

# VANCOUVER CHESS SCHOOL

SUMMER  
BULLETIN  
2016

[www.vanchess.ca](http://www.vanchess.ca)



**2016** CANADIAN  
CHESS CHALLENGE

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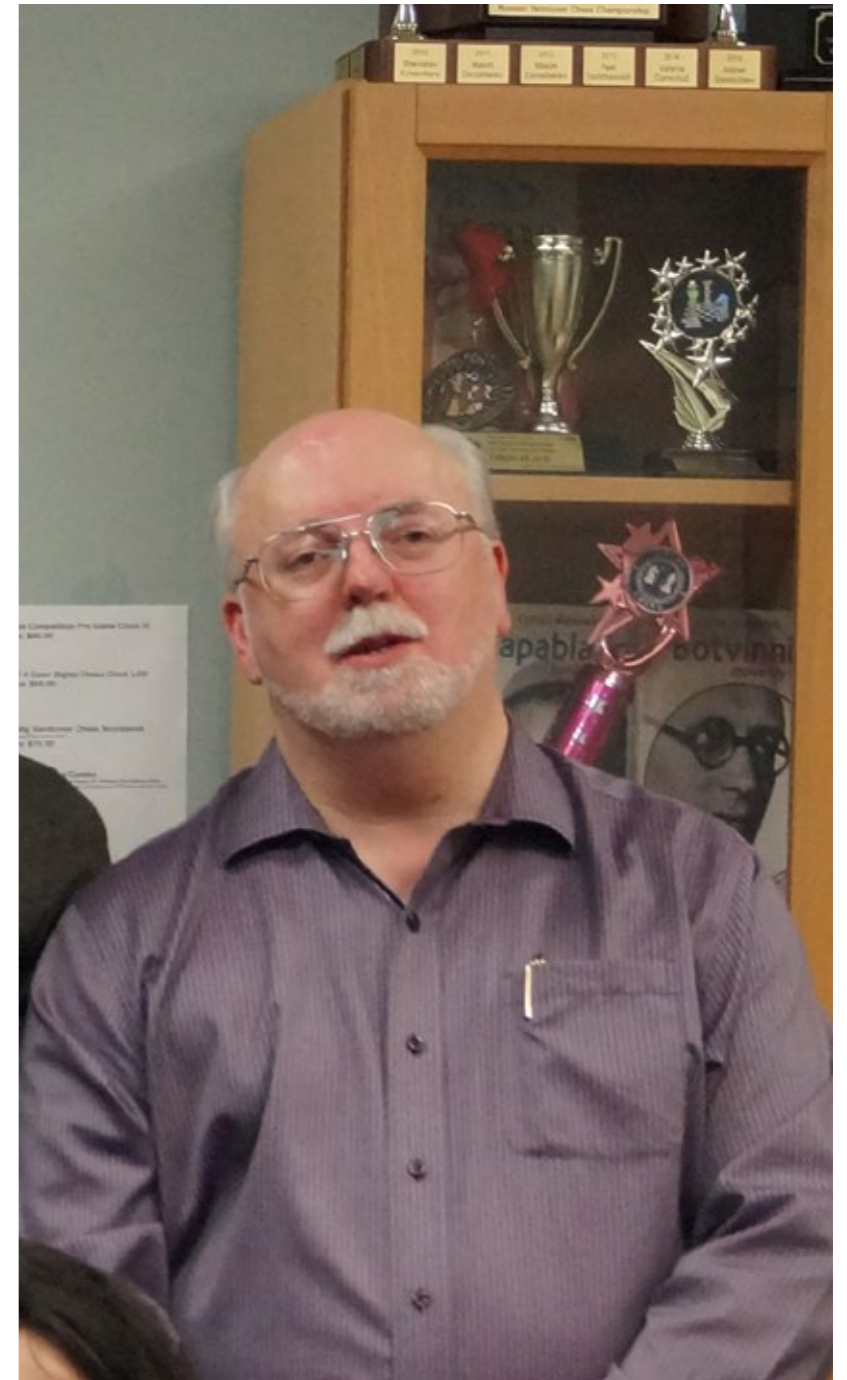
# OUR TEAM

## STEPHEN WRIGHT

One of the most dedicated and involved members of the BC chess community, Stephen Wright has been playing chess since age ten, and participated in his first ever tournament in 1980.

Not regarding himself as particularly competitive, Stephen states that “for [him] a large part of the game is problem solving, trying to distinguish patterns and determining which principles apply in a given situation.” When asked what appeals to him about the game, he answers: “the almost infinite possibilities available in a closed system. The fact that only I am in control, and all the decisions, whether good or bad, stem from me.”

