

Los Perales Takes Second in Bay Area Chess Tournament

Submitted by Jenny Clare

The Los Perales Elementary School chess team took home second place honors at the Berkeley Chess School Elementary School Tournament March 22 at Hillside School in Berkeley. One hundred and fifty-seven students representing 44 schools from all over the Bay Area competed in six games of chess during six hours of play.

Los Perales' six-member team was neck and neck with Marin Elementary throughout the tournament, coming in only one half point behind. In addition, LP fifth-grader, Hari Stoyanov, came in first place overall, the only student to win all six games for a perfect score. Other Lamorinda elementary schools in attendance were Glorietta (which also finished in the top 10), Burton Valley, Del Rey, and Rheem.

The Los Perales chess team is comprised of students involved in the

Berkeley Chess School which runs the LP chess after-school enrichment class.

Los Perales Chess Team

- Arjun Chhabra (fifth Grade)
- Alex Clare (fifth Grade)
- Jeremiah Minz (fifth Grade)
- Hari Stoyanov (fifth Grade)
- Milan Stoyanov (second Grade)
- Delu Zhao (fifth Grade)

Top 10 Schools

1. Marin Elementary 20.0 (Albany)
2. Los Perales 19.5 (Moraga)
3. Beach Elementary 18.5 (Piedmont)
4. Wildwood Elementary 18.0 (Piedmont)
5. Buena Vista Elem 17.5 (Walnut Creek)
6. Cornell Elementary 16.0 (Albany)
7. Kensington Elementary 16.0 (Kensington)
8. Ocean View Elementary 15.0 (Albany)
9. Glorietta 14.0 (Orinda)
10. St. Philip Neri 12.0 (Alameda)



Photo provided

THE APP RAP

By Alex Pawlakos

App: Mr. Number by WhitePages
For: All Android phones
Price: Free

There are many apps that work on both Android and iPhone or at least you can find similar apps that accomplish the same task for either operating system. However, if you want or need state-of-the-art number (call) blocking, it is best to use an Android phone. Unfortunately, the iPhone operating systems are not conducive to most call blocking techniques. For Android users who desire to block unwanted calls and texts, do reverse lookup for mobile and landline numbers, stop spam and telemarketers, and much more, there is a great app called Mr. Number. According to industry publications, this app is one of the best and most popular Android apps, and is considered to be the most powerful call blocker and text blocker currently available. Mr. Number is simple to use and allows you to do a variety of things to filter incoming calls and texts. For example, calls can be blocked from entire area codes, select businesses, individual persons, and numbers you don't recognize.

Calls and texts from private or unknown numbers can be intercepted automatically. The contents of blocked texts can be trashed or the content can be saved. Another nice feature is the free Caller ID lookup that Mr. Number performs when you receive a call from a business line offering information about the company. Most everyone wants to block a call or text from time to time and now with an Android smartphone, it's a snap with the Mr. Number app.



Alex Pawlakos enjoys biking, weightlifting, and tutoring in his spare time. He is a reporter on Express Yourself™ Teen Radio. Alex is an economics major at UC Berkeley.

TEEN SCENE

Second Semester Senioritis: Is It Real?

By Caie Kelley

The references to "senioritis" began as a freshman, when I noticed the senior parking lot of my high school increasingly empty on Monday mornings and heard the word tossed around in the hallways during passing periods. I watched the eldest members of my public speaking team relax a bit more as they looked forward to college and moving away from home. The time to kick back and be free seemed so far away—yet as I write now, four years later, I am in the middle of my final semester of high school, and the question has risen again—is "senioritis" real?

For many, the answer is a resounding yes. On the last day of first semester finals, Miramonte High School senior David Ellman said that in the next couple of months, he would be taking every opportunity to not do "busy" work. "Instead of cramming for standardized tests, I've spent my weekends driving down to the beach, exploring new parts of the Bay Area, and watching new TV shows, like 'House of Cards.'" Fellow classmate Margot Odell agreed, saying, "These last couple of months are about relishing the little time we have still left at home. For me that means working less on the activities I had to do for college or for school, and more on crafting and other do-it-yourself hobbies that I really enjoy."

Many seniors have dropped their most difficult class to ensure less stressful final months. As one friend explained, "With my extra free period, I can sleep in a little

later, finish up on last minute work, and pursue activities outside of school like yoga or painting that a regular high school schedule doesn't allow for." Though the word has a negative connotation among school administrators and teachers, it seems that many Lamorinda teens are using their second-semester senior status for pursuits that benefit their mental, physical, and emotional health.

Of course, others disagree. Senior Ben Chiu stated, "Senioritis is a falsehood. It is self-perpetuated and used as an excuse, but the reality is that falling behind in school is not a good idea. My teachers have not eased up, and our workload is just as much as it was before." Whether senioritis is a myth or a fact, to manage these last couple of months, Lamorinda seniors need to balance a desire for ultimate relaxation with the reality that we still need to show up and work diligently to graduate with grace!

A swimmer and pianist, Caie Kelley, a senior at Miramonte High School, is an officer of Club Be the Star You Are!® and the What's Poppin' reporter on Express Yourself™ Teen Radio.



Teen Scene is YOUR voice. If you have something to say or have writing skills and want to be part of our Teen Scene team, email our Teen Coach, Cynthia Brian, Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com.

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