

MacFarlane Park Knights Chess Club

December 2007 Newsletter

Hi, chess parents!

The Macfarlane Knight Club ended the year of 2007 on the highest note with back-to-back victories in Oct. and Dec. at the St Pete Scholastic Chess Championships! By again capturing 1st place this past Saturday ahead of 28 other school teams, Macfarlane carries heavy bragging rights into the upcoming 2008 New Year of competition.

But lest you think we had an easy time of it, you'd be quite wrong. As always, the road to victory is anything but smooth! Our turnout of 19 players (!) was matched by – who else? -- Tampa Palms Elementary. Besides our perennial rival, many other schools had up-and-coming teams with good players all chomping at the bit to checkmate the champs whenever an opportunity presented itself on the chessboard. But in each tournament we win, our team always seems to have one or two new heroes emerge with spectacular results to just put us over the finish line by a nose; albeit a runny one...

This time out our usual point gatherers were having a tough time in the K-12 division; having graduated to the highest section as a result of impressive performances in the K-8 division. Coming to the rescue were Jackson Roberts and Hunter Braum.

“Action” Jackson took charge of matters by scoring a fantastic 4.5/5 en route to a clear 1st Place trophy in the K-2 Division! “Fearless” Hunter, who last competed some time ago, followed Jackson’s example with a terrific 4/5 result and captured the 2nd Place trophy for his mantel! Super job, guys!! Also having her best result was Clarice Su. In only her 3rd tournament outing, Clarice found herself bumped up to the K-8 division. Undeterred, she scored a fabulous 4/5 to take home the 4th Place trophy. Our last 4 team points were from “Old Reliable” Saral Kumar. Saral has given the team 4 points in each of the last 5 or 6 tournaments! That’s an amazing record of consistent excellence! Saral added the K-8 3rd Place trophy to his ever-growing collection.

Below are the rest of the individual prizes. What a way to end the year! Macfarlane Chess ROCKS!! (see attached photos!)

K-12 Division: Arun Ramesh and A.B. Taiwade are still adjusting to the higher level of competition but still performed well enough to earn the 6th and 8th Place trophies, respectively. Well done!

K-8 Division: (See story for results)

K-5 Division: Taking home really cool designed chess medals were Grey Young, Ryland Pruett, Cheenar Gupte, Kenai Gupte, and tournament rookie Luke Jeske. Way to go, everyone!

K-2 Division: In addition to the heroics of the 1st and 2nd place winners mentioned in the main report, the team was bolstered by these other impressive performances: 6 year old Harrison Pruett took home the 6th Place trophy, while 7 year old Jared Martinez captured the 7th Place trophy! Super! Rookies Nicholas Jeske and Andrew Watts earned the 11th & 12th Place trophies in their tournament debut. Wow! Taking home those cool medals were Evan Watts and Darlesa Richardson. This was her tournament debut (she just learned chess in Sept.!) and she kept a positive attitude despite initial setbacks. When she finally scored her first victory she could not contain her beautiful smile! All the players deserve a big hand for coming out to meet the challenge when they could have stayed home and turned off their brain playing video games or watching TV.
Macfarlane Chess: Building thinking skills for life!

Your proud coach