Hopewell Elementary School election held

BY DEBBIE HIGHTOWER

TRINITY — The results are in — Donald Trump was elected president by popular vote ... at a local elementary school.

Official voter registration starts at 17, but voters as young as 5 were able to get a feel for the democratic process at Hopewell Elementary School.

Organized by Hopewell school counselor Leslie Lomax, students kindergarten through fifth-grade participated in a mock election Nov. 7 to vote for their favorite candidate for president. Two voting stations were set up in the school gymnasium. Students were given cards on which were imprinted their name, photo and lunch numbers to drop in the box for their favorite candidates.

In all, 571 students registered their choice with 457 voting for Trump and 114 for Hillary Clinton.

Student council vice-president Carmen Turgeon helped out by giving voters "I Voted" stickers when they finished.

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Hopewell Elementary School student council vice president Carmen Turgeon urges students to get out and vote prior to a mock election held at the school. The fifth-grader served as news anchor for the school morning show, which included segments on the weather and school announcements.

"It felt like a real voting because they got to vote for whoever they want," said Carmen. "When I got home my brother Luke, who's 5, told me how happy he was that he got to vote. It was kind of fun."

"It gave them a chance to see first-hand what the democratic process looks like," said Principal Sharon Harper. "Our fourth- and fifth-grade teachers reviewed the democratic process and what the job responsibilities for president are in their social studies time. The teachers did a good job of preparing them so they would understand how government works."

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