

Rheem Elementary Takes the Chess Championship

By Lingsueh Shu



Back Row Left to Right Principal Elaine Frank, Nathaniel Sauerberg
Front Row Left to Right, Montreux Maeder, Ethan Sauerberg,
Natalie Davis, Zachary Su, William Gu Photo provided

Proving their mental metal, six Rheem Elementary School students competed and won first place in the 9th Annual Walnut Creek-Area Elementary School Chess Tournament held on April 26th. Competing against 28 other Contra Costa schools, and among 86 participants, Rheem's chess champions edged out Palmer School in a tiebreaker for the first-place prize. Fourth-graders William Gu and Zachary Su and second-grader Ethan Sauerberg each improved their scores from

last year's tournament, and Rheem's fourth returning player, Nathaniel Sauerberg (4th grade), won his first five matches before finally falling in the individual championship final. The team was also well supported by their two new players, Natalie Davis and Montreux Maeder.

Nathaniel Sauerberg paced the team by winning five of his six matches for the second year in a row. His best match was his fifth when he won an epic hour-long battle against a much higher

ranked player. William Gu had a very impressive tournament winning three matches and drawing two others. Rheem was in first place going into the last round, but only by a small amount, and William's win in this round helped to secure the title.

Zachary Su improved his score from last year with three wins and one draw. Ethan Sauerberg reached his goal of winning four points for the team, including an important win in his final match. And, second-grader Natalie Davis, who was playing in her first chess tournament, posted two victories. Rheem's youngest chess player, first-grader Montreux Maeder, finished the tournament with an impressive three victories.

The chess champions were thrilled to receive the tournament first-place trophy that stands almost as tall as the players, and they were equally proud to present it to Rheem School Principal, Elaine Frank.