

Joanna Liu Wins Girls Nationals U-8!

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by Michael Aigner

Believe it or not, the [CalChess Scholastics](#) were not the only major chess championship held last weekend. Three Bay Area girls flew to Columbus, Ohio to play in the [All-Girls Nationals](#), hosted by the [Kasparov Chess Foundation](#). They competed against 210 of the best girls around the country, and even managed to bring home a first place trophy!

Congratulations to 2nd grader Joanna Liu (1410) of [Weibel Elementary](#) for taking winning the U-8 division with 5.5 out of 6! She worked hard for her trophy, facing five of the top 10 in the final standings, including a pair of challenging 1300s. Joanna's proud coach **Ted Castro** writes that she was "doing 4-5 hours of training every week to make sure that she gets better and better" (plus 4 hours of play and coaching at Weibel). [Practice makes perfect!](#) *As the photos prove, Joanna insisted on wearing her lucky old Weibel team shirt in Ohio. (Thanks to her parents for the photos above.)*



Two other local girls both scored 4.0/6 to finish in the top 10. 3rd grader **Alisha Chawla**, also from Weibel, played up and took home the **10th place trophy in the difficult U-10 section**, losing only to the top two rated players. 2nd grader **Alanna Song** received the **8th place trophy in U-8**. *Well done!*

- US Chess Online [article](#)
- Tournament [standings](#)
- Official [rating report](#)