

To: All Mozart Families

Subject: Current Affairs & Our Children:

A Letter to Families From The Mozart Race & Ethnicity Committee

Dear Mozart Families,

Last week our country witnessed an unprecedented presidential election. Views, feelings, and emotions were and are running high for many of us. We may not always be aware, but our children are experiencing those same feelings. As Superintendent Tommy Chang wrote to BPS families last week, "The coming days and weeks may be challenging for many, and celebratory for others." Whether it's through speaking with friends in the schoolyard, overhearing adult conversations, or seeing coverage on television - our children are aware of current events.

Courageous parents and staff members have shared these recent comments from their children with our committee and we wanted to share them with our family community in hopes of bringing awareness to the feelings of children at our school.

"These past weeks my child had a lot more questions than a five year old should know to ask regarding race, class and politics in general. A few days ago she had a bright idea. She said, "Mama, if Donald Trump wins, I know how to keep our family in the country. We will just paint ourselves white!""

Another parent shared that her nine year old son was in tears because he was worried about racism and sexism growing in our country.

"I overheard one of our 5th grade students who is Puerto Rican explain to her black classmate "If Trump wins, we have to go back where we came from" while pointing at the skin on each of their arms."

Our ROCK star motto calls for respect, openness, cooperation, and kindness. Now more than ever it is important to encourage these principles in our children and community. It is essential for us to respect every child and member of our community. It is essential for us to open our minds and hearts to differences, including differences of perspective on this presidential election. It is essential for us to cooperate to reach our goals of every child learning, thriving, and reaching his/her potential. It is essential for us to be kind to each other, to take care of each other, to keep each other safe and whole. This work is difficult in a time of fear and division, but we must take it on. All of our students deserve to feel included, safe, welcomed, and inspired.

The Race and Ethnicity Committee has a crucial role in this work. The REC purposefully identifies and explores issues of race, color, and ethnicity, and how they affect individuals' learning, identity, and experiences at the Mozart. Clearly, our children are being affected right now and they are also making meaning of what is going on around them. If something affects

our children, then we have a responsibility as their caregivers to find ways to address, discuss, educate, and take action to help them.

The REC has created a [resource guide with articles](#) to help families start the conversation. We also invite everyone to join us for our next REC meeting on December 7th from 6-7pm. Pizza and babysitting is provided. We will:

- make space for families and educators to connect with one another about feelings and experiences in the wake of the election, and
- support one another with specific resources that help us to engage with our children on topics that are surfacing.

There are many events happening in and around Boston discussing race and equity too. For example, you can join Mayor Walsh on Saturday, November 19th 10:00am - 12:00pm for [Boston Talks About Racism](#).

As we move forward, we need to take the time to care for ourselves, our children, and each other. Please help us in assuring that all students and families feel safe and supported in our school.

With Deep Respect,
The Race and Ethnicity Committee