



## 2009 Chess Challenge Results

The first annual Chess Challenge was held this past Saturday, December 12, 2009 at Mi Casita Mexican Restaurant in Odenville, Alabama.

A total of 13 scholastic and 9 adult players participated in what will be an annual event sponsored by the Country Knights Chess Club.

The top primary (K-3) players were K.C. Owens (Advent Episcopal), Dustin Chumley (Country Knights) and Matthew Oswald (Our Lady of Good Counsel).

The elementary (K-6) section had the most participants with ten players. Pride of place was hotly contested here. The top finishers were John Lawrence (Advent Episcopal) with a perfect 4.0. In tie-break order three players ended with 3.0, William Oswald and Tyler Palm (Country Knights) and Christian Owens (Advent Episcopal), closely followed by Bailey Marley, Austin Parsons & Brandon Oswald (Country Knights), Natalie Wills (Springville Middle), Joshua Gunnell (Odenville Middle) and Maggie Mahoney (Our Lady of the Valley).

There were not enough participants for K-9 or K-12, so two players moved up to play in the Adult division. One of them was top seeded Vikharam Balagee (ChessKidsNation), who won the adult competition with 3.5, followed by Tom Mahoney, Pedro Pino, Balagee Govindan, Leeann Franklin (SCCHS), Jim McClendon, Rodney Palms, Faye Pino & Deborah Marley.

We put together teams comprised of scholastic players and adults, it was well received. However, the visiting team of John Lawrence, Christian Owens and KC Owens (Advent Episcopal) walked away with the top trophy with a score of 9.0. Congratulations to them all.

In summary it was an excellent turnout for our first event. We want to thank all the sponsors whose contributions made it possible for us to put on this event.

A very special thanks to Mi Casita Mexican Restaurant for allowing us to take over their place of business for a day. Needless to say our lunch was excellent. Muchas Gracias, Amigos!

We hope to continue to reach out to all corners of St. Clair County, to seek out players of all ages. Our goal is to have a team for every school in the county. As we speak, we have been in contact with two individuals interested on having a team formed by next year at their prospective schools. One at Durant Jr. High and the second at Springville Elementary/Middle schools. We can be reached at 205 629-3822 to schedule an appointment to get you started.