As a long-time experienced coach, Stephen gives insight to some insight to the makings of a strong chess player. He mentions that it is important to be able to, beyond just calculating, have a strong positional understanding, as well as a good memory, nerves and concentration. Stephen also says that objectivity is important in chess – “basing decisions on a concrete assessment of the position rather than what we feel or hope is going on”. In order to improve one’s



# OUR TEAM

chess, he emphasizes “[playing] as many slow games as possible and [analyzing] them, preferably with a stronger player. [...] Find model games in the systems you wish to play and study the resultant middlegame structures and endgames - opening study should not come to a halt after all the pieces are developed.”

Stephen is not just proficient in chess, and holds a master’s degree in music history and sings with the Christchurch Cathedral choir downtown. He also enjoys watching English mysteries and walking.

Within the BC chess community, one item amongst many for which Stephen is best known is his meticulous hard-work in keeping up the BC Chess Bulletin. About this, Stephen says:

*“When I started writing the Bulletin in 2002 the idea was to have a means of communicating with the BCCF membership and other interested parties, and to preserve as part of the historical*

*record tournament reports, games, annotations, and other items of interest. It also provided me with a platform to present some of my research into B.C. chess history, although much of that material is now on a dedicated website.”*

Stephen was recently nominated by fellow involved member of the BC chess community Paul Leblanc for the title of BC Chess Federation (BCCF) president, which he then proceeded to be awarded. When asked what motivated him to try for and accept this title, he says:

*“There have been procedural and administrative issues within the BCCF in the last little while which have had an effect on some of our tournaments - I just felt there needed to be a change, that things could and should be done better, and I wasn’t aware of anyone else willing to make this happen.”* Congratulations and thank you to Stephen for gaining this title and for his continued efforts and contributions to BC chess!

Finally, Stephen states the following when inquired about his vision for the future of BC chess:

*“Hard to say, as the chess world itself has changed substantially since I moved here in 1996. A return to the glory days of the late 1960s/early 1970s, when B.C. with Suttles, Biyiasas, Macskasy, Zuk, Harper, Berry was the hotbed of Canadian chess seems unlikely, but tournament participation has increased in the last few years and there is tremendous potential in some of our juniors. It boils down to key individuals, players, organizers, trainers, who need to be encouraged and developed or eventually replaced as they move on, burn out or pass away. Hopefully we can continue to grow such individuals and the B.C. chess scene as a whole.”*

Stephen’s notable games:

[www.viewchess.com/cbreader/2016/6/20/Game6722644.html](http://www.viewchess.com/cbreader/2016/6/20/Game6722644.html)



# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

## DAVID LI

Hi, my name is David and right now, I am in grade 5, going to grade 6 after the summer. I like playing chess a lot, and I am at least able to play properly, know a few popular openings and avoid checkmates in the opening. I learned the basic rules a few years ago. My interest in chess came in grade 4 when my grade 4 teacher bought 30 chess sets to practice chess in our free time, because she really enjoyed playing chess herself, and wished that we would enjoy it too. One day, it was raining hard outside, and my teacher decided to host a chess tournament, and I thought I would at least get second place, but in the end, I lost almost every round. When I got home, I asked my mother if she could find me a chess coach, so I wouldn't be the 27th out of 30 in my class. At first, I joined a private chess club, and my chess tactics improved quickly, but soon, I found the VCS chess school, and personally, I think that VCS is better. When I joined, they put me in pawn level and I was the weakest in my group. I believe I am talented at chess, and I am willing to work hard, so I soon got to knight level. I am really thankful to my teachers, Maxim and Cristian who helped and taught me most of what I know about chess.





# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



## **GILLIAN MOK**

My name is Gillian Mok. I am 8 years old and will be in Grade 3 this September. I started chess lessons at Vanchess in April 2015. I only started to get very interested in chess since January 2016. Every week I would remind my mum to register me for the Friday quads, as well as for chess tournaments. I always look forward to attending the tournaments.

My favorite thing about chess is there is always something surprising happening in class. I love the challenge, I love to think of my next steps and strategize my moves. My goal is to be a chess master one day. I would like to thank all my teachers at Vanchess for encouraging me, helping me work hard and teaching me to be proud of myself.

Outside of chess, I enjoy reading, taekwondo and soccer. I play the piano and cello. My activities keep me very busy, but I intend to keep up and keep improving on my chess games.

# ANNUAL STATISTICS

## VCS DIAMOND STANDARD

Using our 'diamonds' on the new Wall of Fame feature, we would like to recognize the top students with the most diamonds at VCS. These students show dedication to active participation and success in tournaments and in class and we would like to congratulate them for their continued perseverance and determination.

