

Cambridge school holds a mock election

by Daschell M. Phillips

The Cambridge School of Chicago held an "Election Spirit Day" event last Tuesday.

All the students at the charter school located at 4611 S. Ellis Ave. wore red, white and blue and participated in a mock election.

"We had polls set up in the school gym and the students received ballot cards to cast their votes," said Latonia Lambert, dean of academics at Cambridge.

Lambert said that while the teachers in each classroom pre-K through 6th held discussions about the 2008 presidential election based on their

grade level, the school-wide mock election had a more festive theme.

"They voted on which snack they wanted for the election party we are having on Thursday," said Lambert. "They had a choice of nachos, cupcakes or Cheese-Its, and they chose cupcakes."

Lambert, who said she was hoping for a nacho party, said that the main purpose was to give the students exposure to the democratic franchise.

"We wanted them to understand the election process and be excited about voting," said Lambert. "And to learn at an early age that this is a privilege."

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Obama's favorite pizza going to Washington, D. C.

by Kate Hawley

A Bronzeville pizza place favored by the Obamas will have a small role to play in the presidential inauguration ceremonies.

Italian Fiesta Pizzeria, 1400 E. 47th St., will feed the hungry hordes of reporters at the Inaugural Media Trade Show, to take place tomorrow at The Ritz-Carlton, Washington, D.C. The event is a preview for the media of the

presidential inauguration festivities on Jan. 20.

Patti Harris-Tubbs, who owns the business with her sisters Kathy King and Connie DeCarlo, said she'd heard rumors that the Obamas liked her pizza, but didn't know for sure until a couple of months ago, when King ran into Michelle Obama in person — and got the word straight from the source that it's an Obama family favorite.

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Builders Center of Chicago opens South Side location

by Kate Hawley

Builders Center of Chicago, a real-estate services company, opened the doors of its new Bronzeville branch on Friday, Nov. 7.

The recently completed building at 946 E. 43rd St. contains offices for Gem Realty Partners, which handles sales, rentals and property management. A showroom for an interior designer, general contractor and importer of custom finishes will be completed in the next couple of weeks, according to Jeffrey

Heilbrunn, marketing coordinator for the center.

The upper levels of the four-story building house nine condos, most with three bedrooms and two bathrooms, priced between \$300,000 and \$350,000, Heilbrunn said. None have sold so far.

Builders Center is behind a wide array of other developments on the South Side, including four townhouses now under construction at the northeast corner of 41st and Ellis Streets. Three of these are under contract, according to Heilbrunn.

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JOHNSON

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diverse urban communities.

As an activist, Johnson is viewed by many people as vibrant and energetic; therefore many he tries to reach get the idea that AIDS is not the death sentence it was when it first came to the public eye about 20 years ago. It does not have to be, he said, but he wants audiences, particularly in the Black community, to know that many are still dying every day. And for that reason, it is vital to practice safe sex and to get tested.

Johnson has been on a "cocktail" of drugs to control symptoms for years, and continues on a strict regimen of diet and exercise. He said that when he first found out he was infected, he asked the doctor "so many questions he was sick of me," and he encourages everyone to do the same regarding their health. He also keeps on target with goals by checking in with his close-knit family, including a teenaged son and a pre-teen daughter.

Johnson places extra emphasis on urban areas where rates of HIV/AIDS are extremely high. He stressed the importance of testing, and through his foundation, he provides government-run clinics with HIV-testing kits.

But he has found that testing is not the problem; rather, it's patients following up afterward. "People don't go back to get their results, because they're afraid of what they'll be," Johnson said. There are many who have the disease, and don't even know it, he said. "One person will infect another and that person will infect another."

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Olympic champion, NBA Hall of Famer and five-time NBA champion with the Los Angeles Lakers, Magic Johnson, talks about the importance of health check-ups during the Nov. 8 meeting at the Harold Washington Cultural Center at 4701 S. Martin Luther King Drive

Owen M. Lawson III

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