



For Immediate Release: October 28, 2008
Office of the Associate to the Superintendent

Contact: Todd Jaeger
(520) 696-5155

Local Students Mock “Rock the Vote”

Tucson, AZ - All over Northwest Tucson and Oro Valley, Amphitheater Public School District students are participating in the democratic process. Throughout this week and into next week, Amphi schools will be participating in the Kids Voting Arizona project. This project teaches students about the voting process, including voter registration, the act of voting itself, and vote counting. Students at all grade levels will participate in mock presidential and congressional voting. Additionally, students in elementary and middle grades (2-8) will vote on Proposition 300 (the Arizona Legislative Pay Raise) and the high school participants will vote on several of the propositions that are on the November 4th ballot.

Throughout the past few weeks, in preparation for voting, participating schools have been reviewing biographies of the candidates and summations of the propositions, all of which were provided by the non-partisan, non-for-profit organization Kids Voting Arizona. The organization also provided lesson plans for the teachers to incorporate into the curriculum including; the qualifications to be President, the three branches of government, and what makes a community of responsible citizens.

Each child at the participating schools is given a simulated voter registration form and upon completion of the form, a “registered voter ID card”. Some schools will set up a single class room to symbolize a “polling place” for the students to vote at, while others will allow students to vote in their homerooms. Ballots will be completed online or in paper form depending on the schools preference. Once a student has voted, they will be given the quintessential “I Voted” sticker to proudly wear for the rest of the day. Once tabulations are complete, results will be sent to kidsvotingaz.org and will be announced on Wednesday, November 5.

Similarly, CDO High School Advanced Placement Government students initiated and coordinated their own mock presidential election last week and are currently busy counting the ballots. These students presided over and promoted the election themselves and are eager to conduct more public opinion research related activities in the future. In addition to the Kids Voting Arizona project, some Wilson K-8 students will participate in the Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI) mock online election. YLI is a national civic education program based at the University of Virginia Center for Politics that expects millions of students to participate in this years mock election.

“This is a great experience for our students. They get a hands-on understanding of what the “right to vote” really is. Plus, we are a polling place for the actual elections and it gives the kids a greater understanding of what will be happening here next Tuesday,” said Foster Hepler Mesa Verde Elementary Principal.

(Continued on next Page)

“We at La Cima are excited to participate in this years election exercises through the Kids Voting Arizona project. Our students get very excited and very involved in the process,” said Gail Gault, Principal, La Cima Middle School. “Their level of excitement about the voting process really speaks to the dedication of our staff and their ability to connect with our students and connect their lessons to the real world.”

The Amphitheater Public School District is made up of 22 school and programs that cover approximately 110 square miles of Northwest Tucson and Oro Valley and is responsible for the high-quality education of nearly 16,000 of the areas young minds.

###