### Wall of Fame

#	First Name Last Name	Class Performance (5 stars)	Group Tournaments (100%)	Tournaments: Weekly events (100%)	Tests (75%)	Chess Mentor Exercises (75%)	Interim Tests (75%)	Total
1	Ethan Song							25
2	David Li							22
3	Kevin Low							22
4	Alvin Li							21
5	James Li							21
6	Carl Xiong							19
7	Matthew Ji							17
8	Daniel Wang							15
9	Angelo Zhu							14
10	Jonathan Xiao							14

# ANNUAL STATISTICS

## MOST HARDWORKING STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

Between weekly homework, chess mentor exercises and tests, students have a wide variety of material available to them. Although some of it is mandatory and some optional, all additional training outside the VCS classroom is the student's responsibility to take initiative and complete. Additional practice outside the classroom is crucial to a chess player's continuous improvement, and VCS would like to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate the school's top performing students in exercise completion:

#	Student	Activity	Position	Positions to play
1	Kevin Low	Homework	605	10
		Chess Mentor Exercises	2415	168
		Tests	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>3020</b>	<b>178</b>
2	Ethan Low	Homework	605	10
		Chess Mentor Exercises	2103	157
		Tests	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2708</b>	<b>167</b>

#	Student	Activity	Position	Positions to play
3	James Li	Homework	565	10
		Chess Mentor Exercises	1638	136
		Tests	0	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2203</b>	<b>146</b>
4	Sophia Yu	Homework	656	32
		Chess Mentor Exercises	1378	155
		Tests	22	8
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2056</b>	<b>195</b>



# ANNUAL STATISTICS

#	Student	Activity	Position	Positions to play
5	Borna Amjadi	Homework	968	65
		Chess Mentor Exercises	995	118
		Tests	22	8
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>191</b>
6	Ethan Song	Homework	919	26
		Chess Mentor Exercises	1020	93
		Tests	66	24
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>143</b>
7	Henry Yang	Homework	747	34
		Chess Mentor Exercises	1033	121
		Tests	44	16
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1824</b>	<b>171</b>

#	Student	Activity	Position	Positions to play
8	Alex Fu	Homework	893	38
		Chess Mentor Exercises	876	155
		Tests	22	8
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1791</b>	<b>201</b>
9	Carl Xiong	Homework	975	31
		Chess Mentor Exercises	832	51
		Tests	22	8
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1829</b>	<b>90</b>
10	Ryan Yang	Homework	737	42
		Chess Mentor Exercises	936	99
		Tests	22	8
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1695</b>	<b>149</b>

# ANNUAL STATISTICS

## TEAM RANKING

As part of the Vancouver Chess School's mission to get as many of BC's youth involved in chess as possible, VCS will be soon introducing a new school team ranking system. Although tournaments are all on an individual participation basis, players' tournament participation and their results in those tournaments are tallied to give each school a total tally as well. VCS plans to reward students from the top schools each year starting in 2017. Winners will receive a perpetual trophy and a special letter of recognition sent to their schools principal. We encourage students to encourage their friends to join their schools team, become involved in chess and become active in tournaments. The following table shows the top 5 rated schools at the current time:

School	# of Events	# of Games	Score %	Score
<b>1. St. George's Jr.</b>	<b>36</b>			<b>128</b>
1.1. Eric Jiang (Grade 1)	13	39	65.38%	25.5
1.2. Vincent Guo (Grade 2)	11	31	74.19%	23
1.3. Ray Zhang (Grade 1)	13	39	57.69%	22.5
1.4. Brian Shao (Grade K)	11	33	68.18%	22.5
1.5. Jason Chen (Grade 2)	9	27	77.78%	21
1.6. Neil Hong (Grade 5)	4	12	70.83%	8.5
1.7. Stanley Wu (Grade 2)	4	12	41.67%	5
<b>2. Lord Kitchener E.S.</b>	<b>28</b>			<b>81.5</b>
2.1. DavidGuanXuan Zhou (Grade 3)	15	45	57.78%	26
2.2. Bill Wang (Grade 5)	15	45	54.44%	24.5
2.3. Alvin Li (Grade 3)	10	30	55.00%	16.5
2.4. Bruce Zhang (Grade 2)	10	30	48.33%	14.5
<b>3. Kwayhquitlum M.S.</b>	<b>30</b>			<b>54</b>
3.1. Alex Fu (Grade 6)	19	57	50.00%	28.5
3.2. AnNing Zhang (Grade 6)	19	57	44.74%	25.5
<b>4. Trafalgar E.S.</b>	<b>22</b>			<b>52.5</b>
4.1. Owen Tan (Grade 3)	14	42	51.19%	21.5
4.2. Samuel Taplin (Grade 5)	11	33	51.52%	17
4.3. Liam Fergusson (Grade 3)	6	18	52.78%	9.5
4.4. Max He (Grade 5)	2	6	75.00%	4.5
<b>5. Sperling E.S.</b>	<b>13</b>			<b>52</b>
5.1. Eugene Liang (Grade 3)	13	39	69.23%	27
5.2. Enoch Liang (Grade 3)	13	39	64.10%	25

