



Coach Luca with Elisa Cruz Alvizar & Daniel Gomez, 5th grade students at Moore Academy with many thanks to Teacher Barbara Foster

Share your passion! is the moral of the story. TIRP volunteer Luca Johnson asked about starting a chess class for 5th and 6th grade students... And the rest is his story:

A small chess family organically developed this year creating a team of students committed to learning the game of chess.

The Fall 2022 semester was dedicated to learning the basics and creating a foundation. In spring, we built on that foundation and added blitz games at the end of each lesson enabling students to play one another - and sometimes play me as well. We reviewed games to analyze moves and strategy.

Five students demonstrated a true commitment, and I am very proud of their work. Having witnessed their dedication and advancement with chess, they were presented with travel chess sets that are used at chess tournaments—great to take on the road and to help acclimate for play in local chess competitions.

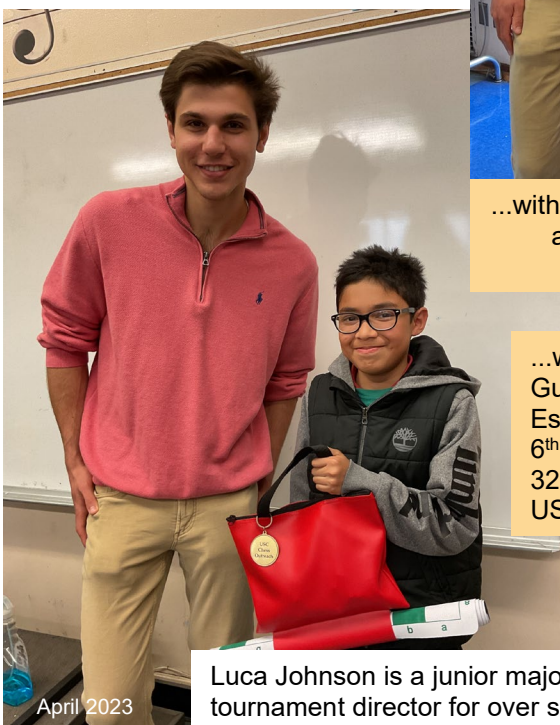
Classes were held online...

Congratulations were at school!

The program will continue and expand in Fall 2023!



...with 5th grade student Osias Maxie and Krystal Kim-Fujishige, 32nd Street/USC Magnet



...with Gustavo Estrada, 6th grade, 32nd Street/USC Magnet



...with Nicholas Moreno and Christine Cirillo, 5th grade, St. Vincent School

The [Teaching International Relations Program \(TIRP\)](#) has a history of volunteers who are passionate about community involvement! CALIS is thrilled to support TIRPers who want to start new ventures. **Kudos to Luca** for his dedication to these budding chess enthusiasts!

Luca Johnson is a junior majoring in International Relations (Global Business). He has been a chess coach and tournament director for over six years, and a rated member of the U.S. Chess Federation for over ten years.