



VANCOUVER

CHESS SCHOOL

MONTHLY BULLETIN

February - March 2015

www.vanchess.ca

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STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



MAVEN ZHENG.

My name is Maven Zheng. I was born in November 2001. I was the youngest son in my family – 5 years younger than big brother Kyle – until Victor came along in 2004. We live in a condo overlooking David Lam Park in Yaletown.

My dad and my brother Kyle taught me the basics of chess when

I was 6 years old, but I didn't play with anyone at my level until I went to the Thursday night chess club at the Vancouver Central Library. James Chan was an excellent teacher there.

I attended Elsie Roy Elementary School in Yaletown where James ran a noon-hour chess program, and I found out that there were a few other good chess players there. One of them was Janak Awatramani, who was a provincial champion for his grade several years in a row. When I was in grade 5, we formed a school team with Janak, myself, Victor and 7 other students, and competed in the B.C. Elementary School Team Championship. We won third place in the A section. The following year, we tried to capture the championship, but fell one game short and settled for second place. Playing with the school team was fun.

I came to the Vancouver Chess School in January 2013 and they have helped improve my chess a lot. Chess helps me to calm down and have fun with friends. In 2012, my CMA and CFC ratings were only about 700 and 950, respectively. Now, my rating is over 1650 CMA and 1800 CFC. I went from small tournaments like the monthly actives to the bigger ones like the Grand Pacific Open and Keres Memorial Open. In 2014, I tied for first in the U1800 section of the BC Open. Then, I got second place this year in the U1900 section of the BC Open. I hope one day I can compete in the premier section of these events.

Chess is not the only game I play with my brothers and my parents. My whole family also enjoys snowboarding, badminton, tennis, hiking, cycling and basketball. This year, I enrolled in the grade 8 math challenge program at Eric Hamber Secondary School. We have a chess club at the school; I am also in the junior badminton team. My goal is to be a well-rounded student, and to excel in chess, math, science and all the sports activities. ■

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

ELVIN SUN.

Elvin started playing chess when he was five years old. He first got very interested in the pieces of Chinese chess set and asked his dad how to play it. Dad taught him the basic rules of the Chinese chess and we bought Elvin his first chess set which was actually a Lego Star Wars chessset.

From then on he would always set up the chess board and ask his dad to play with him. When his dad was busy Elvin just was setting the chess and playing by himself.

After a while when we realized Elvin was still very enthusiastic about chess, we started looking for a place to learn chess for him. We got a tournament flyer of Vancouver Chess School. I booked an assessment and my son really liked it. We registered and started lessons right away.

As parents we are really happy to see Elvin enjoying his classes very much and working on chess systematically. He has lots of fun playing with his friends. Elvin also learned that it's ok to make mistakes and became more confident and independent. He keeps practicing every day to make himself better and stronger.

My son gets very excited when he can play in tournaments with his friends and at the same time he is progressing and his rating is going up.

I think practicing chess did help Elvin to improve math skills since his math level in school is beyond all of his classmates. ■



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



PAVNISANTOSH LABADE.

My name is Pavni. I came to Canada with my parents from India. I am studying in Chaffey Burke elementary school, Burnaby.

When I was small I loved to solve the puzzles, and when I turned five one of our family's friends suggested my parents to teach me chess. Soon my parents joined me for chess coaching and I started playing in chess tournaments on weekends. Within a short time period I started loving the game very much.

After coming to Canada I joined Vancouver Chess School in Burnaby. I like the way they conduct classes and enjoy my chess learning there.

Chess is a game that teaches us so many things like to be down to the earth, flexible, think and act, to be cool and calm and many more.

Before I used to get scared of playing in tournaments, but now I am used to it. I admire Bobby Fischer, Magnus Carlsen and Viswanathan Anand.

My dream is to be a Grandmaster one day. I will work hard and try my best to achieve the title. ■

OUR TEAM

GYAN AWATRAMANI

Gyan Awatramani HCIMA, BAHA, a graduate of Oxford Brookes University, UK, has a background in international hospitality finance, and private wealth management. He is fascinated by the complex dynamics of human nature, psychology, and the infinite beauty of chess. Linking these worlds, by introducing fundamental, conceptual, and strategic abstractions of the game is his passion.