# ANNUAL STATISTICS

THE FOLLOWING TABLES SHOW THE VCS STUDENTS WITH THE LARGEST RATING INCREASE OVER THE PAST SCHOOL YEAR

## CMA RATING

#	STUDENT	GRADE	RATING ON SEP 1, 2015	PROGRESS	RATING ON JUN 24, 2016
1	Ethan Song	Grade 1	436	710	1146
2	Aaron Young	Grade 9	400	678	1078
3	Ryan Shen	Grade 7	400	600	1000
4	Eric Jiang	Grade 2	612	591	1203
5	Alex Yu	Grade 7	400	582	982
6	Stephanie Gu	Grade 8	453	579	1032
7	William Zhang	Grade 7	400	519	919
8	Eugene Liang	Grade 3	400	485	885
9	KevinZhengYi Wang	Grade 4	530	473	1003
10	Ryan Yang	Grade 1	811	450	1261



# ANNUAL STATISTICS

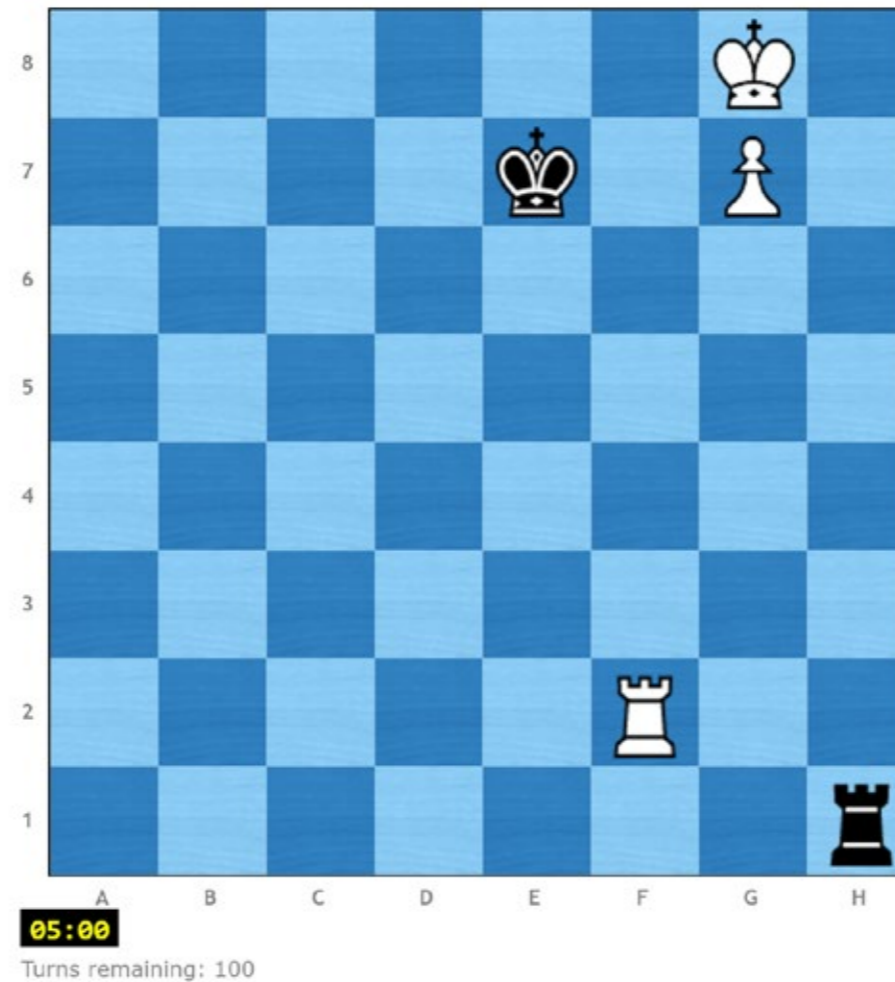
<b>CFC RATING</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>STUDENT</b>	<b>GRADE</b>	<b>RATING ON SEP 1, 2015</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>	<b>RATING ON JUN 24, 2016</b>
	1	Bob Liu	Adult	400	976	1376
	2	Henry Yang	Grade 5	200	740	940
	3	Ethan Song	Grade 1	400	587	987
	4	Ryan Yang	Grade 1	400	583	983
	5	Aaron Young	Grade 9	400	572	972
	6	Kai Wang	Adult	1384	408	1792
	7	Brian Yang	Grade 7	400	407	807
	8	Eric Jiang	Grade 2	400	400	800
	9	Stephanie Gu	Grade 8	400	392	792
	10	Gillian Mok	Grade 2	400	305	705

# VCS SOFTWARE UPDATES

## DECREASE HASTINESS TO INCREASE SUCCESS

As part of our mission to provide our students with the best quality of online chess education to supplement their in class learning, we have added a new feature to the "positions" & "positions to play" portions of students' final tests. Previously students could jump into beginning to attempt the position immediately, often guessing at moves before studying the position. Just as in a regular game, the less time spent on positions, the less likely for a good move to be chosen. This new addition is a time delay, forcing students to consider the position and their plan for a minimum of one minute before being able to start moving pieces. This forces students to slow down and think about the puzzle as well as prevents them from failing the test simply due to limited to no time spent on the positions to play.

