

THE LOTUS LAMP

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Searching For Lotus Chess Master



Chess fever has infected a large portion of the Lotus student body and has even gotten to a few of the adults and teaching staff. The Lotus Academy Chess Club, which started off with a handful of enthusiastic and eager novices, has now blossomed into a force of close to twenty seasoned participants.

The Chess Club meets every Tuesday from 3:15 to 5:00 p.m. It is administered by Mothura Marcia who thought that it would be a good idea for Lotus students to have the opportunity to not only play this ancient Indian game, but to actually master some of its finer points.

The first meetings of the Chess Club were devoted to a thorough review of all of the basic moves, the proper rules, and an introduction to opening game strategy. An important part of this orientation was the

etiquette that all real chess players adhere to: quiet play and respect for your opponent.

The Chess Club was energized by the purchase of some beautiful wooden chess pieces and boards. All of this was topped off by the addition of professional clocks that are used to ensure that each player completes his or her moves within an allotted time.

The first Lotus Tournament began this Monday when sixteen contestants sat down in the conference room to see who would emerge victorious. The first round was completed, and eight victors will go on to the second round. The games were very exciting, and actually had several student and staff spectators to add to the atmosphere. The Chess Club will continue until the first week of June. Plans are set to go on trips to compete and to end the year with a big celebration.

**Our history must teach liberating concepts and call values into question.
That is why the history is so important.**

HAKI R. MADHUBUTI

Lotus Computer Lab Goes Ultra High Tech

In addition to the Lotus computer science program adding Dr. Zizwe Poe as its instructor and network administrator, the computer lab is being upgraded to a level that surely matches any in the country. If that sounds like a bit of a stretch, then you need to know exactly what is taking place with Lotus and its computer science program.

Lotus has just recently installed its own "T-1" line to service not only the Internet, but also to provide for a full network of computers throughout the building. A T-1 line is the fastest and carries the most information of any connection that is presently available to a school or similar institution. Our present "DSL" connection to the Internet is fast but is very sporadic. The T-1 line is guaranteed to be operating at full speed (1.5 million bps) no less than 95% of the time.

Even more important, the T-1 line will be used by the teaching staff and the main office for both their Internet connections and their own separate network. Every classroom from Kindergarten to eighth will be equipped with a new computer that will be connected to the Internet and to all of the other classroom computers with all of the power and high speed capabilities that the T-1 line can bring.

When will all of this be up and running? The answer is not next year but next week. All work will be completed and all the new equipment will be installed no later than Thursday, April 12th!! We will keep you posted as to the ways in which this computing power will be used to greatly enhance your child's education at Lotus.

Scholastic Book Fair Is Coming To Lotus

We are very grateful to one of our active parents, Glenda Hosanna, for initiating and organizing our very first Scholastic Book Fair. It will be coming to Lotus on Monday, April 16th, and will run until Wednesday, April 18th. The fair is open each of the three days from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the school.

This is an opportunity to share exciting books and learning products with our young readers. Parents and teachers will also find plenty of items that will be of interest to them. It will also underscore for our young people the importance of good books and regular reading for those who truly want to exercise their minds.

When you visit the Fair, be sure to also look for the Classroom Wish List display to see how you can build your child's classroom library. The Scholastic Book Fair, which promises to be an annual event, helps us promote learning while raising money for special school projects like our school library, school yard, and playground. The goal this year is to sell at least 900 books!

There will also be a Family Book Fair Night from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Tuesday, April 17th. It will feature story readings, special activities, refreshments, and door prizes. Of course, everyone is invited and is encouraged to come out on Tuesday night.

Volunteers are still needed to make certain that we have enough adults to ensure that everything runs smoothly. Please call 215-713-0218 or the Lotus office for more details.

It's A Spring Affair And We Have Something New!

We want to extend an invitation for all of our Lotus parents and supporters to come out to the third annual Lotus Academy Fashion Show. It will be held on Saturday, April 28th, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. at the North American Motor Inn, located at City Line and Belmont Avenues.

You will be treated to some of Philadelphia's most unique and creative designers, boutiques, and models who will "strut their stuff" in the latest fashions to grace the Philly scene. The price of a ticket (which has already been paid for by one parent from each Lotus household) includes a fantastic lunch that will be served buffet style.

Bring your camera. Bring a guest. Bring ideas about how you want to come out this spring. But do plan to be there. If you doubt that it will be the best three hours that you could spend on a Saturday afternoon, just check with any of the parents who have attended the last two fashion shows.

If you have any questions about tickets or anything else, please call the office (438-7500) and we will be glad to provide you with any details.

Parent Seminar

Parents are reminded that there is a Parent Seminar scheduled for this Thursday, April 5th, at 7:00 p.m. The workshop is titled "Parenting Skills" and will be conducted by Iraina Salaam. It will be an event that will offer a chance to get some information, offer some suggestions, and gain from each other's insight.

Searching For Bobby Fischer

It seems like the Vishna age group and Mothura Marcia are responsible for the great interest in chess that we see at Lotus. If the Marunis and Marunas of the Vishna age group had their way, playing chess (with all of the thinking, strategizing, winning, and losing that accompanies this game) would be the order of the day...each and every day.

