



Scholarship dollars available to chess players

By **RHONDA CROWDER**
Staff Reporter

Tony Dunlap, an IT professional for Girl Scouts of North East Ohio, instructs/coaches children in chess during his spare time, going into four Solon schools Tuesday through Thursday mornings.

He teaches the game to kindergarten through eighth grade students.

Currently, he's in two elementary schools and two middle schools.

His middle school students have won three championships in a row.

Although one school does pay him a stipend, Dunlap is a volunteer.

"It's the dedication of the kids," said Dunlap, speaking of his commitment.

With his first chess set donated by Girl Scouts, he started volunteering as a chess instructor fourteen years ago.

Back then, he met students on Wednesday nights at the Solon YMCA.

He moved into the schools after competition with other activities such as soccer practice began to win over his students.

The majority of those he instructs are Asian. Few are African American. He said he has even fewer girls on his chess teams, especially at the elementary level.

When asked why African American children are less likely to be drawn to playing chess, he said,

"It's not popular. Chess is considered nerdy."

And those perceptions are across the board, he said, not just among Black children.

But, what he wants people to know is there are lots of scholarship dollars for chess players.

According to Dunlap, The University of Texas gives about \$50,000 to elementary, middle and high school students.

With that in mind, he believes parents should encourage their children to pursue chess the same way they push athletics.

"I don't know of any activity that a nine year old can win a \$50,000 scholarship," he said.

"I'm trying to make African Americans more aware that this is available."

Dunlap explained that



First time tournament player Robert Travis (right) of Solon High School thinking about his next move against Courtney Sargent (left) of John Hay High School.



Daniel Heard prepares to take on his challenger.

one reason universities provide such lucrative scholarships for chess is that those students are more likely to be at the top of their class.

He said chess helps children focus and develop

analytical skills.

While playing, they are also engaging in the process of making decisions.

Playing chess also helps children in math and science.

Last month, Dunlap's

Group attempts to 'stop the violence'

En-Finity Entertainment, under the leadership of CEO Romeo Barnes, presented the Stop the Violence and Unity Revolution Event at the Boys and Girls Club on Broadway.

Barnes has a passion for helping to make a change for our youth and reduce the enormous number of deaths and violent episodes in our community.

Barnes, assisted by his mother Marlene Barnes, put together a totally free to the public event that included speakers on violence, bullying, self-esteem, and making positive choices.

The program showcased some of

Cleveland's finest talent, who donated their time and abilities. The event was well attended and brought together community leaders, parents, concerned adults and the youth.

En-Finity Ent. would like to give a special thanks to all who participated and shared in the desire to take a stand to stop the violence.



En-Finity Entertainment's Romeo Barnes with mother Marlene Barnes.



Violinist Shameeka Craig performed during the event.



Sisters Jazmyn, Jailee and Jade Stewart with Klumsy Klown after getting their faces painted.



Alpha Phi Alpha member Tony Dunlap Sr. and Ipad winner Connor Keuchel.

fraternity The Delta Alpha Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha held a chess tournament, The Cleveland Scholastic Open, at Cleveland State University.

Progress with Chess directed the tournament. Open to students in grades kindergarten to 12th, children competed in both rated and non-rated divisions.

Prizes included a \$4,000 scholarship, a collegiate stipend, an e-reader, savings bonds, and individual as well as team



5-6th grade rated winner, Om Borkar, 1st place trophy and Kindle Fire.

awards. A number of Dunlap's students participated.

"Chess don't have anything to do with age, gender, or color. It's based on a person's own ability to



9-12th grade rated winner, Kevin Du. He received the 1st place trophy and \$4,000 scholarship.

play the game," he said.

Young Audiences confronts bullying

Young Audience's enriches the lives of children and promotes creative learning by uniting arts and education. They have over 120 teaching artists and are in over 250 organizations across Northeast Ohio. Over 240,000 students have been served. They also have workshops (for 30 or so students), performances (for up to 300 students), residencies (3+ days with an artist), professional development, and parent-engagement programs. Among those programs are a number of bullying initiatives. A list can be found at www.yaneo.org/what/healthchoices.html. A few program highlights include: **Bob Kloos, "We First: Bullying Prevention" (Grades K-8; also has Professional Development Workshops)** www.yaneo.org/search/programDetails.php?ID=484

Customized to students of varying ages, Beacon Street addresses bullying using song, interactive games, puppets, and group participation. "We First" encourages schools to create a peaceful learning environment by helping students and adults recognize threatening behaviors and

become willing to address bullying wherever and whenever they see it. Follow up the performance with customized in-class workshops.

Ray McNice, "We're All in this Together" (Grades K-12)

www.yaneo.org/search/programDetails.php?ID=540

Customized for all grade levels, this program addresses all facets of bullying – the bully, the bullied, and the bystander. Using poetry, drama, and song, McNice encourages a teamwork approach to resolving conflict, building character, and creating a community of empathy. (Accompanying workshop: **We're All in this Together**) **Robin Pease, "Don't Bully – No Seas Maton" (Grades K-5)**

www.yaneo.org/search/programDetails.php?ID=538

In this Central American tale, a mean turtle discovers the importance of friendship and how to treat others. Students participate in Spanish language and song, and learn about the animals, geography and people of Costa Rica. Students also practice important literacy skills like predicting, retelling and inferring.

Electric outlet, private place to change required. Sound system appreciated, but not necessary.

Susan Weber, "We Can All Be Brave and Kind" (Grades K-4)

www.yaneo.org/search/programDetails.php?ID=542

Stories provide a safe place for children to grapple with their feelings and the characters in any bullying scenario: the bully, the bullied, the bystander/witness, and the supportive adult. Through folktales from diverse cultures, song and reflection, Susan invites participants to empathize with story characters and consider effective responses when confronted with unkind words and actions. The program reinforces other bullying-prevention programs and policies by modeling positive attitudes and behaviors in a safe, supportive environment.

The goal is to partner with the teachers, students, parents, and school communities to help create a bully-free environment. These programs and workshops are intended to help students create environments full of empathy, tolerance, and understanding.