### PASS TEST



White to move and win.

Game will start in...

00:55

# VCS MEMBERSHIP AND CHESS MENTOR EXERCISES



## **VCS MEMBERSHIP AND CHESS MENTOR EXERCISES**

As part of our mission to help our students progress faster and become stronger chess players, we are constantly working on improving and extending our software system and chess content to make chess practice available outside of the VCS classroom. Beginning in the fall of 2017, all VCS parents will be offered to obtain a VCS membership allowing students to access an additional set of personalized chess tools. One of the featured chess tools will be Chess Mentor exercises.

Chess Mentor is a very valuable tool that provides personalized additional practice to students. Containing opening repertoire,

endgame training, tactics and more, a record tracker and final test score are also recorded and provided to the student to allow them to monitor their own progress. As a tool crafted individually for each student, with exercises chosen to be geared towards each students' weaknesses, Chess Mentor is an invaluable opportunity for all students to have access to additional practice.

[Chess Mentor exercises are free of charge for all VCS students in the 2016-2017 school year. To have access to these exercises, simply send a request using the button on the top of the Membership page \(VCS Parent account -> My Profile -> Membership\)](#)



# TOURNAMENT RESULTS



## MARCH 12TH ACTIVE

The monthly active for March was held at the new home for VCS tournaments, Columbia College near Terminal and Main. The Open Section attracted nineteen players, including five rated over 2000. Mayo Fuentebella or Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj have often won these events, but this time it was Joe Roback's turn to shine – he won his first five games before drawing with James Chan to claim the first prize. Mayo finished in clear second, a full point off the pace. Ryan Leong took the first U1900 prize, Maven and Victor Zheng and Ethan Low shared the second, while Dylan Fox and Daniel Wang split the U1600 prizes.

In the eleven-player Junior Section Ryan Yang was the class of the field, taking the U1300 trophy with a perfect 5.0/5. Luka Spasojevic and Sebastian Fok were the other trophy winners, while Brian Yang, Jason Qian, Andrew Xu, and Borna Amjadi.

Standings

Final Standings

<https://vanchess.ca/tournaments/view/id/880>



# TOURNAMENT RESULTS

## APRIL 19TH ACTIVE

The April edition of the monthly VCS active event also served (as last year) as a training event for some of those juniors who will represent B.C. at the Canadian Chess Challenge in a few weeks. The Open Section attracted twenty players, including four rated over 2000. Roman Jiganchine is an infrequent participant at these events but won his first four games before drawing his way to a shared first place with Davaa-Ochir Nymadorj (whose only loss was to Jiganchine). The U1900 prizes were taken by Ethan Low and Igharas Gilberto, while Carter Lam won the U1600 prize.

The eleven-player Junior Section featured a number of upsets, as several of the higher-rated players finished lower down the crosstable than they are accustomed to. Brian Yang and Ben Zeng won the two trophies on offer (U1300 and U1000 respectively) while Borna Amjadi, Andrew Xu, and Stephanie Gu were awarded medals. Standings

Final Standings

<https://vanchess.ca/tournaments/view/id/881>





# TOURNAMENT RESULTS



## MAY ACTIVE (APRIL 30TH) & VCS CYCC QUALIFIER

Getting a little ahead of ourselves, the VCS May Active was actually played on the last day of April (the Columbia College site was unable the following weekend). Adjunct tournaments held at the same time and place included a CYCC qualification event and a Girls' Championship, so the Active was held as only one section this time and was diluted somewhat because of the missing juniors. Madiyar Amerkeshev made his return to these events but was handicapped by having to take a first-round bye to accommodate travel from the Island and then by rust in the second round as he lost to Richard Ingram; he finished second with 4.5/6. First was taken by a visiting friend of Richard's from England, Andrew Footner, who despite being well into his senior years

steamrolled the opposition to take clear first with a perfect score. Richard Ingram, Ethan Low, and Andrew Hemstapat shared the U1800 prizes. Standings <https://vanchess.ca/tournaments/view/id/882>

In the VCS CYCC Qualifier Eric Jiang (U8), Lucian Wu (U10), Jerry Wang (U12), Alec Chung (U14), and Kevin Li (U16) were the respective section winners, while Gillian Mok (U8), Veronica Guo (U10), Angelina Yang (U12), and Agata Seyfi (U14) were the trophy winners in the All Girls' Championship.

Final Standings <https://vanchess.ca/tournaments/view/id/969>



# TOURNAMENT RESULTS

## CANADIAN CHESS CHALLENGE

For the first time in its 28-year history, the annual Canadian Chess Challenge was held in Regina, Saskatchewan, on May 22-23, 2016. Played at the Dr William Riddell Centre, at University of Regina, each province had a team of twelve players, one from each grade (1-12). According to tradition, team captain and grade 12 representative Jeremy Hui carried the BC flag in – watch this video to see him lead in team BC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1J1Lj6LDeQ&feature=youtu.be>.