The US head of delegation to the North American Youth Championships, in Mexico described him "as a very pleasant person with all and a perfect ambassador for Canada." Additionally he has served as Chief Arbiter for the BC/ Washington Intermat for the years 2012, 2013, 2014.

His interest for teaching chess was sparked off on a one-year teaching sabbatical in India, after having coached his son Janak for many years, at the age of 6 from beginner to master level. A great fan of hypermodernism, he together with his son developed g3, and b6 systems, which they continue to play to date.



Chess he feels is a powerful tool available to strengthen a child's mind, (irrespective of a child's age), that enhances focus, concentration, and patience, as well as creativity, intuition, memory.

He places great emphasis on discipline and work ethics as a measurement of success, as opposed to results taken at face value. Chase excellence and success will surely follow is his life's motto.

A serendipitous encounter with Maxim Doroshenko at a local chess tournament, forged a lasting friendship, that culminated in the opening of the Vancouver Chess School, where he currently teaches both group and private lessons.

[Coach profile](#)

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

BC OPEN 2015. RICHMOND. FEBRUARY 7-9.

The 45th BC Open drew 85 players to Richmond BC during the Family Day weekend. Responding to the strong attendance, the organizer, Victoria Chess Club, added a new section of U1400 to the traditional U1900 and Open sections.

Our students were enthusiastically embracing this opportunity to play longer games with mature players (6 rounds in 3 days). Congratulations to the following students who did a splendid job and received cash prizes:

U1900 Section: 2nd place: [Maven Zheng](#)

U1400 Section: 1st place: [Kevin Li](#)

U1200: 1st place: [Ping Yu](#)
[Brian Butchart](#)
[Kevin Liu](#)

[Final Standings](#)



TOURNAMENT RESULTS



B.C. CHESS CHALLENGE QUALIFIER - VANCOUVER REGIONAL #2

Congratulations to our students for winning top prizes in their sections.

[2015 B.C. Chess Challenge Qualifier - Vancouver Regional #2 Final Standings](#)

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

FEBRUARY ACTIVE

NM Tanraj Sohal (2331 CFC, 2013 BC Champ) won the February Active with an undefeated 5.5/6. He conceded a quick draw in the last round to 1st-timer and UBC student Leonardo Dorador (2037 FIDE). A close call happened in 3 when BC Senior Champion Jose Kagaoan surprised Tanraj with what looked to be a Sokolsky/Polish/Orangutan (1.b4). Despite an early loss of material and a deficit of time, the determined NM Sohal was able to turn the tables. Hall-of-Famer Mayo Fuentebella placed clear second for the \$100 prize.

Several format changes have been introduced since previous actives. Instead of drop-ins and onsite payment, the online preregistration and prizes in the form of cheques have been instituted. There are now two sections for the monthly actives: Open and Junior (for players U1200 CMA). The junior section is playing for medals and trophies. The 1st prize of open section is now guaranteed \$250.

The junior section round ended very quickly leaving time for breaks and playing chess related games on the computers. Jason Qian won the 1st place trophy in the junior section with an undefeated 4/5. Brock Shields was awarded 2nd place trophy; Jason Chen and Nicholas Pan both tied for 3rd. Jason was awarded the 3rd place trophy on tiebreaks.

[February Active Final Standings](#)



TOURNAMENT RESULTS

2015 B.C. CHESS CHALLENGE (PROVINCIAL)

Vancouver Chess School hosted the Provincial Chess Challenge on Mar 1st at Arbutus Shopping Centre. 131 players from kindergarten to Grade 12 participated in this exciting event. The champions from Grade 1 to 12 will form Team BC to compete at the upcoming Canadian Chess Challenge in Quebec City during Victoria Day long weekend. Kindergarten winner will join Team BC to compete at the Intermat against Team Washington. Team BC members will be receiving complementary training from VCS to prepare for the national competition.

