

**Chess Program at Sacred Heart Parish School**

The Chess program for the fall 2011 will be offered to 1st through 8th graders on Thursday afternoons. Time: 3.00-3:45 (45 minute sessions)

Nov: 3, 10, 17

Dec: 1, 8, 15

**Fee: \$65**

( make check payable to Sacred Heart Parish School )

Each enrolled student will receive a standardized chess set at the first class.

Any questions? Please contact instructor, Martin Nilsson, at chessmindsinmotion@live.com or 619-818-7759

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Yes, I would like to enroll my child:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Students learn to master the world of 64 squares

By CANDACE TAYLOR  
Staff Writer

Wilton children will embark on a journey of adventure and exploration this summer at Wilton Continuing Education's Summer Learning Program. Their landscape, however close to home, will nonetheless offer infinite possibilities as they explore the world of chess with world-renowned champion Martin Nilsson.

"Chess is more than just a game," said Nilsson, who will teach beginning, intermediate and advanced chess to first through sixth graders this summer. "It's an adventure."

A U.S. Chess Federation Master and 1990 Swedish Jr. Champion who has taught chess to individuals and groups in the Fairfield County area for the past three years, Nilsson recommends chess for students who have "curious minds."

"When you play chess, you are a combination of Christopher Columbus and Sherlock Holmes," he said. "You need to search, and also investigate."

Chess is extremely popular in the Northeast, Nilsson said, and predicts that it will soon "take off" in the rest of the country. The U.S. Chess Federation reports that its membership has increased by nearly 50 percent in the past five years, spurred by the growth of scholastic chess and the spread of chess computers. Many colleges now give chess-based scholarships.

Nilsson, now a chess coach based in Stamford, remembers learning to play the game as a child in his native Sweden.

"It was Christmas time," he recalls. "My grandparents came down and visited us. For some reason, my grandfather wanted to play chess."

Nilsson was not allowed to play on his parents' "fancy, wooden" chessboard, so his grandfather woke him up in the middle of the night. "Let's play chess," he said.

From then on, "I was hooked," Nilsson said. He played "every day and every night" for the rest of Christmas vacation, and immediately joined a chess club when he went back to school. After a few months of intensive instruction, he began participating in local and regional tournaments, with great success. "I pretty much won every tournament I was in," Nilsson said of the experience. He went on to become the 1990 Swedish National Champion for the 'Cadet' division.

Success at chess requires raw talent.

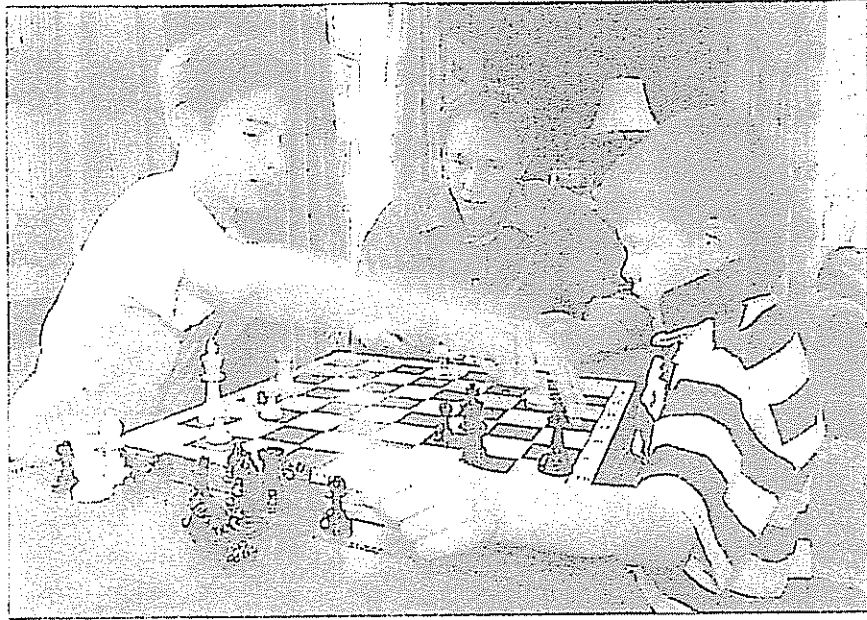


Photo by Alex von Klaydorff

**James Critelli, 12, (left) and Ian Sears, 7, get a lesson from chess master Martin Nilsson.**

Nilsson said. But that talent must be fostered by hard work, practice and guidance. "You have to be a student of the game," he said. "If you have the raw talent, it's your privilege to foster and guide it." Nilsson's students have been vastly successful. Sixth grader James Critelli, of Darien, is one of the top players in the country for his age bracket and has won the Connecticut State Championship for the past three years. Last week at the National Tournament in Nashville, Critelli finished second in the country.

Another of his Nilsson's students, Martin Goman of New Canaan, has also won Connecticut State Championships and individual scholastic tournaments.

For Nilsson, teaching is about translating his love of the game to his students. "I'm more than just a chess teacher," Nilsson said. "You bond with your students. It's more than just where the knight moves and where the pawn moves. You put your heart, energy and soul into it."