After much drama, heartbreak, tears and euphoria, Team BC under the stewardship of team captain Maxim Doroshenko, amassed a grand total of 83.5 points. Nine of our players scored 7 points or more, out of a possible 9! This is the best performance in recent years in terms of number of points scored, however it was not enough to surpass Ontario and Quebec. While the overall (83.5) score was reflective of a great all round performance, team BC needed at least 6 or 6.5/12 in the matches against Quebec and Ontario. That key component was our weakness, and an area where we have lacked the depth, and experience over the years.

Also interesting to note was the 25 point difference between 3rd (BC) and 4th(AB)!



### Player scores grade 1 - 12:

Ryan Yang - 7.5

Daniel Wang - 7

Andrew Xu - 4.5

Lucian Wu - 7

Neil Doknjas - 7

Leo Qu - 6

Ethan Low - 6.5

Joshua Doknjas - 7

Matthew Geng - 7.5

Jason Cao - 7.5

Janak Awatramani - 8

Jeremy Hui - 8

Team BC won a total of 11 individual trophies! Many congratulations to ALL players on Team BC for an excellent performance. Every point, every half point added value to the overall team score of 83.5. This by far, is more important than individual performances, at the Canadian Chess Challenge.

### Some other highlights:

- Jeremy Hui, in his last year (Grade 12), our flag bearer and junior captain, inspired players with his words of encouragement between rounds, and went on to win Gold (National Champion) and the bughouse championship.

- Janak Awatramani won the “triple crown [sic]”, Gold (National Champion) after a 2 hour playoff, the open blitz championship,

and the bughouse championship. Ryan Yang, and Joshua Doknjas finished with a respectable silver.

- The junior bughouse championship was won by Leo Qu, and Lucian Wu.

- Our team dinner at Earl’s restaurant was well attended, and we had the pleasure and honour, to have Larry Bevand celebrate with us. Larry Bevand is the executive director for the Chess and Math Association, Canada’s National Scholastic Chess Organization. Watch the traditional farewell to the grade 12 player: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qlo1hgmzAzo&feature=youtu.be>.

- In keeping with tradition Jeremy was treated to a farewell desert, and Larry joined us for an operatic sing song bidding Jeremy goodbye, since this would be his last year representing BC at the Chess Challenge.

Many thanks to team captain Maxim Doroshenko, the tireless efforts of Vivien Lai, our respected coaches, our sponsors, and to all supportive parents.

The future looks promising. I’m confident that our BC junior stars will rise to the occasion, and settle scores with our enduring rival provinces in the coming years. Good luck in Toronto 2017, and congratulations once again!

*Written by Gyan Awatramani*



# TOURNAMENT RESULTS

## A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TWO GOLD MEDALISTS

**Janak Awatramani** and **Jeremy Hui**, both VCS coaches with longtime involvement in the BC chess community took home the gold in grades 11 and 12 respectively. Congratulations to these two for their outstanding performances at one of the most prestigious junior events in Canada!

### JANAK AWATRAMANI

At this year's CCC, Janak won the blitz tournament, the bughouse tournament, and the Gr 11 gold medal in the main event.

Chess has been a part of Janak's life for as long as he can remember, stating that "apparently [he] wanted to play chess since age 2. [He] could set up the pieces correctly at that age, so [he's] been told. [He] was always intrigued watching [his] Dad play chess with his brothers. For [Janak's] sixth birthday, [his] Dad stuck to his promise of teaching [him] the moves."

Despite having a decade of tournament experience behind him, winning this tournament did not come without its share of challenges. When asked what greatest difficulties he had to overcome to achieve his results, Janak responded:

"My opponent's opening preparation, and being a bit rusty since I haven't played in serious tournaments for a few years." Yet Janak remains consistent in his mentality towards chess, stating that even this tournament "hasn't changed [his] approach in any way."

After so many years and so much experience playing competitive chess, Janak draws upon this experience when asked about some of the most important life lessons chess has taught him:

"Stay calm and centered through the ups and downs in life."

And finally, he offers valuable advice to young aspiring future junior champions:

"Take into consideration your opponents moves as much as your own. I'm continually working on following this myself."



# TOURNAMENT RESULTS



## JEREMY HUI

At this year's CCC, Jeremy won the bughouse tournament and the Gr 12 gold medal in the main event.

Having learned chess at age 7 from his dad, Jeremy has been involved in competitive chess ever since. His latest success has come in the form of a gold medal at the 2016 CCC. Yet despite illustrious achievements Jeremy recalls several difficult aspects he had to overcome to come as far as he has, such as *"constantly working, getting into the right mindset, coming back after losing, [and] staying positive"*. However he emphasizes the importance of overcoming these challenges, and *"keeping at it to achieve your goals"*.

