

Dear Parents,

It is with great sensitivity that I write this week's Principal's message to the Julian Curtiss community. In today's political climate parents are faced with the challenge of explaining the reasons for the opposing views in the news and the world around them.

America is experiencing a divide and there have been reports of some of this spilling over onto our playgrounds. I take pause when I receive a report from a parent that reads like the following, "*Children know there was an election and project who their parentssupport. In my child's class 2 children told her that they want to "kill the President"*". I feel quite sure that no reasonable parent wants his or her child stating such an opinion on the school playground.

No matter which candidate you supported for president, the news broadcasts may bring up concerns for your child and the children they play with everyday at school. Children hear the news, they hear adult conversations and they are exposed to their friend's views. The talk of building walls, deportations, terrorists and instability can be frightening for many adults, but can be especially frightening for children. We have to acknowledge that this uneasiness is real and it is up to us to help our children though this.

Our students at Julian Curtiss School range in age from 5 to 11 years old. One of the primary missions of our school is to provide an environment where our children feel safe! We are a school that supports inclusion, acceptance and tolerance. I remind you of the **Julian Curtiss School Mission Statement** below. "*The Julian Curtiss School works in partnership with our children, their families and the community to provide a quality education that has high expectations for student success and excellence. The diversity of our children is recognized as a source of strength and a reflection of our world.*"

At Julian Curtiss, we are constantly working to provide a safe, supportive, and balanced learning environment. Students participate in assemblies and activities throughout the year that teach and reinforce our district norms of "Be Here, Be Safe, Be Honest, Care for Self and Others, and Let Go and Move On." We take pride in our small school of 335 students with a family like atmosphere. We are international and diverse in character and our student body includes a cross section of all socioeconomic groups. We strive to keep a safe and orderly environment and take satisfaction in the fact that our student body is comprised of great numbers of happy, well-rounded students.

We will continue to support these principles and will do everything in our power to keep your children safe.

We ask that you help your children focus on the positives, the kind of people they want to be and the ways they can make a difference in the lives of others. Sometimes it just takes a smile and a helping hand.

I have asked our psychologists Ms. Monica Rothstein and Ms. Kate Napolitano to choose some articles they think might assist parents in talking with their children. The one below offers several points for talking to your child. There are also three articles at the end of this letter with pointers that can help both teachers and parents.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/betsy-brown-braun/talking-to-your-kids-abou_2_b_12891782.html

I am certain that we the adults can foster a sense of positive community, pride in our country, and hope in our future. "Encourage children to channel their views and feelings into positive action. Working with classmates or members of the community who come from different backgrounds not only enables children to feel that they are making a positive contribution, it also reinforces their sense of commonality with diverse people." *NASP Guidance for Reinforcing Safe, Supportive and Positive School Environments for All Students 2016*

With confidence,

Mrs. Trish McGuire

Principal

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https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/parenting/wp/2016/11/09/how-parents-can-help-disappointed-kids-cope-with-the-trump-win/?utm_term=.85b053db0d97
<http://www.northjersey.com/story/opinion/contributors/2017/01/22/helping-kids-handle-trump-effect-our-schools/96802570/>