

## Weekly Newsletter

March 18, 2020

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### Thank You

On behalf of the Edison School teaching and administrative teams, I would like to extend a warm thank you to all of our Edison families. Thank you for your patience while we adjust to our new reality of delivering education virtually. Thank you for remaining positive and helping your children adapt to staying home. And most importantly, thank you for being a part of our new, online Edison community!

Beth Chernoff

### Important Dates

March 23 – April 3 Spring Break (no school)  
April 10 Good Friday (no school)

### Spirit Month

Although students are at home, we encourage any families who wish to continue spirit month to celebrate beach day this Friday, March 20. Dress up in summer wear and accessories suitable for a summer day!

### Music Musings

**How many concert masters does it take to change a light bulb?  
Just one, but it takes four movements.**

**UPDATE:** The Highwood Music Festival has been cancelled for this season.

There are amazing websites for students to learn about music! Check out the New York Philharmonic Kidzone! [www.nyphilkids.org](http://www.nyphilkids.org)

For more online music learning resources, a kind teacher has made a long list of online music education resources. I have not tried them all out, but if your little maestro is asking for music class, give one of these a try! <https://cornerstoneconfessions.com/2012/08/the-ultimate-list-of-online-music.html>

### Grade 5/6 Google Accounts

Grades 5 and 6 students will have Edison Google accounts created and e-mailed out to parents this week. Students will use these accounts for online attendance of classes (via Google Meet) and access to Google Classroom.

### The Grade 3 Great Wall of China Project

For our Continent Festival, Ms. Daly's class studied China. As well as creating a giant panda wildlife reserve and a colourful dragon boat race, the students were also going to build the Great Wall of China in the classroom. Well, perhaps just a small part of it! Now that we're not physically at school, the students are all working on building their own, much smaller versions at home using Lego, Playdough, and other items. Just as the Great Wall of China was built using different materials, so our project will also have sections that are designed and built in different ways, too! Below are a few pictures of some of our art that would have been displayed at the Continent Festival:



### Grade 4 Special Projects

Ms. Sovak and Mr. Zhang would like to congratulate the Grade 4 students on successfully completing their first Middle School Special Projects, and commend them on all their hard work!

### Grades 8-12 Online Learning

This is a reminder that school is not over. Teachers are fully dedicated to ensuring that the quality and standard of teaching will not be lowered despite the changes to how instruction will take place. This is a new method of teaching for us, but we feel confident that with everyone's patience and cooperation that we will be able to establish a new normal after a bit of practice with this teaching/learning method.

Expectations of students will be the same, but we will have to be flexible, and it will require students to further develop self-discipline and time-management skills. We will run core classes in a similar manner as we have to date, including having both work periods and full-class lectures. We still expect students to participate in class discussions; we will be using Google Meet as our main online communication platform.

On that topic, the expectation, as always, is that students will be on time for classes and that they will be present unless homeroom teachers have received an email saying otherwise from a parent. As always, students are unable to self-excuse. We often go over expectations and reminders within the first 5 minutes of class, so being late to the online forum will result in missing important information. With that being said, situations will arise, so please stay in contact with homeroom teachers regarding illnesses, changes in schedule etc.

Let's all have a positive attitude about this new way of learning and be open to learning from this new experience.

Homeroom teacher Grade 8: Mr. Schroeder  
Homeroom teacher Grade 9-10: Miss Alessi  
Homeroom teacher Grades 11-12: Dr. Twist

### How to support students in the home learning situation:

Ensure that they have a clear and quiet workspace with all the materials that they would bring to class.

Cell phones should not be present.

Make a weekly plan to keep track of expectations.

Have students check their email by 9:00 a.m. every morning, at lunch, and around supper time.

Encourage students to charge their electronics at night.

### University of Waterloo Math Contests Cancelled

The Fryer, Galois, Hypatia, and Euclid contests will NOT be written on their originally scheduled dates in April. We hope to be able to write these on new dates in May. The University of Waterloo will make this decision in the first half of April. Thank you to all the students who signed up for the contests!

