SCHOOLS

BACK TO SCHOOL

Sharpen your pencils because Chess-in-the-Schools is returning to the classroom – more than 750 classrooms actually. This year we will be teaching chess in 75 elementary and middle schools throughout the five boroughs of New York City. That means 20,000 new students, some as young as eight years old, will learn to play chess as part of their classroom curriculum. Many of these students will also join us for after-school chess clubs and weekend tournaments throughout the school year.

The students in our School Program attend schools in some of the most impoverished neighborhoods in the city. Many of these schools lack the resources to provide extra stimulation and extracurricular activities

that help build the skills necessary to excel in reading, writing, and math. Learning to play chess promotes intellectual growth and has been shown to improve academic performance and increase scores on standardized tests.

Thanks to the generosity of individuals, foundations, and corporations, Chess-in-the-Schools is able to provide all elements of our School Program (chess instructors, chess sets, workbooks, and learning materials) without charging the schools or students who participate.

We look forward to another school year filled with thousands of checkmates and stories of success. ♔



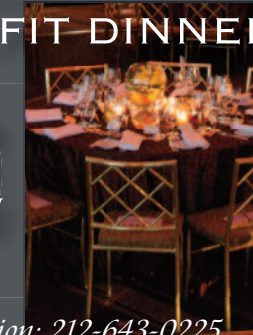
Please Save the Date

2008 BENEFIT DINNER

TUESDAY,
 APRIL 1, 2008

AT THE
RAINBOW ROOM

For table information: 212-643-0225



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PROJECT CHESS



Marley Kaplan, President & CEO of Chess-in-the-Schools, joins Council Member David Yassky, 33rd District, to gather support for Project Chess.

workbooks, and training. TTI workshops are open to elementary, middle, and high school teachers at any New York City public school. Thanks to funding from the New York City Council, the workshops and materials are offered at no cost to teachers or schools.

Council Member David Yassky spearheaded the Project Chess initiative and gathered support from dozens of Council Members who understand that learning chess improves academic performance and changes lives.

Workshops begin on September 29, 2007. Space is limited. Call 212-643-0225 for more information and to register for the TTI. ♔

The New York City Council has demonstrated its support for Chess-in-the-Schools by funding a new initiative – Project Chess. Components of this initiative include a Teacher Training Institute, Best Practice Schools, and a new citywide chess tournament called the City Council Cup.

The goal of the Teacher Training Institute (TTI) is to assist schools in starting their own chess programs by offering materials, curricula,

ÉCHEC ET MAT

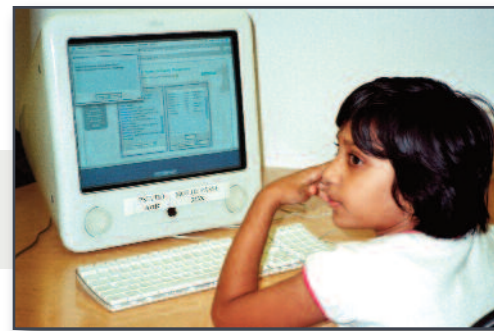
Chess-in-the-Schools embarked on a new adventure with international internet chess. On January 16th, June 14th, and July 5th, Chess-in-the-Schools students played chess via the internet against student opponents in Nîmes, France.

The first tournament paired seventh graders from Intermediate School 318 in Brooklyn against a team of ten students from EEPU Berlioz in Nîmes that finished second in the French School Championships. Once a stronghold of the Roman Empire, Nîmes was no match for Brooklyn. IS 318 won all ten games.

The second tournament paired elementary school students from Public School 5 in Manhattan against an advanced team of students in Nîmes. This time, the French marched away victorious.

To break the tie, one more tournament was held. With fireworks still ringing in their ears from Independence Day celebrations, Chess-in-the-Schools students claimed the prize on July 5th. It was a close tournament, with the students from the Bronx Writing Academy eking out a win with the final game. ♔

From New York to Nîmes, CIS is the best!



