

# Youth Table Tennis Report Spring 2010

Hello Table Tennis Students

Mark your calendars! We have an exciting spring lineup of table tennis events. The show begins on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

In partnership with NYC and Company, and SPiN New York table tennis club in Manhattan, AYTTO is hosting a not-to-be missed youth and adult table tennis tournament this May 8<sup>th</sup>. SPiN New York will open its fantastic venue at 9:30 AM for all elementary, middle and high school students interested in competing for the prestigious Mayor's Cup title. Let your parents know that we will also have adult events, including a parent-child doubles competition.

Following the Mayor's Cup, on May 15<sup>th</sup>, the Locust Valley Boys and Girls Club on Long Island has invited all students to participate in the New York Open Junior Championships.

Then on May 29<sup>th</sup>, Spintech is hosting a major regional tournament at Hofstra University, in Hempstead, Long Island. This tournament, called the 2010 Spintech Spinathon, has some great junior events.

In June, there are two tournaments that we recommend for you. The first will be run by the Van Dykes Community Center in Brooklyn on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Then on June 26<sup>th</sup> the New York Table Tennis Federation will host a tournament in Chinatown.

We are also working with Bryant Park to host a fun outdoor youth table tennis tournament for you in June or early July. A celebration of table tennis and some outdoor fun – stay tuned!

Your coaches will communicate these events and opportunities to you and your parents in the weeks ahead. In the meantime, if you wish to find out more information about the upcoming spring schedule, please speak to us or visit our calendar page on our website at [www.aytto.org](http://www.aytto.org)

Sincerely

AYTTO Coaching Team



American Youth Table Tennis Organization

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**AYTTO Saturday Academies:** Our successful Saturday Academy at IS 126 on 80 Catherine Street in Manhattan operates each Saturday from Noon to 3 PM. We have also opened a second Saturday Academy at IS 252 in Brooklyn on 46 McKeever Place. Interested in joining? Please contact your coach or visit our website to download an application.

**Table Tennis Equipment:** Our coaches have created a table tennis website where you can buy the correct table tennis equipment for your child online at [www.zypsports.com](http://www.zypsports.com). Equipment prices are better than you will find at local retail stores and online.



# Middle School Table Tennis League – New York City

by Greg Farrell

Under the umbrella of C.H.A.M.P.S., a city-wide sports initiative organized and operated by the New York City Department of Education, a group of leading New York City teachers met in January to form an inter-scholastic middle school table tennis league.

I was one of those teachers, and our school, NEST+m, participated and eventually ended up becoming the league champion!

NEST+m is a K to 12 public school for Gifted and Talented students located on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. We actually began our table tennis program in September as a club sport. Since its inception our club has grown steadily in popularity and has consistently provided a space for students of varying athletic abilities to compete and have fun.

To prepare for league matches, our school team used the school's four tables to separate students who were playing the game at different levels. The "A" table was for the most advanced players, "B" for intermediate and "C" for beginners. The fourth table was used for students desiring instruction or wishing to participate in a variety of drills to help them improve.

With support provided by AYTTO, students learned the rules, etiquette and proper technique. High school and middle school students played on the club team together, which greatly benefited the younger students. One high school junior, Wei Wang, was instrumental in assisting me in teaching students how to impart spin on the ball.

This year the NEST+m middle school team flourished in its first season of inter-scholastic play. NEST+m finished their season with an undefeated record and went on to win the City Championships at SPiN New York on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Led by 8th grade student and team captain Sam Lum, our team went on to defeat a strong MS 231 team in the semi-finals and a talented PS 126 - Manhattan Academy of Technology team in the final round of competition.

Our students proudly presented their championship trophy to the school principal, Dr. Olga Livanis, and are already looking forward to competing again next season.

Table tennis is an ideal sport for our school. It requires little space, is aerobic, social and involves a lot of strategy. My hope for next year is that we can form an inter-scholastic table tennis league for our high school students as well.

A special thanks to John De Matteo, Athletic Director at PS 126, AYTTO, C.H.A.M.P.S. and its lead partner Sports & Arts In Schools Foundation for making this wonderful league possible!

*Mr Greg Farrell is an English Teacher at NEST+m. He is an advocate of after-school sports and is also NEST+m's baseball coach. Greg is a graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder.*



Nest + m's 2010 Table Tennis Team

## Support, Donations, Sponsorship, Volunteers

NEW

AYTTO's mission is organize, develop, and implement innovative programs in the international sport of Table Tennis that promote the emotional and physical well-being of inner-city youth .

We are a 501c3 not-for-profit organization, and we seek your support for our activities --- from donations of used equipment to corporate sponsorship.

Please consider a donation by please visiting [aytto.org](http://aytto.org) or contacting Ben Nisbet at 917-686-1911.