

Third graders in Coventry discuss politics

Third grade students learn about local politics

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COVENTRY—Adults aren't the only ones who have been gearing up for Tuesday's big election. Youth in the community have also been giving it some thought.

The students in Tara D'Aleno's third grade class at Tiogue School have been discussing can-

didates, political parties and races in their social studies class. The students said that the lessons, in addition to all the media that they have been exposed to lately, have helped them to form opinions on whom they would like to see get elected.

Anthony Matoli said that "all of the street signs also help him to decide" who he would vote for if he was a registered voter.

"There are signs for Frank Caprio and Lincoln Chafee and Frank Hyde; they're everywhere," Matoli said. "I think it helps people though to decide who they should vote for. All the signs help us to know who is running for state rep or governor."

Denise Slinko said that political signs or not,

she knows who she would vote for if she could vote; she said that she would vote for Lincoln Chafee because he has "lots of good ideas." Nathan Carroll, who is also in her class, said that he would vote for Frank Caprio because "he promises to get jobs to hire people."

Alex Lavoie said that he and his mom have been talking "a lot" about this and they have decided that "all of the political ads are tooooooo exaggerated!!!"

"My mom said and I agree that people are getting carried away with what Chafee said about increasing our sales tax by one percent," Lavoie said. "All that really means, she said, is that if she spends \$100 on groceries, she will have to pay \$1

more and we both think that it's OK to pay \$1 more!"

The students have talked about the local races too, they said. Matoli said that if he could vote, he knows who he would vote for for the town council.

"I'm going to vote for Gary Cote, well my parents are; he is my neighbor!" Matoli said. "So we hope he wins."

Although actual politics and political races and campaigns are not an official part of the third grade curriculum, D'Aleno said that she tries to incorporate current events into her classroom lessons as much as possible. She said that she wants her students to be "politically savvy" if she can help it!