

## IDS-CC 4<sup>th</sup> Graders Vote In Student Mock Election

For immediate release: October 31, 2008

Tampa, Fla.

Fourth grade students and teachers at Independent Day School-Corbett Campus conducted a mock election on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Students used a state-of-the-art online voting system as they participated in a mock election program sponsored by the Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI), a national civic education program based at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. Millions of students voted nationwide during the two-week voting period at the end of October.

“We studied the election process through our class focus novel *The Kid Who Ran for President* by Dan Gutman. It was an age-appropriate lens through which to read, dialogue and evaluate the electoral process,” stated fourth grade teacher Vickii Ausburn. Her team teaching partner, Kim Rostick, added, “This has been a very worthwhile exercise, getting students in the habit of having an avenue to share their thoughts and contributing their voice to the vote.”

“Students hear political discussions at the dinner table and are inundated with images of the election on the television,” said Mrs. Ausburn. “We wanted to provide them with an outlet to share their own thoughts and views.” Mrs. Rostick agreed and added, “The students looked forward to taking part in the YLI Mock Election.”

In addition, students attended Eckerd Theater Company’s theatrical presentation of *Vote?* that focused on the importance and responsibility of young adults to register to vote and cast their ballot.



Jake Sokol (top) and Shivani Saini participate in the process.

Fourth grade student Max Seigman said, “I liked having a say in who wins, even though it won’t count. It could change what parents think about it.”

Classmate Olivia Ferrone, said, “I am looking forward to voting when I am eighteen. I liked learning about the candidates and how they plan to make the country better.”

Working with Matt Melnick, IDS computer/technology teacher, students created a video encouraging adults to exercise their right to vote. By incorporating ideas generated by the students, the teachers at IDS hope to create a lasting impression of why a person’s vote is their voice in our democratic process.

National and statewide results of the YLI Mock Election are posted on the website [www.youthleadership.net](http://www.youthleadership.net).

Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited, independent school located on Orange Grove Drive in northwest Hillsborough County. The school serves over 500 students in PreK3 through 8th grade and offers the International Baccalaureate program of study for all middle school students. At IDS, all children experience learning in a nurturing and highly academic environment focused on excellence and developing a positive self-concept. IDS-CC has become recognized as an exemplary school with over

**The vision for all students at IDS-CC is to accelerate learning by creating a brain-friendly environment that is: Joyful and Challenging, Stimulating and Productive, Nurturing with High Standards and High Expectations, and includes Ethical Conduct, and Dignity and Respect for all.**

Contact: Mrs. Pam Barfield Independent Day School-Corbett Campus  
Telephone: (813) 961-3087