



The Oak Window

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I think it's safe to say that this has been a big week for everyone, and the Oak class is no different. On Monday we started making "Calm Down Bottles" in small group. These bottles are meant to be a tool in helping children regulate their bodies and minds. Children were able to choose the color of their liquid, as well as their sparkles, and they used an old Oak recipe (passed down from 2016) to learn how to mix the rest of the ingredients together.

On Tuesday we held our very own election. While it wasn't quite as high-stakes as our presidential election (we simply voted for what treat we will make as a class for

our Harvest Feast), we felt it was still important to introduce children to the idea of democracy and what it means. Though it may seem like an advanced topic for 4 and 5 year olds, they are undoubtedly still being exposed to aspects of our current election; whether it's over-hearing conversations, seeing ads on TV, or just feeling the stress that many of us are exuding right now. Children are remarkably perceptive and can pick up even the smallest of things. We started by having a meeting about what 'voting' means. **Gretchen** informed us that it is "*choosing the President and knocking on people's doors*", while **Andrew** let us know that it's "*an election*". We described the 3 options that were available to vote on;





Pumpkin Cookies, Pumpkin Pie and Pumpkin Bread. We opened the floor for questions about the recipes, and provided an opportunity for children to advocate for one of them. Finally, we passed out ballots and demonstrated how to fill out the correct bubble, and then put it in the ballot box. Most of them loved the idea of keeping their vote a secret and were excited to get their 'I Voted' sticker afterwards. It was quite a thrill to watch them all excited to participate in this kind of decision-making! We hope this desire to participate and make their voices heard will stay with them as they continue through life :). Oh! And in case you're wondering, Pumpkin

Pie won by a landslide.

We ended the week by making another Agreement for our class; this group of children is really learning what it means to participate in their community! Jennifer and I decided it was time for a new agreement after noticing that children were playing with toys, leaving them to play with something else, and then becoming upset if another child tried to play with the toy they had left, claiming "they weren't finished yet". We discussed the issue as a group, but it took Jennifer and I acting it out for them to really



understand the

issue. The class unanimously agreed that our new Agreement should be as follows: *'If you leave a toy to play with something else, then another friend can play with it'.*



We're so proud of this incredible group of children and their enthusiasm for participation!