[2015 B.C. Chess Challenge
\(Provincial\) Final Standings](#)



TOURNAMENT RESULTS

VCS students were active participants in this provincial event. There were triumphs and upsets. But the most important of all, they were putting in their best efforts and trying to apply what they learnt in class to tournament games. We are immensely proud of their achievements, and hope that they would take this experience to bring their games to the next level.

16 students were placed top 3 in their respective grades. Let us applaud and give our warmest congratulations to the following trophy winners from our school:



Grade 2: Jason Qian

Grade 6: Ethan Low

Grade 9: Daniel Chen

Grade 11: Jeremy Hui (VCS coach)



Grade 2



Grade 6



Grade 9



Grade 11

TOURNAMENT RESULTS



Grade K: Jacky Tang

Grade 2: Andrew Xu

Grade 4: Kevin Low

Grade 7: Ryan Leong

Grade 8: Maven Zheng

Grade 9: James Li



Grade K



Grade 2



Grade 4



Grade 7



Grade 8



Grade 9

TOURNAMENT RESULTS



Grade K: Hovey Hodak Ma

Grade 2: Stanley Wu

Grade 4: Kevin Butchart

Grade 5: Victor Zheng

Grade 8: Kevin Li

Grade 10: Tony Cheng



Grade K



Grade 2



Grade 4



Grade 5



Grade 8



Grade 10

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

VANCOUVER WEST OPEN #4, MAR 7-8

This March's West Vancouver Open was an impressive performance for the Vancouver Chess School as all the prizewinners were either coaches or students of the school. Despite some close games, Alfred Pechisker (CFC 2228) won the event with a clear 5.5/6 for the \$600 prize ahead of two BC Champions. One such close game was the last round, which was an unpredictable toss up against rising star Max Gedajlovic. Max flagged while up a pawn in a drawish 2P + N vs P+B endgame after declining a draw. This eclipsed powerhouse Davaa Ochir Nyamdorj who had finished with 5/6. Pechisker is a teacher/lecturer at VCS and has qualified and competed in no less than nine BC Closed Championships since he was a junior (2000, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013).

Other section winners of the Open section included Kevin Low (3.5/6) for the \$300 U2000 prize and fellow VCS Rook-Level classmates: Ethan Low, James Li, Victor Zheng, and Ryan Leong who split the U1600 prize for \$50 each.

[Vancouver West Open #4 Final Standings](#)



TOURNAMENT RESULTS



VANCOUVER WEST JUNIOR OPEN #4, MAR 7-8

This tournament was help alongside the Vancouver West Open. Trophy winners included AngelinaBoWen Yang, Benjamin Cooknagy, Owen Huang, Antonia Bonnis, George Deng, Amy Chen, Brian Shao, Elvin Sun, Kaitlyn Tio and Anna Van. The winners of the medals were Nico Huang, Anais Bonnis, Hovey Hodak, Richard Chen and Bruce Zheng.

[Vancouver West Junior Open #4 Final Standings](#)

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

FRIDAY QUADS WINNERS

# QUAD/DATE	FEB-6-2015	FEB-13-2015	FEB-20-2015	FEB-27-2015
Quad #1	Sherry Tian	Daniel Wang	Daniel Chen	Daniel Chen
Quad #2	Dennis Wang	Elvin Sun	Kai Wang	Ophir Hadar
Quad #3	Ophir Hadar	Bill Wang	Bill Wang	Jason Qian
Quad #4	Jason Qian	Yiwang Wang	Samuel Taplin	Daniel Zhang
Quad #5	Yiwang Wang	Bruce Zhang	Daniel Zhang	Raymond Yao
Quad #6	Ethan Yang	Justin Zhao	Stanley Wu	Stanley Wu
Quad #7	Paul Le	Vivian Xu	Roy Zhang	Jeremy Liang
Quad #8	Michael Chen	Max He	Veronica Guo	Veronica Guo
Quad #9	Antonia Bonnis	Jacob McBride	Severn Nie	Benjamin Cooknagy
Quad #10	George Deng	Eric Shi	Uros Jeremic	Eric Shi
Quad #11	Ray Xu	Jacky Tang	Ray Xu	Brian Shao
Quad #12	Jimmy Ren	Uros Jeremic		Owen Tan
Quad #13	Brian Shao	Annie Cai		Ray Zhang
Quad #14		Carlo Robles		

VANCOUVER RAPID TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Vancouver Rapid is a Team Chess Championship held in Vancouver every year. The competitions consist of two stages. During the first stage, the teams are playing Round robin or Swiss system tournament against each other (depending on the quantity of teams). In the end of qualification tournament, the strongest teams take part in the final play off to identify a sole winner. The first year was victorious for Vancouver Chess School as it was represented mainly by VCS teachers. Starting 2014, VCS team consists exclusively of VCS students.



