



Carson Chess Club and Team – 2009-2010
“Welcome to the Game of Kings”

November 16, 2009

Club: The James Carson Chess Club was created in 2004 by James Hall and Thomas McDonald in an effort to introduce young children to the wonderful world of chess. Chess participation has proven to result in children with higher math scores, improved critical thinking, and positive character development. The club has maintained an annual membership of over 100 students. This year, we have 126 students participating in chess. To date, 663 Carson students have learned the game of chess. The top players study as a team, and compete in local chess tournaments where they collect trophies, medals and ribbons for their accomplishments. The chess year terminates with an annual Carson chess tourney, where all club members get to demonstrate their acquired knowledge and expertise.

The Carson Chess Club meets on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school, 3-4 p.m., in the resource room. The Club is open to all 2nd through 5th graders who are interested in learning and playing chess. The club schedule is as follows:

4th, 5th Grade (Tuesdays)	3rd Grade (Wednesdays)	2nd Grade (Wednesdays)
December 1	December 2	November 18
December 15	December 16	December 9
January 12	January 13	January 6
February 2	February 3	January 27
February 16	February 17	February 10
March 2	March 3	February 24
March 23	March 24	March 10
April 6	April 7	March 31
April 20	April 21	April 14
May 4	May 5	April 28
		May 12

Note: Chess Club meetings will end on May 12.

Team: The Carson Chess Team, “Carson Cowboy Knights”, practices on Tuesdays after school, 3-4:15 p.m., in the resource room. Team membership is by invitation only, and player’s selection is based upon behavior, attitude, and rating. The team competes in local tournaments throughout the year. Team members will be provided a schedule of the tournaments Carson will be participating in this year. The 2009-2010 Primary chess team selectees are Imran A., Nicholas W., Deondre H., Andrew Z., Tyler H., and Russell M. The Carson Cowboy Knights elementary team members are Yvonne T., Spencer P., Keaton W., Evan C., Stephen K., Tino A., Suleman A., Ryan K., Justin O., Wesley S., Jalen S., Blake B., Anthony C., Joshua Es., Joshua El., and Alfonso T. Additional members will be added as new people reach the selection criteria. Keep practicing and you may get an invitation to join the team!

The Cowboy Knights welcome our newest members of the elementary team: Adriann O., Chloe K., Nicholas P., and Luke L. In addition, we welcome Nicolas R. to the primary team.

Carson Chess Team Tournament Schedule – 2009-2010

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| 1. Guadalupe Community Center | September 19 | 1 st elem, 1 st prim, 5 trophies, 6 ribbons |
| 2. GCC | October 10 | 2 nd elem, 4 th prim, 4 trophies, 7 ribbons |
| 3. Mustangs on the Move | October 17 | 1 st elem, 1 trophy, 6 medals |
| 4. GCC | November 14 | 2 nd elem, 1 st prim, 7 trophies, 3 ribbons |
| ** Texas Grade Championship | November 21-22 | Houston Yvonne, Keaton and Spencer-5 th grade |
| ** Nationals-Grade Championship | December 11-13 | Dallas Yvonne, Keaton and Spencer-5 th grade |
| 5. American Sunrise Holiday | December 5 | San Juan Community Center |
| 6. GCC | January 9 | |
| 7. 14th Martin Luther King, Jr. | January 16 | Mission Academy |
| 8. Harmony Hills | January 23 | Harmony Hills Elementary |
| 9. 2nd Valentine’s | February 6 | Neighborhood Place |
| 10. GCC | February 20 | |
| 11. Texas Scholastic | February 19-21 | Dallas |
| 12. Region VI Championships | March 6 | Anderson HS, Austin |

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| 13. GCC | March 13 |
| 14. 6 th Annual James Carson | April 9 |
| 15. GCC | April 10 |
| 16. GCC | May 15 |

* Additional tournaments will be added when the sponsors finalize their schedule.

**informational only

Highlighted events are additions since the schedule was distributed.

History of the Carson Cowboy Knights: The Carson Chess Team has accumulated 86 team trophies and 527 individual awards while participating in 59 chess tournaments. Overall, the team has earned 2080.0 total points with 1967 wins, 1279 losses, and 226 draws.

2009-2010 Highlights:

- The Cowboy Knights started the season off with 1st place team trophies in both the elementary and primary divisions at the Guadalupe Community Center (GCC) September tournament. Imran won a trophy and Andrew, Nicholas, and Deondre won ribbons to lead the primary division. In the elementary division, Keaton (5.0-1st), Evan (4.0-2nd), and Yvonne (4.0-3rd) led the team. Spencer trophied and Alfonso, Suleman, and Ryan won ribbons. Keaton has now won back-to-back tournaments.

- The Cowboy Knights won first place in the elementary division of the “Mustangs on the Move” tournament held at John Jay High School. Yvonne went undefeated to take the championship trophy, while Keaton (4.0-4th), Spencer (4.0-5th), and Evan (3.0-7th) provided support. Justin, Wesley, and Andrew won medals for their winning records.

- **Yvonne T. wins State Championship.** The 2009 Texas State Girl’s Chess Championships took place on October 24-25 in Laredo, Texas. Carson Cowboy Knight member, Yvonne T., went undefeated (5-0) to win the championship of the Elementary Division. Way to go, Yvonne! I’m so proud of you! Yvonne is the second State Champion from Carson Cowboy Knights.

- Elementary takes 2nd place and Primary takes 1st place at the November GCC tournament. Yvonne, Keaton, and Spencer won 4 games while Stephen, Justin and Luke took 3 games to lead the elementary team. Imran

went undefeated (5-0) to lead the primary team, with support from Andrew (4), Nicholas (3.5), and Deondre (2.5).

2008-2009 Highlights:

- **Carson Sponsored Valentine's Tournament:** The Carson chess team and club participated in the Valentine's Day event sponsored by the Neighborhood Place and the Carson parents. In the elementary division, the Carson Cowboy Knights were first, Carson Primary Team was 3rd, and the Carson Chess Club finished 7th. Spencer took the championship with a 5-0 record, Keaton 3rd, Yvonne 4th, Matthew K. 5th, and Alan 12th. In the primary division, the Carson Chess Club garnered the 1st place team trophy. They were led by Imran A. (3rd), Dominic D. (5th), Suleman A., Phoebe F., Nicholas W., and Savannah S.

- **2009 Region VI Chess Championships:** Carson competed in four divisions of the tournament, finishing as the second best team in the Elementary Championships (over 600), Elementary JV (under 600), and Primary JV (under 500). Only Stephen K., medaled with 3.0, competed in the Primary Championships (over 500) so we didn't have enough players to be considered a team. In the primary JV, Ryan K. took a trophy for his 5th place finish and Joshua E. got his trophy for 10th place. In addition, Jalen S., Wesley S. and Tino A. won medals for their winning records. In the elementary championships, Priyan K. and Yvonne T. got medals for 10th and 11th place respectively. In the elementary JV, Spencer P. and Jonathan S. won trophies for 3rd and 4th place, while Alan G. and Rudy H. received medals.

- **2009 Texas Scholastic Chess Championships:** Eleven team members competed in tourney held in McAllen, Texas. Yvonne (4.5) and Priyan (4.0) earned winning records in the elementary championships. The elementary JV team took 3rd place team. This was the second year Carson finished in the top five in this division. Brian T. (7.0) went undefeated to claim the individual championship in the JV division, while Rudy (5.5/11th), Spencer (5.0/18th), Keaton (4.5), and Jonathan (3.0) supported his efforts. The novice team earned a 12th place team trophy, thanks to the efforts of Lindsay (5.0/25th), Jalen (3.5), Mia (3.5), and Carolina (3.5)

2009 James Carson Tournament: The 5th Annual James Carson Chess Tournament was held on May 8, 2009. This tournament was open to all

Carson chess players. Students competed in one of the following divisions: 2nd grade (includes kindergarten and 1st grade), 3rd grade, 4th/5th grades, or the Carson Cowboy Knights. Tournament format was Swiss-style, meaning no one was eliminated and everyone played in all five rounds. The top five finishers in each division received a trophy. A medal was awarded to everyone who finished with a winning record who did not receive a trophy. All other competitors were awarded a participation ribbon. 87 students played in this year's tournament. The players winning trophies follow:

2 nd grade:	3 rd grade:	4 th /5 th grade:	Cowboy Knights:
1 st place – Andrew Z.	Justin O.	Zahida A.	Yvonne T.
2 nd place – Imran A.	Joshua Ell.	Christian H.	Keaton W.
3 rd place – Deondre H.	Suleman A.	Adriann O.	Daniel B.
4 th place – Nicholas W.	Cory H.	Christopher G.	Brian T.
5 th place – Canon L.	Tony G.	Timothy K.	Jonothan S.

The 2008-2009 Grand Champion (best Carson chess player) was Priyan K. Congratulations Priyan and I hope you continue playing in middle school. The 6th Annual James Carson Chess Tournament will be played on April 9, 2010.

Fund-Raiser: The Carson Chess Club fund-raiser, cake decorating for Mother's Day sponsored by H.E. B. was held on May 7 and May 8. One dollar from each cake sold went to the Carson Chess Club. The Carson community purchased 514 cakes. This was the clubs best fund-raiser, and I would like to thank all the parents for supporting scholastic chess at Carson Elementary School. I believe the children had a great time decorating their cakes. Next years fund-raiser will be held on May 6-7, 2010.

Videorecording of the Carson Chess Club: The NISD-TV crew visited the Carson Elementary campus on January 13, 2009 to record a session with the Carson Chess Club and "Why chess in the elementary schools?" The video was shown during the school board meeting on April 28 and again at the Carson PTA meeting on May 12. Mia, Brian and the kids did a super job of advertising scholastic chess, and I really appreciate their efforts. The video excerpt can be viewed by clicking on the "chess" box on the front page of our Carson website.

Useful Chess Sites: The following chess sites contain information that may be useful to the weekend players.

<http://main.uschess.org/> This is the site for the United States Chess Federation, which governs the rules and regulations for chess playing in the USA. The site contains useful information on scholastic chess and playing in rated tournaments. For USCF members, you can check your record to see your current rating and tournament history.

<http://www.texaschess.org/> This is the site for the Texas Chess Association. This site contains information on tournaments and places to play in Texas.

<http://home.roadrunner.com/~sachess/> This is the site for the San Antonio Chess Club. This site contains information on tournaments in the local area and places to play in San Antonio. Most of the tournaments listed are for adult players, but they sometimes list scholastic information.

<http://www.chessforeducation.com/> This is the “Chess for Education” site run by Mr. E.C. Chase. Mr. Chase is a long-time scholastic chess coach and is an advocate for using chess in the schools. His site contains information on why chess is good for the education system. In addition, he is tournament director of several local tournaments, including the biggest San Antonio scholastic event which is the Martin Luther King, Jr. tournament held each January.

Thomas D. McDonald
Carson Chess Coach