

MacFarlane Park Knights Chess Club

November 2007 Newsletter

Hi, Chess Parents!

The November edition of the St Pete Scholastic Chess Championships was held this past Saturday, and our chances of coming in the top 3 was iffy; to say the least. This was because the Macfarlane Knight Club was severely undermanned due to the important school auction being run on the same day. In spite of this depletion, the 11 mind warriors that came to battle were determined to do their best to improve upon last month's 2nd place finish.

After a hard fought 4 rds of chess, Macfarlane was running neck and neck with our perennial rivals, the Tampa Palms Wizards. Everything would come down to the last round! I watched some of the key games and felt more gray hairs on my beard with each move made!

As the suspense mounted, the opportunity for a Macfarlane victory appeared when I noticed a Tampa Palms blunder on one of the top boards...would our player, Saral Kumar, be able to capitalize from the error? I hovered anxiously while Saral patiently surveyed the new situation on the chessboard. After what seemed like a year, Saral pounced on the mistake and took home the point! Macfarlane wins 1st Place!! What an exciting finish! Make room in the trophy case, Dr.Riveiro!

The Knight Club also took first in team camaraderie and sportsmanship. Though undermanned this time out, we stayed focused and motivated to do our best; regardless of the results. And we had loads of FUN doing it! (See attached photos)

Here are the individual prizewinners:

K-12: In this tough section, Arun Ramesh just missed taking home the 1st place trophy and finished a fantastic 2nd by a mere half point with 4/5! Congratulations, Arun, on a great performance! A.B.Taiwade went into this tournament with a perfect 10-0 run over the last 2 outings. Alas, the streak stopped here. It will take some time for A.B.to get used to the higher level of competition, but I'm sure he will return to his winning ways soon!

A.B. still managed to earn a 10th place trophy! Wow!

K-8: Saral Kumar scored the key point in our victory and also took home the 3rd place trophy for his mantle! Way to go!

Clarice Su did so well in her last tournament that she found herself in this higher section. She had a great result to take the 10 place trophy! Terrific!

K-5: Hugh Nguyen & Cole Brown scored their best results ever to finish as 2 of our top four team members. Hugh earned a 5th place trophy while Cole took the 8th place trophy home! Super!

K-2: This division ended up being merged with the K-5. In spite of this, trophies were won by newcomers Evan Watts, Cheenar and Kenai Gupte, and "veterans" Tiffany Nguyen and William "The Conqueror" Duryea! Great job by all!

Hope to see more of you at the next tournament on Dec. 1st !
Your proud coach