The VCS team for 2015 will be formed based on the CFC rating. **Top 10 CFC rated players** (on Sep-01-2015) from our school will be invited to join the team in September 2015.

TOP 10 CFC/CMA

TOP 10 CFC/CMA RATED PLAYERS FROM OUR SCHOOL AS OF MARCH 1, 2015.

#	NAME	CFC RATING
1	Maven Zheng	1808
2	Kevin Low	1773
3	Ethan Low	1514
4	Kevin Li	1367
5	James Li	1375
6	James Li	1371
7	Joseph Dobrzanski	1367
8	Daniel Du	1354
9	Ryan Leong	1336
10	An Yu	1295

Check your CFC rating
<https://www.vanchess.ca/rating-cfc>

#	NAME	CMA RATING
1	Kevin Low	1809
2	Ryan Leong	1648
3	Maven Zheng	1630
4	Daniel Chen	1596
5	James Li	1588
6	Ethan Low	1539
7	Joseph Dobrzanski	1499
8	Victor Zheng	1488
9	Daniel Du	1447
10	Dylan Fox	1424

Check your CMA rating
<https://www.vanchess.ca/rating-cma>

RECOMMENDED MINIMUM RATING TO ADVANCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

PROGRAM	RATING
Pawn->Knight	600 (CMA)
Knight->Bishop	1100 (CMA)
Bishop->Rook	1500 (CMA)
Rook->Queen	1800 (CMA)
Queen->King	2000+ (CMA)

WEBSITE UPDATES

VCS website has been customized to be compatible with the most of touch devices; Chess Client can recognize touch motions now. The support of Apple and Android devices has been added (iPhone5, iPad mini, iPad2 and later generations, Google Nexus 7). If when using the devices the problems arise, we would like to ask students to send us the screenshots and description of the device they use (model, version, Internet browser).



VCS TOURNAMENTS OUTLOOK

Vancouver Chess School is committed to provide quality education and to promote chess participation in the Lower Mainland. Starting September 2014, we are organizing a series of chess tournaments that would provide opportunities for different levels of players to

enrich their tournament experiences. All tournaments are open to public, and are held at Vancouver Chess School. Seating is limited. Please pre-register on our website. Here is a summary of different categories of tournaments:

TOURNAMENT	WHO IS ELIGIBLE	RATING SYSTEM	TIME CONTROL	FORMAT	TOTAL TIME (approximate)	FEE \$	PRIZE	UPCOMING EVENTS	REGISTRATION
Friday Quads	Open to all age groups & chess levels. No rating requirement	CMA	Rapid	Round Robin	3-4 rounds 7:00-9:30pm	10	Medals for winners with perfect score	Mar 6, 27 Apr 3, 10 17, 24	Register here
VCS Monthly Active (Open Section)	Above 1200 CMA/1100 CFC	CMA	25/5	Regular Swiss	6 rounds 10am-5pm 1 day (Weekend)	25	Guaranteed first prize of \$250	Mar 22 Apr 25	Register here
VCS Monthly Active (Junior Section)	Below 1200 CMA/1100 CFC. K-12	CMA	25/5	Regular Swiss	5 rounds 10am-4pm 1 day (Weekend)	25	Trophies/Medals	Mar 22 Apr 25	Register here
Vancouver West Open (Open Section)	Above 1100 CFC	CFC & CMA	60	Regular Swiss	6 rounds 2 days (Weekend)	50-60	Guaranteed first prize of \$600	TBA	Register here
Vancouver West Open (Junior CFC Section)	Above 800 CMA & Below 1100 CFC K-12	CFC & CMA	60	Regular Swiss	6 rounds 2 days (Weekend)	50-60	Trophies/ Medals	TBA	Register here
Vancouver West Open (Junior CMA Section)	Below 800 CMA. K-12	CMA	25/5	Regular Swiss	5 rounds 1 day (Weekend)	25	Trophies/ Medals	TBA	Register here
BC Chess Challenge	K-12. No rating requirement	CMA	25/5	Regular Swiss	5 rounds 1 day (Weekend)	25	Trophies/ Medals	May 31	Register here
VCS Chess Camps	Open to all chess levels. K-12				Weekdays			Mar 9-20	Register here
Pro-D Chess events	Open to all chess levels. K-12	CMA	25/5	Round Robin	3 rounds (Weekdays)	40	Trophies/ Medals	Apr 27	Register here

