# VANCOUVER CHESS SCHOOL

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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# **VCS STORIES 2022**

Check out some outstanding student achievements and hear from illustrious alumni in the first ever VCS Stories.

Have an interesting chess story or want to be featured? We love to hear from all students! Email your story to info@vanchess.ca



# **REGIONAL QUALIFIER #2 | JAN 28, FEB 4, 5**

The Regional Qualifier tournaments are back in person this year, with the second of the series taking place over 3 days at the Jericho main office. All students are invited for the first chance to qualify for the 2023 BC Chess Challenge, taking place in May. All players scoring 2.5/5 points or higher will automatically qualify for the provincial event, and the top three players in each grade will win trophies. This is one of the most popular events of the year and spots are limited in this in-person event. Sign up online for the date corresponding to your grade to reserve your spot to compete. Good luck to all players!

# **DID YOU KNOW?**

GM Harika Dronavili's birthday is in January. Born in India in 1991, she won the U14-, U16- and U20 World Championships for girls. In 2012 she reached the semifinals of the knock-out World Championship. Currently, she is number seven on the Women's World Ranking List. (source: ChessBase)



## **FEATURED STUDENT: NORMAN LEE**

Norman Lee is a dedicated student who is currently working toward his promotion to the Bishop level. He has already made significant progress and has won numerous trophies and medals. Norman has also represented his school in chess tournaments and recently came in second place at the Regional Qualifier #1 for the 2023 cycle, gaining 152 CMA rating points! His hard work, commitment, and enthusiasm for the game are clearly paying off. Congratulations Norman!

#### **NATIONAL PREPARATION PROGRAM | JAN 7**

The next semester of the National Preparation Program is beginning on January 7, with weekly workshop sessions designed to help students attain maximum results in the upcoming tournament season. Students will be grouped according to their level, with specialized training for each level taught by national champions. Continuing from the Fall session, the NPP will also incorporate our Rook Endgame Series lessons for approximately 35% of the NPP. This endgame series includes thematic endgame tournaments, dynamic lessons and puzzle solving. Register <a href="here">here</a>.

### MONTHLY CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS | JAN 14

The next monthly class championship is taking place on January 14. Students will play 5 rounds of G15+10 games against opponents of a similar level, giving everyone good experience in longer games. This tournament is an excellent chance to gain rating points and earn a promotion to the next level. Register <a href="here">here</a>.

# PRO-D DAY CAMPS | JAN 16

Look forward to the next Pro-D days with our fun camps! Camps run all day at the Jericho office on the upcoming Pro-D days January 16, February 17 and February 20. Pizza and the option for early drop-off and late pick-up will be provided. Campers will have a great time playing friendly games, learning new skills and meeting new friends. Register <a href="here">here</a> to save your spot.

#### **REGIONALS #1 - RESULTS**

Congratulations to all participants and those who qualified for this year's Provincial Championship. The winners from each grade were:

Grade 1 - Samuel Xu	Grade 7 - Jordan Zhu
Grade 2 - Aaron Gu	Grade 8 - Carey Zhang
Grade 3 - Ashiana Varma-Vitug	Grade 9 - Andre Dossa
Grade 4 - Mark Karaivanov	Grade 10 - Owen Yuen
Grade 5 - Panshul Mishra-Jaiman	Grade 11 - Peter Qiu
Grade 6 - Ryan Golchin	Grade 12 - Ethan Hayne



White to move mate in 3