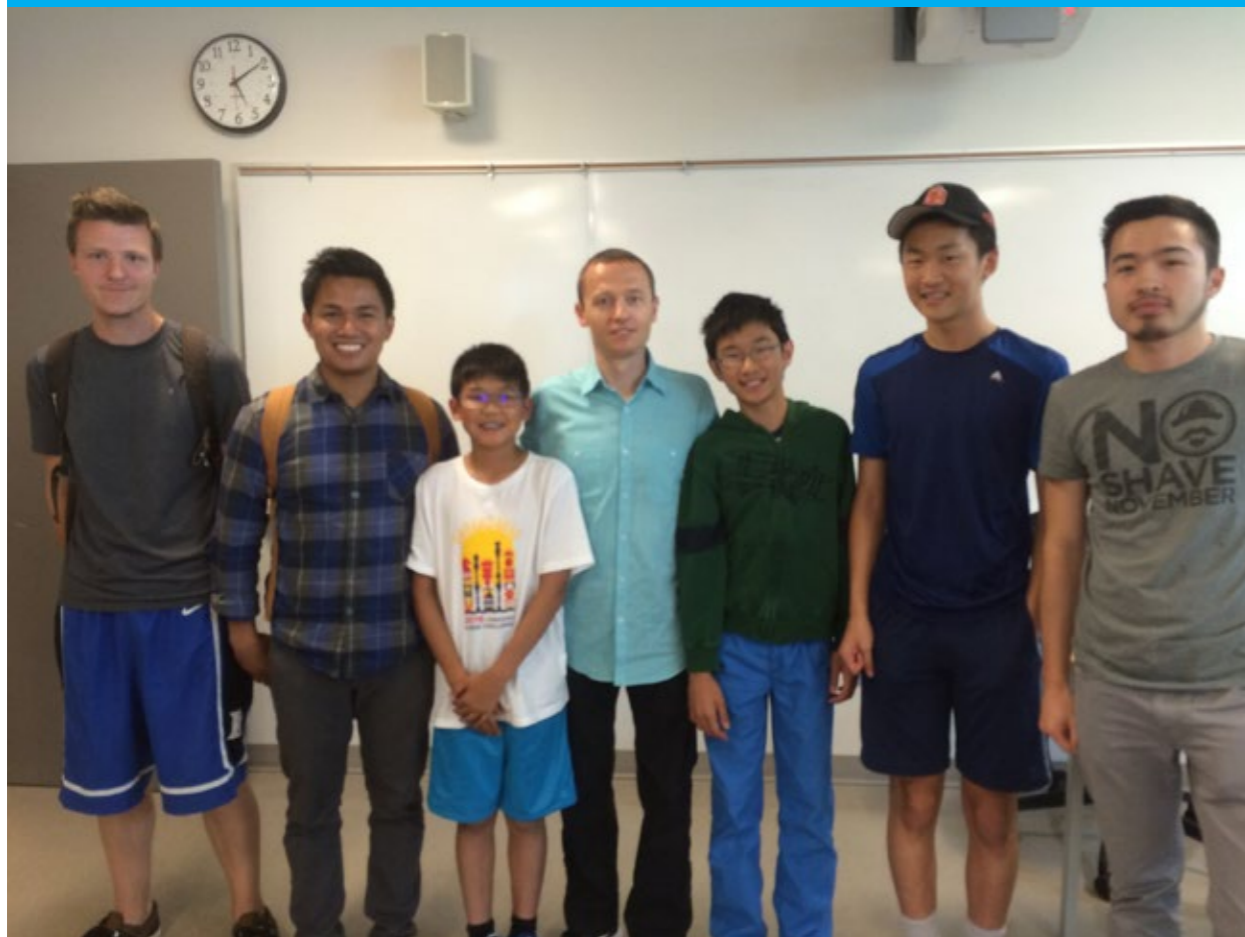
As a grade 12 student nearing graduation, Jeremy hadn't had much time to study chess leading up to the tournament. Choosing to forego opening preparation in favour of playing and analyzing games prior to this year's national event, Jeremy says he *"went [to CCC] just wanting to do [his] best."* However seeing the great atmosphere of the BC team motivated him to try harder for a strong result. Coming away from this tournament, he says the results from this tournament only make him want to continue his involvement with chess.

