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Photos Available Upon Request

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS REENACT DEBATE; STUDENTS VOTE**

**Daly City, CA, November 3, 2008** – Adrielle Cailipan and Karry Jane Farebrother, two middle school students at Hilldale School, will be reenacting the town hall style presidential debate, playing the roles of Barack Obama and John McCain respectively, on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30 p.m. in the school’s gathering space. The students have been prepping for this event since the beginning of the school year, with this civics project serving as their social studies curriculum for the quarter. Cailipan and Farebrother have been researching the vocabulary, the candidates, the issues, and the positions of the candidates. They also have been honing their debating skills so as to seal up the vote.

Every student in the school has been studying the voting process, the government, and the election to some degree, although not as extensively as Cailipan and Farebrother. Each class took an issue, and the teacher simplified it for the level he or she is teaching. Once the issue had been studied, each class formulated a question which a child will ask of the candidates at the mock debate on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Questions included the Kindergarten’s query about Education: “How are you going to make school better for everyone?” and the Fifth & Sixth grade question about the War in Iraq: “Do you believe that we should keep our troops in Iraq, have a timeline for withdrawal, or suddenly leave?”

Before the debate, selected students will poll the student body. Polling results will be compared with paper ballot votes conducted after the debate to see if the candidates influenced the opinions of the students. In addition to a paper ballot, students will take part in the Weekly Studies sponsored “Every Kid Votes” electronic voting process which allows them to vote online and tally their votes with students from across the country.

“The most exciting part for me has been the transformation that has occurred in Adrielle and Karry,” says the principal, Sasha Clayton, who has been working with the students on this special project. “The girls have begun to improvise in our debate preparation during the rebuttal portion. They find new angles to solidify their arguments and negate the position of their opponent. They are learning how to think critically and extemporaneously—two skills which will carry them far beyond this debate and this year in school. I couldn’t be more pleased with their progress.”

For more information on the “Weekly Studies” electronic voting program, “Every Kid Votes,” go to [www.studiesweekly.com](http://www.studiesweekly.com) or contact Ed Rickers at 1-866-311-8734.

Hilldale is an academically accelerated, family-oriented, Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth grade private preparatory school nestled against San Bruno Mountain in Daly City. For more information, please visit [hilldaleschool.org](http://hilldaleschool.org).

*The Hilldale School*

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