

News for Kids;

news flash

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Body

ELECTION 2000: Finally, a winner

After five weeks of vote recounts and lawsuits, Republican George W. Bush has become the president-elect. Democrat Al Gore conceded the election last week after the U.S. Supreme Court said that Florida didn't have time to complete a recount of all its disputed ballots before running into Electoral College deadlines.

The presidential electors from each state, who together make up the Electoral College, will meet today to officially cast their votes for president. With Florida's 25 electoral votes going to Bush, he has 271 electoral votes and Gore has 267. Gore won more votes than Bush among all those who voted nationwide, but under the U.S. Constitution, the winner of the Electoral College vote becomes president.

CONSTITUTION

Bush will spend the next few weeks finding people to fill important roles in his Cabinet. He says he will work with members of both political parties and may pick some Democrats for top jobs.

HEALTH: Cartoon messages work in 'smoking kills' crusade

Cartoon animals pictured with anti-smoking

messages could discourage young people from smoking, researchers found.

A study of 580 students from kindergarten through 12th grade found that they paid more attention to cigarette health warnings when the messages were paired with cartoon drawings of smart-alecky walruses, penguins and bears. The three were drawn in cool poses like Joe Camel, a cartoon character created by a tobacco company. Many people say that Joe Camel, no longer used in ads, encouraged kids to start smoking.

The researchers showed schoolchildren the messages "Smoking kills" and "Smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema and may complicate pregnancy" in plain text and with a cartoon beside them. All the cartoon messages rated higher than the simple written warnings.

Editor's note: Due to holiday scheduling, **News for Kids** is only one page this week. It will resume its two-page design next week.

HOW TO REACH US

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Online lesson plans for parents and teachers, new each Friday: www.ajc.com/nfk

Graphic

Photo

President-elect George W. Bush with his wife, Laura.

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