



# NEWS

## Bakersfield City School District

Steve Gabbitas, Public Information Manager

1300 Baker Street, Bakersfield, CA 93305

Phone: (661) 631-4619 Fax: 631-4673

From: Daniel Méndez, Communications Supervisor

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## **Chavez School receives \$2,000 gift for chess program.**

Today, at 10 a.m. Cesar E. Chavez Science Magnet School was presented a check in the amount of \$2,000 for chess competitions and activities from the Roger J. & Madeleine Traynor Foundation. Dr. Ruth Holton, assistant superintendent of instruction for the Bakersfield City School District was present to receive the check as presented by Cosette Traynor, a third grader at Chavez, who was acting on behalf of her great grandparents' foundation.

Dr. Ruscel Reader, principal at Chavez School, said, "This grant further enhances our ability to introduce chess to all the students at Chavez." She continued, "Chess has been proven to teach children 'how' to think and give them the mental tools needed for approaching solutions to a problem. I believe our chess program is a significant part of why Chavez school has been honored as a California Distinguished School."

Indeed, research confirms the importance of chess in developing critical thinking skills. From 1986 to 1990 IBM conducted a well known study which demonstrated that children introduced to Chess for 1 ½ hours per week during the school year were 99 times more likely to score higher on standardized reading tests than children without chess experience.

More than half of the 560 students at Chavez play chess and approximately 50 of those regularly compete in chess tournaments.

Dr. Reader was quick to point out that the Traynor's reflect the attitude of many of the parents and grandparents of children at Chavez, and she recognized the wonderful support of all her teaching and support staff at Chavez school for Programs.

One of those supportive parents is David Huff, executive director of Youth Chess Charitable Foundation. Mr Huff, parent of a Chavez student, is instrumental in the success of Chavez' chess program and has organized some of the region's most successful chess tournaments. Parents interested in their children participating in local chess activities may call David Huff at 661-827-9068.

For more information, please call Steve Gabbitas, Communications Manager, 631-4618.

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