

# CHESS KIDS

ACROSS THE

# BOARD

BY AL LAWRENCE

Celebrating Chess Life Kids  
from across the country.



## Nate Shuman

New York, New York

“I’M IN CHARGE OF  
THE TROOPS!”

Nate loves the competitive side of chess. “I think of the game as a battle and I am in charge of placing my troops where I want them to go. Chess is my mind sport!”

At The Dalton School in Manhattan, where Nate goes to school, students have no problem finding a chess partner. “Chess is part of the K-2 curriculum, so it’s pretty cool that the entire school knows how to play,” Nate said. The school is a national powerhouse, winning more than two dozen U.S. championships. Nate, a rising eighth grader, is an important part of the team.

Nate at the 2015 New York State Scholastic Championships. He finished third in the junior high section even though he was then only in the 3rd grade!



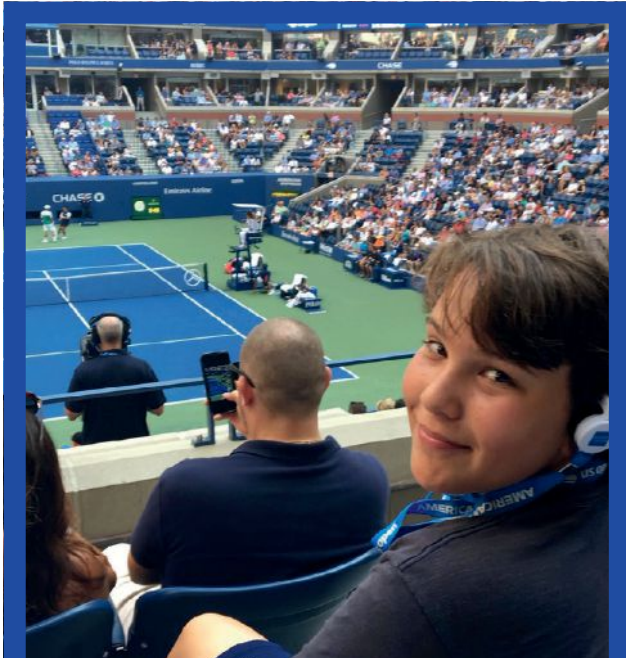
He helped his school to 13 top-three finishes and nine national championship team titles. At the 2018 National Elementary (K-6) Championship in Nashville, Tennessee, Nate became the national K-6 champion. Later that year, at the 2018 National K-12 Grade Championships in Orlando, Florida, he

became seventh grade co-champion. In 2016, he was fifth grade co-champ. He likes the feeling of “hard work paying off and getting introduced onstage as national champion.”

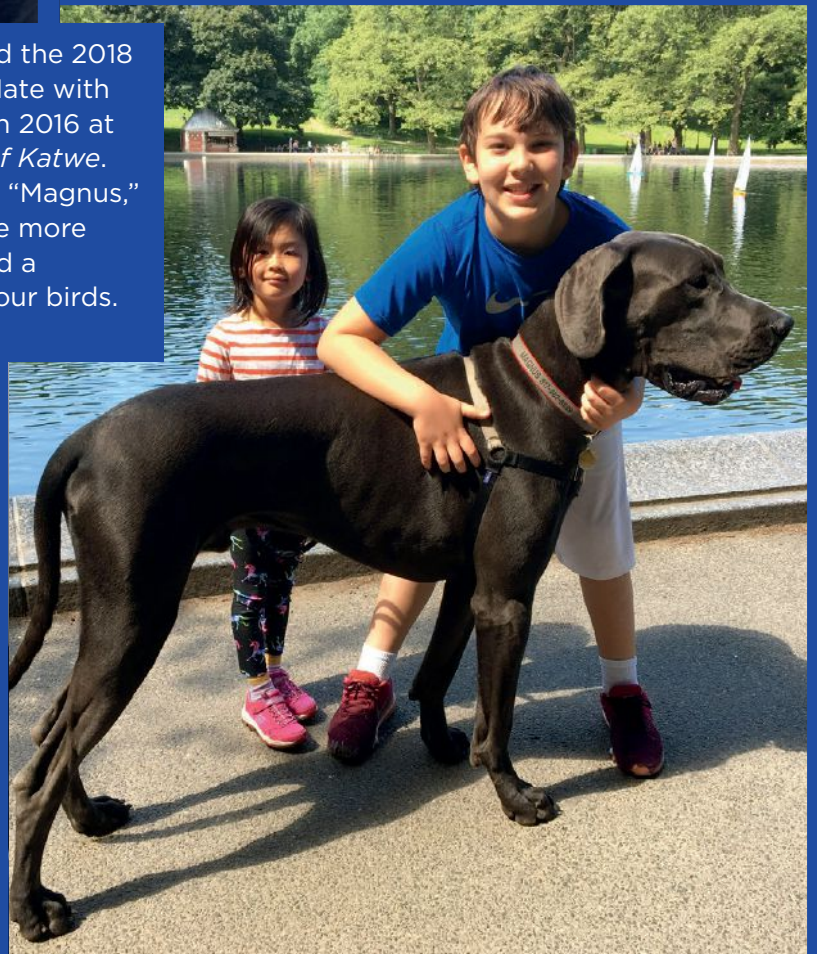
Although he has many other interests, Nate studies chess hard. He even trains with Grandmaster Maxim Dlugy. “He’s a former world number-one blitz player,” Nate said, “so playing five-minute chess with him during our lessons is a lot of fun!” Dlugy said Nate could go on to be a great player.

Nate loves math and likes to play a lot of sports. “My main sport now is tennis—I really enjoy playing and competing.” Nate is learning to control his heartbeat with meditation and biofeedback. “They help me to develop focus and to relieve stress. They’re especially helpful with chess. I strongly suggest trying it!”

Nate’s been invited to the All-America Team several times and played in the World Youth and Cadet Championships. He’s played in South Africa, Greece, Sicily, and India. “Chess has taught me so many life lessons that I could not get from any other thing I do. If it wasn’t for chess, I would not have made so many good friends of different ages from so many different places.”



Above: Nate loves tennis. He got to attend the 2018 U.S. Open Tennis Championship. Below: Nate with World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen in 2016 at a private showing of the film *the Queen of Katwe*. Left: Nate and his sister Ana with another “Magnus,” their great Dane. The family also has three more dogs—a dachshund, a French bulldog, and a chihuahua. They also have two cats and four birds. “We have a pretty busy household!”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUBJECT