

Chess Team Needs You!

by Kay Brickley

Johnson Elementary School Times

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1 Are you **bored** after school? Are you looking for a challenge that will improve your grades? Do you want to learn to play a new game?

2 If you answered, "yes" to any of these questions, we have the answer. Join our newly formed Johnson Elementary Chess Team. The team will meet after school in Mr. Gibbs' classroom. We plan on meeting every Tuesday for 2 hours.

3 Our chess coach will be our math teacher, Mr. Gibbs. He has been playing chess for over 30 years. Mr. Gibbs began when he was 7 years old. When he was 14 years old, he started playing in chess **tournaments**. Check out his first-place trophy next time you are in his room. He won it playing chess at a state contest at the age of 17.

4 "Chess is played all around the world," Mr. Gibbs said. "In many countries, it is part of the school day. In the United States, we have sports during the day. In other countries, they play chess.

5 "Chess is good for the brain. You have to learn to plan ahead. You have to think about your actions. You have to think about the good and the bad consequences of every move you make," Gibbs added. "These are important things to learn in life as well."

6 Some **studies** have shown that chess is a way to improve school performance. Chess players become good at seeing patterns. This skill helps improve math and science scores. Chess players

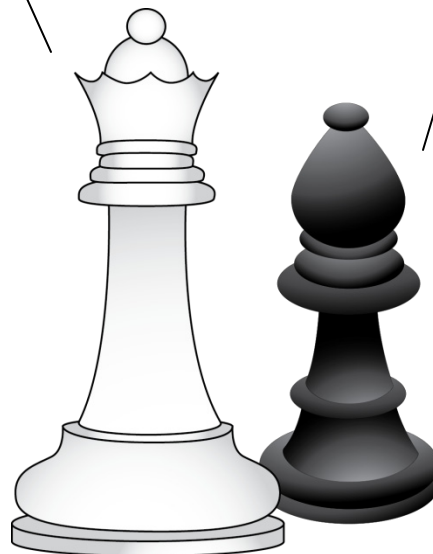
also do better on tests, perhaps because they become better at thinking through situations.

7 "However," Mr. Gibbs said, "the most important reason to play chess is to have fun. Chess is exciting! It costs very little to participate, and it is a game you can play for life."

8 If you are interested in joining the Johnson Elementary Chess Team, sign your name on the sheet posted outside Mr. Gibbs' classroom. Take a permission note home and return it to your homeroom teacher. Who knows; maybe your name will be on a Chess Championship trophy someday in the future!

a queen chess piece

a bishop chess piece



The benefits of chess (n.d.). *The Official Website of Susan Polgar*. Accessed January 8, 2011. Retrieved from <http://www.susanpolgar.com>

Ferguson, R. (n.d.). Teacher's guide: Research and benefits of chess. Illowa Chess Club. Accessed January 8, 2011. Retrieved from http://www.quadcitychess.com/benefits_of_chess.html

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Glossary

Bored—to grow tired of something

Tournaments—series of contests

Studies—experiments that give people information about something

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