

Gr. 4 – Tye Turco Oral – 2019

Chess is an awesome game that challenges your brain. The object of Chess is to capture your opponent's King while protecting your own. Good morning, Mr. Chudoba, Mrs. Casola, and fellow classmates... Who's up for a game of Chess?

Since, I will be playing white, I get to go first - Pawn to e4....

Oh, you've countered with pawn to e5 – nicely played.

Even though I play lots of sports, Chess is one of my favourite games to play. I was 6 years old when my Nonno taught me how to play Chess. I loved the game right away. When we first started playing, we were evenly matched. Now that I've been playing and practicing a lot, he can't seem to beat me anymore. I really like it when I make him yell out loud after I capture his pieces. Then, I take his queen on my way to another successful checkmate victory against the former Director of Education. **Bishop to c4.**

I continued to play Chess during grade 1 when our former Vice Principal, Ms. Court, started a school Chess Club. Students from grades 1 to 8 would meet in the library during the first recess every Tuesday to play Chess. Later that year, Ms. Court brought our school to a Regional Chess Tournament. I placed first and qualified to go to Mississauga to play in the provincial championships. At the provincials, I earned two victories and placed 23rd out of 48 competitors. This great experience got me even more interested in Chess and I wanted to learn more about the game. Thanks, Ms. Court.

I did some research and found out that Chess was invented almost 1500 years ago. There is an ancient legend about an Indian King and a Wise Man. The Wise Man created this game to teach the King to value each person in the kingdom and to never to underestimate the small things in life. Since then, Chess has become very popular. The first world Chess Championship was in 1886 when Wilhelm Steinitz became the first official World Chess Champion. The current World Chess Champion is Magnus Carlsen and they call him the Mozart of Chess. **Bishop to c5 – Interesting move?**

Research shows that Chess is good for you because it builds confidence as you put time into studying the different strategies, competing in tournaments, and identifying your weaknesses. Chess exercises your brain and helps you make decisions during the game. Now, I can recognize patterns and strategies that my opponent is trying to use. Research also shows that the game of chess can help people become calm and learn how to win and lose. When I'm playing my dad, he gets to learn a lot about losing.

During the Winter Holidays, my dad and I played many games of Chess. One day, my mom asked me, "Is dad starting to give you better matches?" I replied, "Nope, he's just taking longer to make his moves." Unfortunately, my dad is not much of a challenge. **I'll bring my Queen to h5.**

To give myself a challenge, I entered a tournament in November called The Battle of the Minds Chess Tournament. I was placed in the 13 and Under division and I had the opportunity to play seven games over two days. I ended up placing 4th with a record of 5 wins and 2 losses. More importantly, I learned about a Chess Club that meets at the Public Library every Tuesday evening from 6 – 8 p.m. I enjoy going to the Chess Club because I get to play adults other than my Nonno and Dad. Also, these adults have showed me some strategies and I am grateful because I am always trying to get better. I also research different strategies by watching YouTube videos and recording the moves so that I can continue to improve. **Hmmm, so you've countered with Knight to f6?**

Chess is a great game that gives you a chance to develop your mind and, not to mention, demolish your Nonno and your dad. Chess is like pushups for the brain. Now, where were we...**I see that you're attacking my Queen on h5, but I will take your pawn on f7 with my Queen** and that's a slick, 4-Move Checkmate, my friend. Would anyone like a rematch?

Thank you...