Besides being an active tournament player, Jeremy is also a VCS coach, and has worked with many young aspiring students. When asked for some words of advice, he says the following:

*"Enjoy playing chess. Work hard, that's great, but it's just a fun game you should still enjoy. The more fun you have while pursuing your goals the easier it is to improve."*



# TOURNAMENT RESULTS



## VANCOUVER WEST OPEN #10

As with the previous events in this series there were three sections: a two-day Open for adults and stronger juniors, a two-day Junior Open, and a one-day Junior Open. There was an intended fourth section, an All Girls' Open, but the few registrants were reassigned to the two Junior Opens along with the prizes. Both the two-day sections consisted of six games played at the time control of one hour per player (50 minutes with a 10-second increment), the minimum necessary for regular rating; the one-day section was five games at 25 minutes with a 5-second increment. The two-day Open attracted fourteen competitors including several visitors – Matthias Schuett of Germany, and 2011 BC co-champion Loren Laceste, a resident of Alberta for the past few years. Loren showed no signs of rust in rolling over his main opposition before giving up a quick draw in the last round to Brandon Zhu to claim the first prize with 5.5/6. Davaa-Ochir Nyamdorj lost to Laceste but was the best of the rest, coming

second with 5.0 points. Brandon Zhu's 3.5 was sufficient for the top U1900 prize, while Andrew Hemstapat and Ethan Low shared second U1900.

Standings <https://vanchess.ca/tournaments/view/id/952>

Unlike other editions of this event, the two-day Junior Open was the biggest of the three sections, with twenty-five entrants. Leo Chung, Bill Wang, and Aaron Young won the U1400, U1200, and U1000 trophies respectively, while medals went to Henry Yang, Ethan Song, Eric Jiang, Stanley Wu, Luka Spasojevic, Alex Yu, Ryan Yang, Brian Yang, Ben Zeng, Borna Amjadi, and Samuel Taplin. In the sixteen-player one-day Junior George Liu (U800) and Ryan Zhu (U600) won trophies and medals were awarded to Codrin Pompas, AnNing Zhang, Terry ZhiRen Xu, and Alex An. And although they played in one of the two junior sections, the separate girls' prizes went to Jemelyn Reyes, Gillian Mok, Veronica Guo, Stephanie Gu, Jocelyn Reyes, Chloe Chow, and Pavní Santosh Labade. Standings <https://vanchess.ca/tournaments/view/id/931>



# 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 the Vancouver Chess School as it was represented mainly by VCS teachers. Starting 2014, VCS team consists exclusively of VCS students.



The VCS team for 2016-2017 will be formed based on CFC ratings. The **Top 10 CFC rated players** (on Sep-01-2016) from our school will be invited to join the team in September 2016.

# TOP 10 CFC/CMA

## TOP 10 CFC/CMA RATED PLAYERS FROM OUR SCHOOL AS OF JUN 24, 2016.

#	NAME	CFC RATING
1	Kevin Low	1885
2	Victor Zheng	1852
3	Kai Wang	1792
4	Daniel Chen	1755
5	Ethan Low	1749
6	Maven Zheng	1746
7	Kevin Li	1657
8	Daniel Du	1656
9	Ryan Leong	1616
10	James Li	1612

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

#	NAME	CMA RATING
1	Kevin Low	1950
2	Ryan Leong	1832
3	James Li	1801
4	Ethan Low	1739
5	Maven Zheng	1727
6	Victor Zheng	1691
7	Kevin Li	1658
8	Kai Wang	1627
9	Dylan Fox	1624
10	Daniel Chen	1616

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



# RECOMMENDED MINIMUM RATING TO ADVANCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

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

# INTERIM TEST

As VCS follows the school calendar and will be closed from Jul 1-Sep 5, we have created an OPTIONAL interim test for students to complete over the break if they choose to do so. Covering all the material they learned this past semester this test helps both the student and the coach gauge how much of the material the student is grasping. This test can be found on the student account, under Test -> Chess Mentor Exercises. The students can start, pause and continue the test over the course of the break, and also have the choice to reset the test if they wish to improve upon their score. Each question can be attempted 1-2 times. With a score of 75% or higher on this test the student will be awarded a diamond on their Wall of Fame.

It is not mandatory to complete this test, and the completion of this test does not count for or against the student in any way. It is simply extra practice for those who are interested, and a good way to judge their own improvement.



# CHESS ON THE BEACH: YEAR-END PARTY



On Sunday June 19th, VCS had a year-end get together at Stanley Park's second beach picnic area. It has been a challenging year with moving locations and shifting classes and class times amongst many changes, but students' and parents' and dedication to continuing with the chess school is much appreciated.

It began around 11am, and was a potluck format. Families also brought picnic blankets, soccer balls, and chess sets to make for an activity-filled afternoon. Coaches, students and their families were all there, marking the first time we have ever had an event like this. It was a great opportunity to continue to build a strong relationship with our community of coaches, parents and students.

There was a soccer match of parents and coaches vs. kids, with the parents and coaches taking the match with a final score of 7-5. A bughouse knockout tournament was held, and finally a blitz tournament of the dads playing, with the help of their kids of course! Prizes were given out to soccer MVP's, bughouse champs and the top two dads in the blitz tournament. Congratulations to all participants!

Thank you to all the families who made the time to attend our first ever school-wide year-end party. It capped off yet another fantastic year of chess – it's been an absolute pleasure as always working with all of you. Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you again in September!



[WWW.VANCHESS.CA](http://WWW.VANCHESS.CA)