



**Buzz Aldrin Middle School**  
**The STEM Magnet**  
173 Bellevue Avenue  
Montclair, NJ 07043  
[www.montclair.k12.nj.us](http://www.montclair.k12.nj.us)



**Principal's Bulletin**  
**January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:**

We believe that all students can learn, achieve, and grow, in a safe and secure environment.

- **Buzz Aldrin Dance Concert Performance:** For those of you who had an opportunity to see our dance concert this past Wednesday, I am sure you will agree that our Buzz Aldrin dancers did a fantastic job performing. I am so proud of the student performers and Ms. Gianna Tucker for all their hard work to make the concert a wonderful show for all to see. Thank you to Dave Buonocore and Frederick Reissig and their Stage Crew students for working behind the scenes to ensure everything went smoothly.
- **International Holocaust Remembrance Day:** On Friday, in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, our students participated in a schoolwide advisory. Students learned about establishment of the date, its significance, and discussed the history of the Holocaust. They discussed their prior knowledge of the Holocaust, along with defining specific terms such as genocide, persecution, and antisemitism. They also participated in rich discussion questions including why it is so important to educate yourself on the Holocaust and its significance on Jewish people and in history.
- **AAPI Montclair Lunar New Year Event:** It was a pleasure to see many of our Buzz Aldrin students and families at this Saturday's AAPI Lunar New Year event. As always, the event was well-attended, and our students did a great job participating and assisting at the event.
- **Model UN Club Update:** Please see the attached Model UN update from Mr. Joseph Turner.
- **Buzz Aldrin Middle School Tours:** On Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, Buzz Aldrin will hold our school tours from 6-8 pm. We are excited to meet our incoming families and show potential Buzz families why Buzz Aldrin is an amazing place to be! Thank you in advance to the students, staff, and parents who are assisting us with this event. It is a huge undertaking!
- **STEM Challenges Carnival Night:** The students of the STEM Challenges elective have been working hard on their table-top carnival-style games of

chance and skill. We cordially invite you to challenge yourself with these student-made games and to enjoy their creative genius! All games will be free to play, and the game designers will be on hand to referee and monitor games, as well as answer any question you may have about their games and their development process. Carnival Game Night will take place on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, in the BAMS gym between 6-8 pm. Please come and join us! We look forward to seeing you at the BAMS Carnival! If you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Dan Taylor at [dtaylor@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:dtaylor@montclair.k12.nj.us).

- **Buzz Aldrin PTA Fundraiser!** Please see the attached flyer for our annual big PTA fundraiser. We appreciate all the support and generosity from our PTA board and our generous parents. We hope to see you there dressed in your best 80s gear!
- **General Reminders:**
  - **Cell Phone Use:** Students are not permitted to use their cell phones throughout the school day. This is stated in the school's code of conduct. Consequences will be issued for those who violate this rule.
  - **Dress Appropriately for Weather:** Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the winter weather conditions, particularly outdoor recess.
  - **Attendance Information:** Student attendance and tardiness is an issue with some of students. Students with ten tardies will receive an afterschool detention will be issued. Additionally, attendance records affect your child's ability to attend/participate in end of the year events/field trips.
  - **Student Attire:** We continue to have serious concerns over students dressing appropriately for middle school, especially with footwear. Slides, Crocs, flip flops, and any shoes without a backing are not permitted, as they do not have a back to the shoes. Referrals will be issued for inappropriate footwear, as indicated in the Code of Conduct.
- **Yearbook Purchasing:** Yearbooks are currently available for purchase and are on a first come first served basis. Please visit [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com) or call 1-877-767-5217 to order your copy! If you have any questions please contact our Yearbook Advisor, Ms. Eden: [jmintz@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:jmintz@montclair.k12.nj.us)
- **Set Design Painting & Prop Club - Mary Poppins Jr. ~ The Musical**  
Our evening Set Design Painting / Prop Club sessions are quickly approaching. We are now accepting sign-ups and space is limited. Semester 1 is coming to an end soon after we return from break! Ms. Rodriquez and our Set Design elective class will be ready to pass our beautiful rendering designs to the stage. We will begin to make each of them come alive in color and 3D beginning in February 2024. All participants will receive community service hours. This is also a great way for parents to join us and their child as part of the Buzz Aldrin Musical Theatre Family! Break out your painting clothes and come join the fun! **FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DATES & TO REGISTER your**

**student for an email invite to our google classroom:** Please email Karen-Ann Kaelin-Panico Theatrical Producing Director / Set Design Director [kpanico@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:kpanico@montclair.k12.nj.us) Thank you for supporting the BAMS Theater Department!