BRIDGE ACADEMY



The Bridge Academy...

- helps middle school students improve their grades,
- builds the skills needed for academic and personal achievement,
- matches students with appropriate and challenging high schools,
- and, of course, creates better chess players.



FOCUS ON: THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS

"Wow! Is this for me?" was heard over and over again as middle school students in the Bridge Academy looked at their surprises. To celebrate the end of the first academic year of the Bridge Academy, each student in the program received an overflowing gift bag of books that was unique and specially selected for them. Bags contained dictionaries, novels, chess instruction books, homework assistance aids, and even brain-teasing trivia games.

The middle school years are a difficult transitional time fraught with emotional upheaval, physical changes, and higher academic expectations. While there is no single proven methodology for tackling the problems facing 11 to 14 year olds, most educators agree

that extra attention by caring adults can help troubled students improve their grades, ease social tensions, and perhaps discover a path to success.

The Chess-in-the-Schools Bridge Academy is designed to meet the complex needs of middle school students by providing extra attention and academic assistance after school and on weekends. Through tutoring, counseling, and cultural activities, students learn beyond the chessboard.

This summer Bridge Academy students continued to broaden their horizons with week-long trips to Cornell University and Maine, as well as a complete summer chess camp in New York City. During the 2007-2008 school year, the Bridge Academy will be expanded to incorporate lessons learned during the first year of the program. ♔

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



The next generation of cultural ambassadors.

Tanisha and Piraye are planning to explore all the wonderful sights the city has to offer including the Empire State Building, Central Park, and the Statue of Liberty. But, they have to prioritize and shopping is first on their list.

Tanisha also wants to take Piraye to an American movie. "The movie theater in Turkey was small and they have an intermission in the middle of the film."

Whatever the girls accomplish during this special reunion, it will add to the incredible learning experiences they have enjoyed through this cultural exchange provided by Chess-in-the-Schools through the College Bound program.

During the summer of 2007, College Bound students went to Ecuador, Japan, and China. ♔

"Even the McDonald's is different in Istanbul. They serve mayonnaise with the fries," Tanisha Millan said as she introduced Piraye Yuçe.

Thanks to the Chess-in-the-Schools partnership with the American Field Service, Tanisha spent six weeks of the summer of 2006 in Turkey living with a host family that included her host sister Piraye. Over the past year the two have kept in close contact. Now Piraye is spending three weeks in New York City with Tanisha, who is happy to return the courtesy of being a host.

COUNTING EVERY PENNY

What happens when you gather more than 900 pounds of pennies? You can make a real difference.

That is just what happened at Middle School 210 in Queens where the sixth graders in Ms. Filadelfo's class participated in the Common Cents Penny Harvest.

Penny by penny, student philanthropists asked their friends and families to give to the growing collection. Then members of their Philanthropy Roundtable researched and discussed the merits of dozens of charities.

Chess-in-the-Schools was at the top of their list of deserving organizations that impact their lives.



Middle School kids choose to give back.

Chess-in-the-Schools has had a thriving program in MS 210 since 1995. During that time, nearly 4,000 students from this large middle school in Ozone Park have learned chess in their classrooms, attended the after-school chess club, and participated in chess tournaments.

To note the accomplishments of the chess program at MS 210, the Philanthropy Roundtable made a \$400 grant to Chess-in-the-Schools. These 40,000 pennies will help Chess-in-the-Schools continue to provide high quality chess instruction throughout the five boroughs of New York City. ♔

THE KEYSpan FOUNDATION



PS 87Q students listen intently to their chess lesson.

PS 87Q THANKS KEYSpan



The Chess-in-the-Schools program at Public School 87 in Queens is generously sponsored by the

KeySpan Foundation. Their support allowed Chess-in-the-Schools to teach chess during the 2006-2007 school year.

The KeySpan Foundation was created to enhance the quality of life in areas where service is provided by KeySpan. Through their grant programs that focus on education and the environment, the KeySpan Foundation works to inspire people and transform lives.