

Major chess success for Harbour International School Rotterdam

At the Erasmian School Chess Festival with 350 primary school children this year, the big surprise was the appearance of newcomer Harbour Rotterdam with seven teams, with one of the teams, *The Harbour Rooks*, even becoming champion, leaving strong teams from our region behind. They won all nine rounds. All Harbour teams had appropriate chess names and a nice blue shirt.



The Harbour 'Rooks' International is Champion!

Photo Michou Nanon de Bruijn

Harbour International School and Harbour Bilingual School

'International' and ' Bilingual ' are separate independent and cooperating international schools, each at its own location. Both are affiliated with the Boor Foundation (public education). 'International' provides primary education entirely in English and ' Bilingual ' provides half of primary education in Dutch and the other half in English.

In addition to working with methods, they find it important that their education focuses on developing executive functions. Executive functions are part of the thinking ability and influence behavior and the way you learn.

Learning chess and playing chess also develops the same executive functions in a fun and challenging way.



Something different creative in between playing chess

Photo Michou Nanon de Bruijn

To play chess

Children from both schools successfully visit chess clubs in our region such as *De Koddige Koning* (Rotterdam), *De Pionnetjes* (Schiedam) and *De Klim-Op* in Capelle a/d IJssel. But children who are not in a chess club also participate in the chess festival!

Andrew is a member of the chess club *The Funny King (De koddige koning)* and his mother started working late last year, after consultation with youth coach Ruud Neumeijer, to interest children and parents in participating in the Erasmian School Chess Festival. Rhoda 's mother joined the party.



The team of Harbour 'Knights' Bilingual took second prize in the Youngsters group

Photo Michou Nanon de Bruijn

The school chess club at the International

The school chess club at the 'International' has been around for almost two years. On Mondays and Tuesdays, chess lessons are given after-school to more than 30 boys and girls. The school chess club is led by Vasileios Parginos. The 'Bilingual' does not (yet) have a school chess club.

Parginos is a Greek national chess master and FIDE chess coach. He gained a lot of experience during his stay in Singapore where he was in charge of organizing chess lessons at the large Overseas Family School (900 children!) where chess is a standard part of the curriculum.

The goal of Parginos is to teach children how to play chess and, above all, to learn to enjoy the game. Competition is not a priority but it is a pleasant side effect of chess learning. According to him, all credits of the champion *The Harbour Rooks* go to the children themselves with the valuable contribution of their trainers and the chess clubs of which the children are members.

At the request of the above-mentioned mothers, he committed himself to Erasmus. He explained to the children how important it is to be able to represent the school as a team and that the team's interests take precedence over their own interests. He also gave valuable advice about board sequences.

Parginos, as well as a number of parents, was also present at the chess festival and was proud of the result of the seven teams. Of course also a good advertisement for the two collaborating international schools that were pleased with the positive experiences of their kids. Participating is just as important as winning.

The school has asked Parginos to write a newsletter about the chess festival.

To the semi-finals of the Dutch Championship!

The party will continue for a while for *The Harbour Rook*. As regional champions, they can participate in the semi-finals of the Dutch School Chess Championship for Primary Education, together with four other school teams from the region of the Rotterdam Chess Federation. (De Stelberg-Rotterdam, De Rank-Spijkenisse, De Octaaf-Krimpen a/d IJssel and St. Jozef-Schiedam). They are now investigating how they can prepare for this new challenge. They've got a taste for it.

The semi-finals will be held on June 1 in two places, Arnhem and Kruiningen. The final will be held in Arnhem at the Rivers International School, as will one of the semi-finals.

The semi-finals involve 32 teams (128 children) per location and the final involves 24 teams (96 children).

We wish our five teams good luck and fun in these semi-finals!

Striking results International primary schools

What has been striking in recent years are the good chess results of international primary schools (Utrecht, Arnhem, Groningen). And now also Rotterdam! The international school in Eindhoven facilitates a youth chess club with chess lessons in Dutch and English. Nice to know that the Rivers International School took third place at the Eastern Chess Federation (OSBO) and has also been invited to the semi-finals.

Eleven international schools have played against each other in Utrecht on the 17th of April and the team of Harbour International has won. And the children, members of the chess clubs, also participate in tournaments. Last Saturday (April 13th), Harbour kids took part in the Grand Prix of

Rotterdam South (150 children) on behalf of their chess clubs. Joined by their chess trainers, parents and supporters. The above-mentioned mothers also made an appearance!

Teun Koorevaar

Websites:

Youth Chess Club [De koddige koning](#) (Ruud Neumeijer)

Youth chess club [De Pionnetjes](#) (Youri Verlinde)

School chess club [De Klim-op](#) (Jan Sijbesma)

Results [Erasmian School Chess Festival](#)

Results [Grand Prix Rotterdam-Zuid](#) (Barendrecht/IJsselmonde)