VCS TOURNAMENTS OUTLOOK

Please find registration and tournament details here <http://vanchess.ca/events?events%5B0%5D=13>



VANCOUVER
CHESS SCHOOL

VANCOUVER WEST OPEN TOURNAMENT #4

MARCH 7-8/2015

<p>5 rounds G25/5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CMA Rated Section - Rating below 800 <i>Juniors only</i> <p>1 DAY EVENT</p>	<p>6 rounds G60</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CFC Rated Section - Rating from 800-1100 CFC <i>Juniors only</i> <p>2 DAYS EVENT</p>	<p>6 rounds G60</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open Section - Rating above 1100 CFC <i>Adults & Juniors</i> <p>2 DAYS EVENT</p>
<p>Vancouver West Junior Open</p>		<p>Vancouver West Open</p>

SIGN UP NOW, THE SPACE IS LIMITED!

VCS TOURNAMENTS OUTLOOK

Please find registration and tournament details here <http://vanchess.ca/events?events%5B0%5D=14>

<p>FRIDAY QUADS ONGOING WEEKLY TOURNAMENT</p>		
<p>EVERY FRIDAY 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3-4 CMA rated games - Time control: Rapid - Open to all players Children and their parents are both welcome. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Let your kids have fun by playing chess with their friends and classmates - Earn a rating and track your performance - Reinforce the lessons learned in weekly classes through practice - Take a chance to relax on a Friday night, while your kids play in the tournament 	
<p>ENTRY FEE \$10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chess sets and clocks are provided. - Please bring your own scorebook. 		

VCS TOURNAMENTS OUTLOOK

Please find registration and tournament details here <http://vanchess.ca/events?events%5B0%5D=8>



**VANCOUVER
CHESS SCHOOL**

ACTIVE TOURNAMENTS

MONTHLY EVENTS	ANNUAL EVENTS
<p>OPEN SECTION Guaranteed first prize of \$250</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 rounds 25/5 - CMA rated - Rating above 1200 CMA <p><i>Adults & Juniors</i> <i>1 day event</i></p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>Active Grand Prix</h3> <p>Cash prize & Perpetual Trophy</p>  </div>
<p>JUNIOR SECTION Trophies / Medals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 rounds 25/5 - CMA rated - Rating below 1200 CMA <p><i>Juniors only</i> <i>1 day event</i></p>	

SIGN UP NOW, THE SPACE IS LIMITED!

VCS TOURNAMENTS OUTLOOK

Please find registration and tournament details here <http://vanchess.ca/events?events%5B0%5D=15>

PRO-D DAY
FEB 19 | APR 27, 2015
 9:30 AM - 3 PM

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT
 CMA RATED QUAD TOURNAMENT
 3 ROUNDS 25/5
 BASIC CHESS KNOWLEDGE IS REQUIRED

FUN ACTIVITY
 BLITZ
 BUGHOUSE
 SIMULTANEOUS EXHIBITION

BEFORE AND AFTER CAMP CARE IS AVAILABLE
 For details and registration visit www.vanchess.ca/events

VCS TOURNAMENTS OUTLOOK

Please find registration and tournament details here <https://vanchess.ca/tournaments/view/id/326>



WWW.VANCHESS.CA