The impetus for Vishna's current chess obsession began when Timothy Johnson received a beautiful chess set as a Kwanzaa gift. He brought his chess set to Lotus on January 2nd, and the rest was "history". Intense games during the lunch period have become a part of the Vishna routine. Some students even arrive early so that they can get a game in before the school day begins. All of the Vishna students have a rudimentary knowledge of the game, and many, through practice and study, have greatly improved.

Mothura Marcia capitalized on her students' enthusiasm by incorporating the process of movie and other media form critiques into the literature curriculum for the 3rd trimester. She used the film, *Searching For Bobby Fischer*, as the introduction into how various literary elements are effectively used. These include character and plot development, exposition, rising and falling action, and resolution. They were all used by the students to arrive at their overall opinion of the story, book, or film that they were covering.

The *Bobby Fischer* movie was perfect for evaluation purposes, because it was easy to identify the elements of its story. What follows are some of the movie reviews that were a result of this class assignment.

Movie Review by Devon Johnson

This movie didn't only speak to chess, but to life itself. This is a movie about a young chess player named Josh. It depicts all of the hurdles and struggles that Josh encountered and overcame in his journey to get to the top. This is an inspiring movie for all ages. So get out your chess paraphernalia, boards, clocks, etc. Because after seeing this movie, you'll be dying to play chess.

Movie Review by Parris Shannon

Searching for Bobby Fischer is a film that touched me in many ways and gave me a better understanding about the relationship between chess and the game of life. The movie tells a story based on fact, about a "new" Bobby Fischer who is a young boy named "Josh Waitzkins". He was born with a gift for playing chess.

The acting in this movie was great because it illustrates a conflict that Josh faces as a result of the contrasting styles of his two chess teachers. In the end, Josh uses all his training from both Vinnie and Bruce in order to win an important chess tournament. When the movie was over, it left me thinking, "Could I be the next Bobby Fischer?" or "Is he playing to my left or to my right?"

Movie Review by Mark Freeman

This is an excellent movie! It made me realize that even though I may think someone is better than I am, I still have a chance to win. It also had some good visual effects. My favorite part is the final match when Josh faces his rated opponent, Jonathan. The characters in this movie were excellent in their roles. I recommend this movie to people of all ages.

Hot Dog Days

Beginning on Monday, April 2nd, and continuing for every Monday in April, the Vishna age group will be sponsoring "Hot Dog Days". We hope that you will support Vishna in their efforts to raise funds in order to defray some of the costs they will incur during their trip to Washington D.C. The purpose of the trip is to participate in the National Science Exposition sponsored by the Council of Independent Black Institutions (CIBI). The students will be leaving on the morning of Thursday, April 26th, and will return on Saturday, April 28th.

As for the "Hot Dog Days", the cost of the Monday lunch is \$3.00, and it will pay for one hot dog, one juice, and a snack. Everyone has a choice between turkey or vegetarian hot dogs. The cost of each additional hot dog is just \$1.00. All of the Vishna students thank you for your support in this fund raising effort.

Spring Is Finally Here!

From the tall tales of Kala Jojo, the "Tall Storyteller" to the syncopated rhythms of the "Women's Sekere Ensemble", our most recent Seasonal Celebration was a wonderful way to bid farewell to "old Man Winter". The children, parents, and staff arrived this past Friday all decked out in their various beautiful shades of blue. It was a wondrous collage of African style and color, and it was a perfect way for Lotus to festively usher in the sweet sounds and signs of spring.

As usual, the abundance of food and fun matched the occasion. Our annual spring break is scheduled for next week, and the Lotus Academy will be closed from April 9th to April 13th. See you on April 16th!!



The Lotus Academy Fortune Juniors Investment Club is still meeting every Thursday and spends its time discussing topics such as stock splits, Third World debt, and global economics. It will move to the next level of

Fortune Juniors Investment Club



excellence when it can meet in the revitalized computer lab. Maruna Ababa is shown in the lab, and the other junior investors are Derrell, Parris, Abraham, Kamari, Ababa, Teresa, and Ruwhiy. They deserve our praise!

The Lotus Academy Science Expo Is Coming!



On Wednesday, April 25, 2001, Lotus Academy will host its annual Science Expo. All of the students are preparing for what promises to be a premiere event in which the entire school takes part. From the group projects being worked on at the Early Learning Center and the Lower School to sophisticated research being

conducted by the students in Grades 5-8, everyone appears to be "science-minded" these days.

Parents should take note that the students need you to help in their preparation in ways that are not always obvious. They may need simple supplies from the store or to be taken to the library. Because all of the students in the Upper School are required to submit a typewritten research paper along with their projects, they will need whatever is necessary to complete their papers. A good proofreader is always a big help for a first-class project.

One very important aspect of the Science Expo is for the students to be able to articulate the results of their research. Their newly acquired information will be discussed with their teachers, other students, and finally to the parents who will ask them questions at the Expo on the 25th at 7:00 pm. We ask you come out to Lotus and support the children for all of the hard work that they have done to sharpen their scientific skills and produce a project that may be of great importance to all of us.

Do not worry about people not knowing your ability, but worry that you do not have it. **CONFUCIUS**