

**Chess Club Award Ceremony**  
**Thursday, February 9**  
**3:30 - 4:00**  
**Good Shepherd Gym**

February 9, students come to Chess Club as usual. Tables are put away at 3:20; awards ceremony begins at 3:30. We encourage parents and siblings to attend.

After 10 years, I sadly write my final Chess Club wrap-up letter. I have gained so much from working with your children and with the volunteers. It has been a blessing in my life.

I started organizing Chess Club with more enthusiasm than experience; an average chess player, never worked with more than 20 children (we have 125), never managed more than 20 volunteers (we have 80). Mr. Zellmer must have been desperate to let me try. (I was only expecting 25 kids!).

I am thrilled I can leave Chess Club to someone as fantastic as Colleen Fontanella. I ask you to give her all the support you have given me, and more the first year. We need parents **committing to every week** to create a supportive, safe and fun environment for our children.

**Determining Standings:**

We have tracked every game; every child has played in Chess Club. Every statistic of every game is an open book. All chess statistics are available during Chess Club.

**Chess Websites:**

[www.kidchess.com/gamestoplay.html](http://www.kidchess.com/gamestoplay.html) - great for younger kids

[www.chess.com](http://www.chess.com) - recommended by coach, Michael Black

It has 10 free lessons and then a monthly \$10-15 charge.

Most computers have free chess; Google is one source.

## **Thank you Chess Volunteers**

- Colleen Fontanella for organizing the volunteers and agreeing to coordinate Chess Club next year.
- Angie Saffert and Miranda Miller for organizing the new players (Orange Board)
- Lorrie Randall, Karen Latterell, Becky Wachter and Michele McCarthy for tracking and ranking games played.
- Erin Bieniek for training Recorders on the upper boards and setting up matches each week – all while holding her beautiful newborn daughter, Annabelle.
- Tricia Wanzek for training Recorders on the lower boards and setting up matches each week
- Kari Brandt, Kathy Buggy, Kris Ehrmantraut and Celeste Reilly for volunteering almost every week.
- Yorie Smart, Melissa Erra, Tim Reilly, Mary Young, Christine McLaren, Bonnie Handzel, Sara Wendt, Pam Inniger and Brenda Norkosky for volunteering at least six times.
- Mike Smart for his creative and fun chess lessons
- Alec Black, Michael Black, Michael Vella and Rachel Young for coaching
- Our new Chess Coach, Rambo You for being our resident chess expert (President of the U of M Chess Club.)
- To students Linnea Kronzer, Morgan Hawley and Rachel Young for babysitting younger siblings.
- Over 80 parents, grandparents and siblings volunteered at Chess Club this year. That is what makes our school so special!
- Our amazing Chess Students, they fill the gym with energy, fun and intelligence.