

Mission San Jose Wins National Elementary School



Left to right James Kwok, Hemang Jangle, Jerome Sun, Armaan Kalyanpur, Joe Lonsdale

The National Scholastic Chess Championships were held the weekend of April 3rd to 5th in Nashville, TN. Over 5,000 students and more than 500 schools competed in these championships. Mission San Jose Elementary School of Fremont, CA won the overall Elementary School Championship by placing a clear first in K-6 Championship Division. The K-6 Championship team consisted of six graders Hemang Jangle, James Kwok, and Jerome Sun and fourth grader Armaan Kalyanpur.

The tournament consisted of seven rounds. Coach Joe Lonsdale told team members that they would probably need 20 points, 5 each, to take first place. Each member of the team scored 5 points to take first place with 20 points versus 19 points by a team from VA. Teams from New York took places 3rd through 8th.

There was also a K-5 Championship Division (open to all players up to grade 5) and a K-3 Championship Division. (Open to all players up to grade 3). The Mission San Jose team of Emily Zhu, Alex Yin, Kevin

Zhangxu, Eric Wong, and Evan Wong took 9th place in the K-5 Championship Division. The Mission San Jose team of Alvin Kong, Amit Sant, Shalin Shah, and Eric Zhu took 9th place in the K-3 Championship Division.

Mission San Jose Elementary School was the only school in the country to finish in the top 10 in K-6, K-5, and K-3 Championships sections.

Mission San Jose first grader, Joseph Wan, competed in the K-1 Championship Division. Joseph won his first six games and was playing for the National K-1 individual championship in the last round. Joseph lost the last game and took home the fourth place trophy in K-1.

Mission San Jose Elementary School will compete in the Northern CA Scholastic Chess Championships in San Jose the weekend of May 2nd and 3rd. Despite their tremendous performance at the nationals they expect to once again have tough competition from Weibel Elementary School of Fremont. Coach Lonsdale said, "We have been competing with Weibel and Coach Alan Kirshner for almost 20 years. It is the tough local competition that helps us get strong enough to compete at the National level."



Emily Zhu, Erik Wong, Alex Yin, Kevin Zhangxu, Evan Wong, back Joe Lonsdale



Alvin Kong, Eric Zhu, Shalin Shah, Amit Sant, back Joe Lonsdale