The discipline required to play chess is useful in other areas of life, Nilsson said, adding the game taught him to structure and organize his thoughts. "Chess is a great tool. During a chess game, you need imagination and fantasy, but imagination should be tamed by concrete analysis."

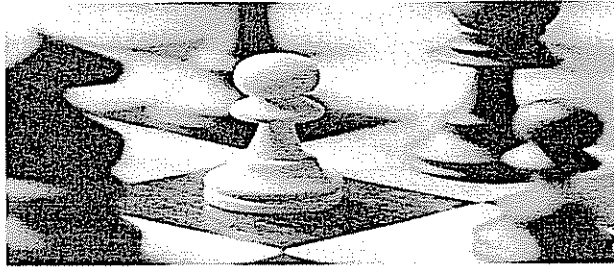
Nilsson is the author of numerous articles and columns on chess. In the next few weeks, he will be launching a scholastic chess magazine, Chess Arsenal, which will be accessible online at [www.chessarsenal.com](http://www.chessarsenal.com).

"Chess is his passion," said Sheila Wakoff, coordinator of Wilton Continuing Education, of Nilsson, adding that he comes highly recommended. "I think he'll do a good job of teaching chess in an exciting way, and letting kids know that they're not just moving pieces around the board." Wakoff said she expects Nilsson's classes to fill up quickly.

Yet his class is just one of many new summer enrichment programs available to Wilton students through Wilton Continuing Ed. This summer, children can take Lego design from Wilton High School teacher Derrick Lilly, creative writing from award-winning children's author Nora Baskin, or improvisational theater from actress Nancy Volante.

As in past years, students can sign up for the popular summer girls gymnastics classes taught by Wilton High gymnastics instructors, or enroll in a baby-sitting class and receive their Red Cross first aid certification. To sign up for Summer Learning Classes, contact Wilton Continuing Education at 834-7694.

# WHY SHOULD YOUR CHILD PLAY CHESS?



**Chess develops memory.** You will also learn to recognize various patterns and remember lengthy variations.

**Chess improves concentration.** The game requires focused attention.

**Chess develops logical thinking.** Chess requires understanding of logical strategy.

**Chess promotes imagination and creativity.** It encourages you to be inventive. There are an indefinite amount of beautiful combinations yet to be constructed.

**Chess teaches independence.** You are forced to make important decisions influenced only by your own judgment.

**Chess develops the capability** to predict and foresee consequences of actions.

**Chess inspires self-motivation.** It encourages the search of the best move, the best plan, and the most beautiful continuation out of the endless possibilities. It encourages the everlasting aim towards progress.

**Chess shows that success rewards hard work.** The more you practice, the better you'll become. You should be ready to learn from your mistakes.

**Chess and Science** Chess develops the scientific way of thinking. While playing, you generate numerous variations in your mind. You explore new ideas, try to predict their outcomes and interpret surprising revelations. You decide on a hypothesis, and then you make your move and test it.

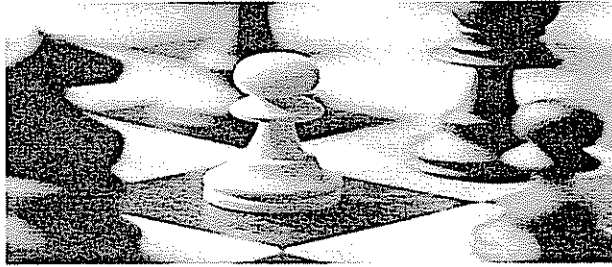
**Chess and Mathematics.** Chess involves an infinite number of calculations, anything from counting the number of attackers and defenders in the event of a simple exchange to calculating lengthy continuations.

**Chess improves schoolwork and grades.** Numerous studies have proven that kids obtain a higher reading level, math level and a greater learning ability overall as a result of playing chess. For all those reasons mentioned above and more, chess playing kids do better at school and therefore have a better chance to succeed in life.

**Martin Nilsson**  
**(619) 818-7759**

**Chess Minds in Motion**  
**chessmindsinmotion@live.com**

# WHY SHOULD YOUR CHILD PLAY CHESS?



## How are classes structured?

Classes are designed to deliver fun exercises / drills to help students understand the importance of focus and concentration. Lessons are tailored to suit students' different learning styles.

Beginning Class, Intermediate Class, Advanced Class, Tournament Playing Class.

Private and Group lessons are available for students who have been bitten by the chess bug.

## Instructor Biography

### SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Facilitator with over 15 years' experience working as a teacher and coach.

### EXPERIENCE

Master Coach , Chess for Kids Inc., *Stamford, CT & Boston, MA*

Responsible for running my own business, providing all aspects of chess instruction and coaching in different environments. This included curriculum design for private students as well as disadvantaged children, organizing local tournaments, serving as tournament director and leading after-school programs. Successfully coached and mentored children from ages 5 to 17.

Chess Coach at the Nashville Chess Center , *Nashville, TN*

Duties included coordinating and providing weekly coaching instructions at the chess center, organizing local events and exhibitions and leading the after-school programs.

Coach at the Kristianstad Chess Club, *Kristianstad, Sweden*

Responsible for coordinating and providing weekly coaching instructions at the chess club and elite tournament team training for competitions in Division I, Swedish Team Circuit.

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