



Buzz Aldrin Middle School
The STEM Magnet

173 Bellevue Avenue
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www.montclair.k12.nj.us



Principal's Bulletin
January 28th, 2022

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:

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

- On Thursday and Friday, Buzz Aldrin students participated in activities to commence International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Students listened to a morning announcement explaining the day and its historical context, discussed the day further their Social Studies classes, and participated in an advisory this morning, which included videos and discussion questions surrounding the Holocaust.
- Tonight, is our long-awaited Buzz Aldrin Casino Night. We are looking forward to seeing you there this evening! Special thanks to the PTA for hosting this event. We are very grateful for your support, generosity, and your kindness. Please see the information below regarding signing up for Casino Night. It's not too late to sign up and join us!
- We are still continuing with January's Month of Service activities. On Monday, January 17th, the district was closed in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, an important day in which all Americans commemorate his life and legacy. Our wonderful PTA is sponsoring the MLK Month of Service in an effort to provide students with various opportunities to perform community service. Please encourage your child to participate, as there is no greater gift than giving back to others in your community and to those in need. We would love to see 100% participation in this month of service. Thank you to the PTA for being so creative and thoughtful in organizing these ideas. Please see some of them below:
 - Send a Smile Today: Students can make cheerful cards for patients suffering from cancer. Cardstock and instructions are available in two boxes located outside the main office. Cards should be dropped off by January 31st. Please use the link below for more guidelines on the cards: <https://sendasmiletoday.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Card-Making-Guidelines-061018-PDF.pdf>
 - Snow Shoveling Campaign: Students can help clear driveways, walkways, street corners, bus stops, and sidewalks for those in need. Perhaps they can ask someone in need if they would like assistance. Montclair Mutual Aid has created a list of elderly, disabled, and other

people with limitations that prevent them from shoveling. Please see the link: <https://montclairmutualaid.org/community-snow-clearing-project/> In an effort to support this, the PTA is providing free snow shovels for those students who sign up to help families, neighbors, and community members. If your child is interested in participating, please have them sign up using this link: <https://signup.com/go/QwvkMbz>. If your child wants to join the list of Montclair Mutual Aid Volunteers, please click the link: <https://montclairmutualaid.org/community-snow-clearing-project/>.

- **Change for Community:** Students will be asked to donate spare change (and dollar bills) to help others in need. The money will be collected on Fridays during extended homeroom, beginning this week. Homeroom reps and the four Student Council officers will go to all the homerooms with collection bags. After raising the funds, the officers will choose a few charities that the donations will go to.

- Please see the following updates from SEPAC:
 - 1/27 - SEPAC Liaison Meeting @ 7:15 pm
 - 1/31 - SEPAC General Meeting @ 7:00 pm
 - Winter 2022 - Workshops offered by SPAN - Click [here](#)
 - 2/28 - SEPAC General Meeting @ 7:00 pm - Tentative Topic - Assistive Technology
 - Our next SEPAC General Meeting will be on January 31st from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm and will focus on the topic of self-care. All SEPAC members, as well as members of the community, are invited to attend.
 - Professor Ashlee Martellacci from Montclair State will present a self care-workshop that will focus on the following: *Did you know, due to the pandemic, 1 in 4 working parents and 83% of mothers are currently experiencing parental burnout? As a parent, stress is inevitable. However, what you do to manage that stress makes all the difference. Self-care helps you deal with the daily stresses in your life, ranging from professional pressures, interpersonal relationships, work/life balance, and future plans. Join us for an honest conversation regarding the effects of parental burnout and self-care, as well as why self-care can be the key to maintaining your overall parental success and well-being.*
 - Topic: SEPAC General Member Meeting
 - Time: Jan 31, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
 - The Zoom Information:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86797320614?pwd=S1VhMzA3VOJ3WU55VHBLlZBuNThoUT09>
 - Meeting ID: 867 9732 0614
Passcode: 253823

- **COVID-19 Testing & Health Updates:** The Montclair Public School District will be providing COVID-19 rapid antigen testing to all staff and students on Tuesdays and Fridays from 4 to 6 pm at the Annex Atrium, located at 141 Park St. Parking can be found in the rear on North Fullerton Avenue. If applicable, please remember to bring your insurance card and ID. There will be no out-of-

pocket cost to families and staff members. Please see the following health guidance that was provided by medical professionals in consultation with the district:

- We are continuing to follow the 10-day quarantine period.
- Students, teachers, and staff who come into close contact with someone with COVID-19, are asymptomatic and are in one of the following groups do not need to quarantine:
 - People who are ages 18 and older and have received all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters and additional primary shots for some immunocompromised people.
 - People who are ages 5–17 years and completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.
 - People who had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (tested positive).
- Schedule Change Requests: As stated previously, we are not granting schedule change requests for elective courses. The scheduling team worked hard over the summer and during the beginning of the school year to ensure that the elective courses were as balanced as possible. Given the COVID-19 numbers, we cannot imbalance the class sizes. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.
- Side Door: Side Door will reopen next Friday, February 4th. We will be focusing on outdoor activities (no masks!), so until the weather warms up we will be closing at 4 pm rather than 5 pm since so many of our volunteers will be spending the afternoon outside.
- **PTA Updates**:
 - **CASINO NIGHT!** On Friday, January 28th, our PTA will host the BAMS 2022 Casino Fundraiser from 7 pm to 11 pm at the Montclair Art Museum. We hope to see you there! It will be the biggest PTA fundraiser event this year!
 - **Important: We have a matching donor!! A very generous local business has agreed to MATCH all donations of \$75 or more from now through Monday, January 24th at 12 pm.** Please donate by noon on Monday using the link:
<https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/629278>
 - Please see the message below from our PTA:
 - Every school year, students at Buzz Aldrin Middle School gather in the auditorium on a regular basis. They attend school assemblies, presentations, musical theater, band performances, dance performances, and poetry slams in this space. It is a focal point of the BAMS community. We know that COVID has disrupted some of these activities, but this will not last forever.
 - Unfortunately, the passage of time has caught up with the equipment in the auditorium. Our students (and teachers and parents) deserve a quality, high functioning experience when they participate in the programs in our auditorium. We are hoping to

support the school administration by contributing a state-of-the-art sound system, a projector, and a projection screen, something that is simply not within the school or district's budget. It will not be cheap, but it's important, and we are hoping for support from the BAMS community. This goal will be the primary focus of our fundraising efforts for the remainder of this year. We are looking to raise \$50,000!

- **Thanks to a VERY generous donor, 100% OF CASINO NIGHT PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TOWARDS OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL!!!**
 - The evening will feature:
 - Blackjack, poker, roulette, and craps tables
 - Delicious hors d'oeuvres and drinks, including beer and wine
 - Music and a photo booth
 - Festive attire is requested!
 - [Advance Tickets \\$75 \(\\$25 for teachers and staff\)](#) on sale through January 26th
 - COVID vaccination/negative test required for entry
 - **Prizes, Prizes, Prizes!!**
 - ALL ticket holders are automatically entered into the drawing to win a **PlayStation5** or an **XBox!** In addition, anyone who donates \$75 or more towards our fundraising goal, will also be entered into the drawing. And lastly, EVERY ADDITIONAL \$50 donation (above \$75) buys you an additional entry into the drawing! Even if you can't attend, you can still participate - we need everyone's support!
 - **Ticket and Donation Options:**
 - \$75 general admission tickets (you can also make a donation)
 - \$100 tickets for one person PLUS “sponsor” a teacher/staff member (you can also make a donation)
 - \$25 teacher and staff tickets (you can also make a donation)
 - No-ticket donations (Thank you!)
 - Purchase your tickets and/or make your donations today at: <https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store>
 - **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**
 - You've been saying all year you want to help out: now's your chance! To volunteer for a 30-minute shift, click here: <https://signup.com/go/CrvULkz>
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- Please see the following message from the MFEE: The [Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence \(MFEE\)](#) is our town's local education fund that supports *all* Montclair students, teachers, staff, and caregivers. Buzz Aldrin students receive social/emotional support and innovative teaching tools through MFEE grants, teachers boost their learning through out-of-the-box Professional Development grants, families get resources and support through MFEE Programs like [Learning Circles on Race](#), [PEEPs/Little PEEPs](#), and [Navegadores Escolares](#). Your donations - no matter how small - fuel all of

this work! MFEE's Annual Appeal is in its final weeks, and your donation to MFEE can win up to \$2,000 for our school!

