

# Youth Table Tennis Report

## Winter 2010

Hello Table Tennis Students

Toc-Toc-Toc! Is it flag football? basketball? tennis? No! It is the ever familiar sound of a 40-millimeter ball traveling back and forth over a table tennis net with purpose.

For the first time this decade, New York City middle school students will have the opportunity to play and compete against others in an organized Middle School Table Tennis League.

This league is the brainchild of Mr. John De Matteo, Athletic Director of IS 126 and Mr. Muhammad Pirzada, AYTTO's Program Director.

Thanks to the generosity of SPiN New York, the league finals and championship matches are scheduled for Saturday March 20th.



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**SPiN New York:** There is a fantastic new table tennis club located at 48 East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street in Manhattan. Interested in playing on the weekend? Please stop by to watch great players practicing. Interested in playing? Ask your coach for more details.

**Fat Cat Table Tennis:** A great place to bring your child, this club is located at 75 Christopher Street in Manhattan. Fat Cat encourages AYTTO students and their parents to visit and play after-school and on the weekends.

**AYTTO Saturday Academies:** Our successful Saturday Academy at IS 126 at 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 at 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.



## C.H.A.M.P.S. Table Tennis

by Ms. Sue Fattah

Located in the heart of Brooklyn, Arthur W. Cunningham I.S. 234 school draws many first generation students from Eastern Europe, Russia, the Caribbean Basin and Central America. It's Saturday morning, 9 a.m., and twelve of these middle school students are assembled on the steps of the school. They're confident and eager, for today is the first day of the C.H.A.M.P.S. winter season. We are off to play table tennis!

C.H.A.M.P.S. (Cooperative, Motivated, Positive, Active, Students) is a three season after-school initiative created by the New York City Department of Education. A leading not-for-profit called Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation also supports C.H.A.M.P.S. This program is unique, in that it provides teachers (like me) with sports and fitness programs that extend well into the afternoon and weekends. It also allows us to choose what after-school activity is best for our school.

For the third consecutive year IS 234 has made Table Tennis its winter activity. We could have selected volleyball or floor hockey, but chose table tennis instead. The reason: this extraordinary sport appeals to all sorts of students, from natural athletes to those who lack the self-confidence to play on teams.

Table Tennis, with its little yellow ball, and small paddle, requires strategy, skill, agility and patience. A nine foot table with an opponent that gets no closer is a great equalizer. You can be timid but nimble, yet still be well respected by your peers when you step up to the table.

Today our team of students will travel to I.S. 126's Saturday Academy in Manhattan. American Youth Table Tennis (AYTTO) has two top coaches Mr. Peeru Pirzada and Robert Roberts giving expert instruction at no charge. The students at I.S. 126 and I.S. 234 have benefited immensely from the Academy.

This year there is a "buzz" about table tennis. A group of us, with help from AYTTO, have created a middle school table tennis league. The prospect of representing one's school and playing against others is very appealing to middle school students. It creates excitement, builds self-confidence and promotes school spirit.

Table Tennis also provides an opportunity for our team to meet others and offers a forum to communicate

about common interests. It is the only sport that I have seen where the players spend time to exchange ideas so that everyone benefits.

My only wish is that we could have C.H.A.M.P.S Table Tennis for the entire school year. My students dedicate a great deal of time and practice to building and developing their skills and immersing themselves into this sport. Then in a flash, it abruptly ends.

I am optimistic that as the word gets out to the sponsors about how good these C.H.A.M.P.S programs are so that we can run sports like table tennis for more than one season.

*Ms. Sue Fattah of I.S. 234 is a C.H.A.M.P.S coach. She is a graduate of New York University and a leading spokesperson for after school sports in the New York City Public Schools.*



IS 234's Table Tennis Team

## Support, Donations, Sponsorship, Volunteer

NEW

AYTTO's mission is to 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. Your assistance will enable us to significantly expand our activities in reaching a broader youth market

Please consider an online donation by visiting [aytto.org](http://aytto.org). For more information please contact Ben Nisbet at 917-686-1911.