



Central Park East I Elementary School

June 5, 2020

Dear Families,

This week, corporate website and organizational email has its message of 'in these painful times,' 'at this difficult moment,' or 'during these challenging days.' This image says much more.

Charly Palmer's painting incorporates iconic 1960s civil rights protest signs. Niko from Simone's class and his father, Randy, have recreated the painting.



Messages about 'these painful times' make it seem like 'this difficult moment' happened suddenly and soon will pass. Children deserve deeper truth. Our 2-3 and 4-5 classes have scheduled discussions online. Younger children have taken

the lead in their small-group conversations, sharing what they know. I spoke this morning with Patricia and Daje, whose sound advice inspires these bullets:

- Have whole-family discussions to establish a base of common family beliefs. Make sure young children get the information they need. Use additional conversations to share more with older children and adolescents.
- Start by asking what children know already, and let them keep talking. Your children probably will share information you didn't expect them to have. You also might hear misconceptions and concerns to address.
- If your children have not seen protests yet, bring them to the window if protesters are passing your home. It's easier to respond and inform when children see this for themselves.
- One conversation is never enough. Let your child think, and keep coming back for questions.

[This letter from earlier in the week for a list of resources](#) that can assist in family conversations. Words may not always be enough, but as Niko and Randy illustrate, there is strength in family.

Gabriel