



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

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NEWS RELEASE

Chess students challenge for provincial finals

Two days of scholastic chess begins today at Daniel McIntyre

Student chess players from across the province are lining up the rank and file at Daniel McIntyre Collegiate Institute for the Manitoba Scholastic Provincial Chess Championships, March 10 and 11.

The two-day championship event will offer the opportunity for players to test their skill and gain valuable tournament experience. Winners from each grade level will move on to play in the 26th Annual Canadian Chess Challenge, which is being hosted in Winnipeg in May.

Students from Grades 1-6 will be playing at the school (located at 720 Alverstone St.) on March 10, while Grades 7-12 students will be playing on March 11. The games run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on both days. Students have media permissions filled out for this event.

“The Manitoba Provincial Championship presents a unique opportunity for students to build new friendships, and develop/demonstrate their abstract thinking and planning/strategic skills,” said Josh Henson of the Manitoba Scholastic Chess Association.

“DMCI was chosen as an exceptional venue for the Provincial Scholastic Chess Championship because we required a welcoming atmosphere, a flexible space, and an educational team that understands the inherent academic value and cognitive development the game provides.”

At DMCI, chess has proven to be tremendously popular; the school’s chess club meets every weekday throughout the school year, with as many as 40 students taking part on a given day.

“We’ve never hosted something on this scale, but we have a very active and loyal group of students in our chess club. I think we’re ready to host something of this magnitude,” said DMCI teacher and chess club coach Jerome Baseley.

Chess has proven to be an “international language” at DMCI, with the club drawing players from many different cultures and segments of the student population, such as special education and at-risk youth.

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“We have students from all walks of life,” Mr. Baseley added. “The DMCI Chess Club is designed to be an authentically inclusive space where everyone is welcome. This isn't just lip service; we're extremely proud of our success in reaching out to *all* students and establishing a richly diverse community of chess enthusiasts.”

Along with the cognitive benefits of learning the game, there are other positive spin-offs for players.

“It strengthens character,” Mr. Baseley said. “Students develop their character to the point where they see losing as an opportunity to learn, as opposed to something they can't bear to look at and push aside. There are certainly opportunities to develop poise and grace in winning and losing. There are all these elements of self-restraint and honour...chess is good for all of us.”

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