

# VALLEY HOME EDUCATORS

## NOVEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER Update #1

### **Wenatchee Scholastic Chess Club**

Every Sunday 6-8PM

Grace Lutheran Church (1408 Washington Street, Wenatchee)

Cost? FREE!!!

The Wenatchee Scholastic Chess Club meets every Sunday evening from 6 to 8 PM in the multifunction room of the Grace Lutheran Church in Wenatchee (across from Washington Elementary). Anyone with an interest in playing, regardless of their skill level or age, is welcome to attend. We focus on having fun, but we also work on improving gameplay, sportsmanship, and preparing for tournament play. Participation in tournaments is encouraged, but is completely optional. The tournament environment is designed to be a very positive experience for kids of all ages. The last tournament was November 10th in Richland. The Wenatchee team took First Place for Kindergarten and 1st Grade, and 2nd Place in 3rd Grade and 5th Grade.

There have been dozens of controlled studies on the benefits of chess in developing mental acuity, particularly in children. Chess has the benefit of being a game that anyone can play, but that increases with complexity the more one understands its nuances. A single chess game provides the players with dozens of mental puzzles to solve, in an environment where good decisions will be rewarded with a gain of material, and less optimal decisions will have undesirable results. Children who play chess learn to concentrate on solving complex problems and to accept the consequences of the decisions they make. These skills have been repeatedly shown to translate into better overall learning in traditional studies like Reading and Mathematics. The best part is they get all these benefits by simply playing a game they enjoy.

Typically a scholastic club is affiliated with a specific school with membership restricted to just its students, but this one is not. It was started by the Grace Lutheran Church several years ago, and is open to anyone. This allows home-schoolers to introduce all the proven benefits of chess to their children, but without the issues of dealing with a school they don't attend.

We are always looking for new players, and it doesn't matter what time of the year you start. If there is interest, swing by and play a few games. If you have any questions, please email [donlester@gmail.com](mailto:donlester@gmail.com).

Do you have a child who is struggling in math? Are there times he or she becomes frustrated and wants to give up? Or, do you simply want your child to be more confident with his or her math skills? I can provide your child with math tools that will guarantee success.

Consider the following invitation, which includes class days, times, and cost. For additional information or questions, please call Teresa Black or Meliesa Hawley at Focal Point Learning Solutions at 662-9121.

TOPIC: Basic math concepts (shortcuts for addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and beginning pre-algebra concepts)

GRADE LEVELS: 3rd through 6th or any struggling math student

DAYS: Tuesdays beginning January 8th and ending June 10th

TIME: 10:00am to 11:00am

COST: \$100 per month (approximately \$25 per session)

LOCATION: Focal Point Learning Solutions  
113 2nd Street, Suite 101

PHONE: (509) 662-9121

TEACHER: Teresa Black

## **Columbia Christian Homeschool Co-op Registration**

Columbia Christian Homeschool Co-op (CCHC) is currently accepting registrations for winter session, January 9-March 5. Check out our website [www.ncwhn.net/CCHC.htm](http://www.ncwhn.net/CCHC.htm), and contact Michele Townliand [michelet@nwi.net](mailto:michelet@nwi.net) or 881-1423.

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