

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION GETS STUDENTS VOTING

By Katelyn Rapp

Like people across the nation, students at Lighthouse Preparatory Academy have spent recent weeks discussing which presidential candidate they favored. Last Monday LPA had its own mock election. Civics instructor Charlie Snider provided a copy of the official Missouri ballot for students to use.

One LPA student cast his vote twice - in our mock election on Monday and again on Tuesday as a new registered voter. Senior Daniel Alexander, 18, said, "It was my first time voting, so I was excited, but nervous, too." He explained that he voted for John McCain because of Barack Obama's views on abortion, taxes, and patriotism. "It feels good to know that I'm making a difference in the country by voicing my opinion." Alexander also said that he respects all of the candidates and will be praying for them to turn to God for guidance.

Andy Herrick and Kelly Feisel are both 17-year-old seniors who will be eligible to vote in the 2012 presidential election. "I'm excited to contribute to the great American voting process," Herrick said. Feisel's sentiments were the same. In Monday's mock election she voted for McCain, based on moral issues such as his pro-life views.

The ticket of McCain and Palin won decisively with 36 votes versus 2 votes for Obama and Biden. For governor, Hulshof won with 39 votes; Nixon and Thompson each received one vote. Students also gave Republican party candidates landslide victories in the races for Missouri lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, U.S. representative, and state representatives for the 113th and 114th districts. The casino issue, Proposition A, failed by 20 to 8.

The mock election proved to be a great learning experience for these future voters. Some students were even surprised to see so many races, names and issues on the ballot. Their concept of it had been mainly on the presidential race.

That was particularly true of LPA's youngest students, who had their own opinions about which candidate should be president. Sixth grader Chloe Langlands said, "I voted for McCain because he is a Republican, and that's what I agree with." In terms of the mock election experience with the "official" state ballot, she commented, "It was almost exactly like the real election."

From sixth graders to seniors, LPA students are taking action for the country, but they know God is in control. And this is a sentiment they share with our nation's first president, George Washington, who was quoted as saying: "Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair, the rest in the hands of God."

Katelyn Rapp is a freshman at Lighthouse Preparatory Academy.