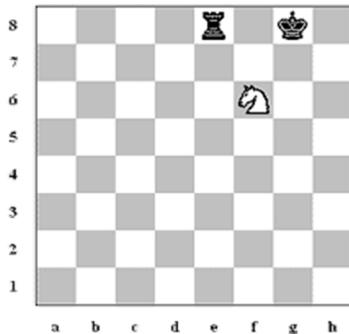
### Grade 6 Social Studies

Grade 6 social students, welcome to Google Classroom! The parents of the Grade 6 students should have received an email inviting the students to join Google Mail and from there Google Classroom. This is a transition for many students, and to help speed the learning curve Mrs. Smith will be sending links to some tutorials. There will be some scheduled lectures and discussion sessions to supplement the paper packages sent out for Grade 6 social. Mrs. Smith will also be available at scheduled times to help and answer any questions.

## Chess Puzzle

### Chess Tactics: The Double Attack (the Fork)

In the following weeks we are going to focus a little more in depth on various chess tactics. One of the most common and important chess tactics to learn is the Double Attack. It is important to learn and master because every chess piece can attack 2 or more pieces at one time.

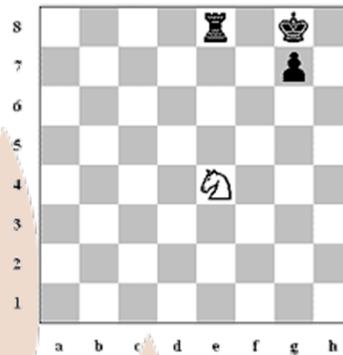


We begin our study of tactics with double attacks, or forks: moves that attack two enemy targets at once.

And we begin our study of double attacks with knight forks. In the skeletal diagram to the left, White's knight has forked Black's king and rook; in other words, it attacks them at the same time.

Why start with the knight? Because it is an especially vicious and common forking tool. First, it can threaten a wide range of targets. The knight is roughly comparable in value to a bishop, and so is less valuable than a rook or queen; thus a knight not only can attack any unprotected (or "loose") enemy pieces but also can be exchanged favorably for enemy queens and rooks regardless of whether they have protection. Second, the knight's unique, non-straight pattern of movement creates two advantages: it allows a knight to attack other pieces without fear of being captured by them; and it enables a knight to make jumps and deliver threats that are surprising to the eye and so are easy to overlook.

To spot possible knight forks you will want to become aware of the relationships between your knights and your opponent's pieces (and between his knights and your pieces), especially as the knight progresses up the board. Every rank a knight moves forward tends to bring it closer to forking targets, especially the king; notice that once your knight reaches its fourth rank, it can attack your opponent's back rank, and often his king, in one move (thus in the diagram to the left, White's knight might have been on e4 a move earlier—seemingly pretty far from Black's king). Hence the strategic importance of planting knights on central and advanced squares, and the tactical importance of constantly looking for forks your knight might be able to deliver once it is properly developed.

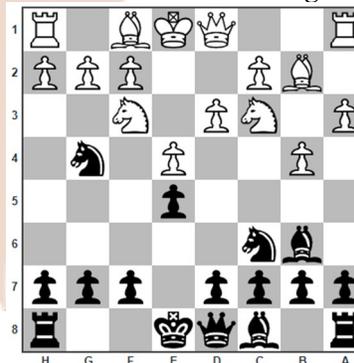


The difficulty in fashioning a fork, of course, is that no matter where your knight sits you rarely will find a fork lying one move away against a decent player. Leaving two pieces to be forked by a knight on the next move is a blunder almost as bad as leaving a piece hanging outright. Forks have to be manufactured; the challenge is to see when one lies a few steps away. Fortunately, knight forks a few steps away come in a finite number of types that you can learn to search for systematically and, with practice, recognize quickly. Such situations can be sorted into two general types.

First, sometimes two of your opponent's pieces sit on squares that can be forked with one move of your knight, but there is some obstacle to your taking advantage of this; most commonly, the square your knight needs to reach—call it the "forking square"—is defended by your opponent (the diagram above shows such a case, again in skeletal form; White would like to play the fork Nf6+, but he can't; the f6 square is defended by a pawn). We will refer to these as cases where you have a potential fork—a move that amounts to a fork on its face, but that needs to be perfected by overcoming some defensive measure that your opponent has in place.

In the next article we will catalogue those defensive measures and how to deal with them.

### Chess Puzzle – find the knight fork



Black to move and find a fork.

*Content used with permission from Ward Farnsworth's Predator at the Chessboard: A Field Guide to Chess Tactics.*