- **Math Midterms:** This is a reminder that our Math Midterms will be held during the week of Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> during math classes. The midterm exam is in two parts and students will take one part per class during that week. All students have been given a study guide packet and they should be studying at home. Please remind your child to bring sharpened pencils for the exam, to arrive to school on time, and to minimize absences.
- **Buzz Aldrin SOUPER BOWL:** The Buzz Aldrin National Junior Honor Society will be holding their annual "Souper Bowl" during the week of February 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. All students are encouraged to bring in canned food items that will be donated to a local food pantry. NJHS students should check Google Classroom for more information about how to participate in this event for community service hours. Thank you in advance for your support!
- **Buzz Aldrin PTA Updates:**
  - **Throwback 80s Party Spring Fundraiser:** This is our biggest fundraiser for the year and our goal is to raise \$15,000. We need the support of our school community. March 22, 2023 from 7-10pm at St James Church Parish Hall, 581 Valley Road, Montclair. Featuring 80s tunes from DJ Cotter, Dinner & Drinks, and a Silent Auction. Adults only. 80s costumes encouraged! Early Bird tickets are on sale now until February 19. All proceeds help to support the Buzz Aldrin School STEAM magnet and end of year festivities.  
<https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.gives/throwback80sparty>
    - **We would love some help!** We are in need of silent auction item donations and volunteers to help run the event. Contact Jennifer Escobar or Lauren Moore at the Buzz PTA.
  - **After School Enrichment (ASE) Programs:** start February 12 and continue through March 25. Registration is now live for Chess, Basketball, Street Art, CPR/First Aid, Financial Literacy:  
<https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store?limit=21&live=true>
  - **We need parent volunteers to help ASE!** Parent volunteers are needed to help assist instructors. No experience needed. Contact Jennifer Escobar at [jen.escobar3@gmail.com](mailto:jen.escobar3@gmail.com) if you can assist on any of our ASE days.
  - **Life After High School: The Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence (MFEE),** in partnership with Montclair High School, is bringing back its award-winning mini-conference, [Life After High School](#). On February 24<sup>th</sup> from 10am-1pm, 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders - and their caregivers - will gather at Montclair High School's George Inness Annex for this free, one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect and learn. Unlike a traditional college or job fair, Life After High School looks to leverage Montclair's amazing community

members and alumni to share “wisdom nuggets” or small takeaways that will inspire adolescents through high school and beyond. There will be over 10 workshops on topics such as how to lean into your interests, how relationships can guide you through tough times, how to put yourself out there when you don’t think you can, how to harness your superpowers (like ADHD) to lead you to success, and being okay with uncertainty. Caregivers can take a separate track of workshops geared towards creating connection and supporting their teens. Read about the speakers and register today: <https://www.mfee.org/lahs>.

- **Nominating Committee:** Your board is happily serving you through the end of this school year, but there will be some positions available for next year. We need 3-5 people (not currently on the board) to serve on a nominating committee to source new leaders. We have the emails and documents you will need. All of this can be done remotely, it doesn't take that much time, but the process needs to start now. Without a board, the PTA cannot raise money, spend money, or provide things like Spooktacular, ASE programs, ice skating and movie nights, and graduation parties will not happen. ***If you were involved in your elementary school PTA but have been holding back, THIS IS THE JOB FOR YOU.***
- **Funds2Orgs Fundraiser: GET COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS BY SENDING IN NEW OR GENTLY WORN SHOES!** On February 9th from 7:20 AM- 7:50 AM and 2:00 PM- 2:30 PM bring in your shoes to receive community service hours. For every 5 pairs of shoes, you will receive an hour of community service. Your gently worn, used, or new shoes to send to developing countries. [https://funds2orgs.com/?gclid=CjOKCQjw4vKpBhCZARIsAOKHoWRnu8p8zWIPLER7CKQpjXQzxkgyWjRsF8tteyBxtZO\\_vTO4W3cKi6saAnrTEALw\\_wcB](https://funds2orgs.com/?gclid=CjOKCQjw4vKpBhCZARIsAOKHoWRnu8p8zWIPLER7CKQpjXQzxkgyWjRsF8tteyBxtZO_vTO4W3cKi6saAnrTEALw_wcB). Please drop off all shoes at the school office and either tie the shoes together or wrap them with a rubber band.
- **Save the Date:** FREE Buzz Family Ice Skating Event on March 9th from 5:15 pm- 6:45 pm at Clary Anderson Arena. If your kids love to bake and need community service hours, we are also hosting a bake sale at the event. Please contact Anneka Street at the Buzz PTA for more details.
- **Parent Volunteers needed:** The PTA is always looking for parent volunteers for our ASE, Special Events and Fundraising committees. Contact PTA President, Jennifer Escobar at [jen.escobar3@gmail.com](mailto:jen.escobar3@gmail.com) if you are interested.

### **Next Week's Schedule of Days**

- Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> – C Day
- Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – D Day
- Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> – E Day
- Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> – F Day
- Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> – A Day

**Please mark your calendars:**

- Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> – February, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Math Midterms in class
- Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> – Buzz Aldrin Middle School Tours @ 6 pm
- Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> – BAMS Carnival Night @ 6 pm
- Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> – Presidents’ Day, District Closed
- Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Curriculum Thursday, Abbreviated Day Schedule

**“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”**

— **Winston Churchill**

**“Never lose hope. Storms make people stronger and never last forever.”**

— **Roy T. Bennett**