

Series of 2021 Chinese Chess Events by Confucius Institute in Coquitlam

Covid-19 has changed the normal life of the world and created a new way of living in today's society. During this special situation, the Confucius Institute in Coquitlam organized and participated in a series of Chinese Chess activities in 2021, such as online beginning sessions on Chinese chess & on-line national and international Chinese chess competitions. These activities enabled our students who love Chinese chess and culture to enjoy playing the Chinese chess games, and enlightened and warmed those students in the cold weather of fall and winter.

The Confucius Institute in Coquitlam organized a workshop on-line on October 3, 2021 to share and exchange experiences playing Chinese chess. Mr. Jiang Wei who is Chinese chess master and also the Chinese chess competition organizer was invited to give a talk on the competition and answered many questions. The workshop motivated our students to participate in the competition. The Confucius Institute in Coquitlam also assisted to co-host the free on-line Chinese chess beginning sessions for younger students from north America region. The sessions were offered from 7:00 pm to 7:45 pm on October 23, 24, 30 as well as on November 6 and 7. The instructor was Mr. Wei Jiang who is the Chinese chess master nationally and internationally. The contents of those sessions included several Chinese chess basic topics: basic knowledge of Chinese chess, basic steps and regulations, and how to play a better complete game. These sessions attracted more than 70 students and were well received.



The first competition of this year named 'Confucius Institute Cup of Chinese Chess' was held on October 9. It had two categories of adults and students with variety of prizes. Each participant needed to play 7 games for the competition and each player had 20 minutes for each game with adding 5 second for each step. The participants who were born after January 1, 2007 could register for the student group. More than 50 participants from Canada and United States attended the competition. As a co-host, Confucius Institute in Coquitlam had 6 of our students participating in this competition and achieved the excellent results. Wang Zihen received the gold medal and Gong Zhanyuan won the third place. In addition, Li Shangyu won the fifth place and Zhang Yiguang was in the eighth place. The special prizes went to Li Shangyan and Wang Yibo.

Following the first competition, some students from Coquitlam participated in another Chinese chess contest with the students from the schools in Zhou Zhuang of China. This competition was hosted by Chinese Chess Association of China and Chinese Chess Center of China State Sport General Administration. It is co-hosted by Chinese Chess Association of Kunshan City. Wang Zihen and Li Shangyu from Coquitlam won the first prize of this competition.

On November 13, we also hosted a Chinese chess contest together with Quebec Confucius Institute for North America students who were born after January 1, 2005. The winners of this contest will participate in the First European and North American Confucius Institute Cup of Chinese Chess Competition.

Our students benefited a lot by attending all these activities relating to Chinese chess. They not only learned a lot about Chinese chess, but also learned a lot about Chinese culture as well as made many friends around the world. We hope that our students will continue to learn more skills and technics of playing Chinese chess and make more friends around the world in the future.

