



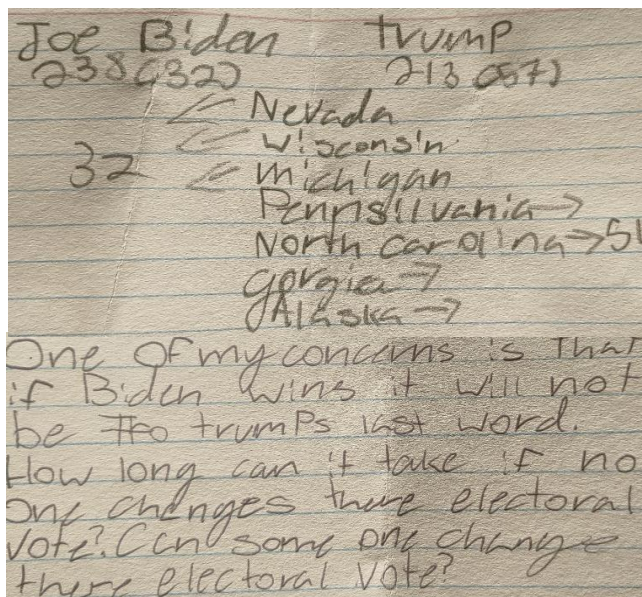
November 4, 2020

Dear Families,

Patricia's class was talking about the election. Nadia spoke wearily. "My dad is checking his phone every minute to see if Donald Trump is still president."

Eva raised her hand. "It sounds like Nadia's daddy is really stressed out about who is going to win the election." Yes. This election leaves many, many people feeling that stressed.

On days like these, when news of the world is so consuming, we let children guide our conversations. Typically, our staff starts out asking what children know and have heard. We ask them to share their questions and wonderings. They grow their factual knowledge, and sometimes, facts make anxious news feel more manageable.



As part of their big study of conflict and change, our 4-5 students have been studying the electoral college. Here is some work from about 9:00 on the morning after the polls closed. This child understands the electoral college well enough to predict a very narrow path to the presidency. And look at the questions that follow the numbers. *Can* states change

their electoral votes? That's a question from someone with emotional stakes in the answer.

Children today haven't been growing up with quiet politics. Intense language and events are always in the background. For many families, the threats and fears are present and personal. However children internalize such stress and bitterness and uncertainty, school has to let them voice it. After all, it's one thing for children to learn the factual information they need to make accurate electoral college predictions, and another for them to *feel* so much about whether they come true.

We are hoping for a relatively quiet close to this election season, and we hope that closure comes soon. If it doesn't, we'll support children, wherever they are, in making sense of whatever comes next.

CPE1 Planning Survey

This week, the city opened surveys for families to switch from 100% remote to in-person school. It will take weeks for CPE1 to receive the results, but it's better for *all* children in our school if we find out sooner. Again, our plans about whether to open more classes in the school building depends on the plans of our families.

If you our own, early survey already, thank you. If not, [please click here to take the CPE1 survey](#). It will take just a couple of minutes, and help us plan better learning for children.

Gabriel