From **now until February 28th**, any donor who gives \$20 and above will be entered in a lottery to award a \$1,000 grant to their favorite school. [Be sure to "credit" Buzz Aldrin's team page when donating.](#) This will enter Buzz Aldrin in a SECOND lottery to win an ADDITIONAL \$1,000 grant. While you're there, check out all of the ways that your donations boost learning at Buzz Aldrin. Donate here: <https://givebutter.com/mfeeforthem2022/buzzaldrin>

- Check out how happy last year's appeal winners were when they received the news! Watch [video](#).
 - MFEE is continuing its [PEEPs program](#) and still has space for new students. If you are interested in having your child participate, please click on the link above.
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- If the pandemic has caused a loss of income that makes it difficult for you to pay your rent and/or utility bills, consider applying for relief through the **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)**. An eligible household may receive assistance for up to 18 months of home energy costs incurred on or after March 13, 2020. Applicants are required to prove loss of income or employment, or financial hardship due directly or indirectly to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants must also demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability such as past due notices, rent notice or eviction notice, etc.
 - **Please be sure you have all of the below information in order to submit your application:**
 - Personal ID for the applicant and all household members
 - Lease agreement or rental agreement signed by your landlord
 - Income information for all household members older than 18 (Paystubs, Unemployment benefits, Bank statements showing direct deposits, SSI or SSDI statements)
 - Information about unpaid rent and utilities (Statements, Bills, etc.)
 - In order to receive assistance, you must submit an application.

[CLICK HERE](#) To APPLY!
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- We are no longer issuing loaner Chromebook devices to students. Students will be responsible for bringing their own charged devices to school. Additionally, we are not accepting parent drop-offs for any items other than Chromebooks.
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- **General Reminders & Updates for Parents/Families:**
 - Please remind your children to be careful with our district-issued Chromebooks. We have many students who are placing requests for damaged devices.
 - As the cooler weather continues, please ensure your children are dressed appropriately for outdoor conditions. This means wearing a coat, sweatshirt, hat, or any other clothing that allows for students to be comfortable during the day and for outdoor lunch/recess.
 - When students have indoor recess, they will be in the auditorium. Since there will be classes running in the auditorium during this time, it is

important that students bring their own books to read or something to work on independently. While it is their free time to unwind and relax, we must also be mindful of our dance classes.

- Cell phone use is not permitted during the school day. Parents should not text or call their children during school hours.
 - Masks are required at all times while in the building. If possible, please send your child to school with an extra mask in case the original mask is misplaced or damaged. If students cannot follow the mask policy, they will be sent home.
 - Please make sure your child brings a water bottle to school each day.
 - Students are required to bring their fully charged Chromebooks and are encouraged to bring their Chromebook chargers to school each day.
 - Please complete a free/reduced meal application if you would like to do so. The online form is available at <https://www.nlappscloud.com/> and hard copies are available in the main office. You may also visit the Department of Agriculture's website to access an application in a language other than English or Spanish (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/translated-applications>).
 - Again, please **DO NOT** drop off or pick up your child in the front of the building or in a location where they must cross the street. Grownups need to remain in their cars and be sure not to block the staff parking lot while waiting for their children. Students should not cross the street at any location other than the designated crosswalks. Parents should not stand in the staff parking lot to pick up their children. **This is a safety issue.** Despite the number of times this is written in school communications, this is still a problem. Please abide by the school's rules.
 - **Parents are not permitted to drop off belongings, lunches, materials throughout the day.** We will not accept materials dropped off while school is in session. Therefore, it is essential that you make sure your child has all the necessary materials he/she/they would need prior to entering the building.
 - The health forms must be completed by 7:00 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This must be done in order for students to attend classes. If health forms are not completed in time, students will need to wait in the auditorium until they can complete one themselves. This results in a loss of valuable instructional time.
 - There are no visitors permitted in the building at any time.
 - Please encourage your child to leave their desk shields (dividers) in their lockers when not in use. We do not have enough extras to provide loaners for all those who forget.
 - Parents are not permitted to ask teachers for remote instruction without prior approval granted from building administration. Remote instruction can only be granted for COVID-related reasons.
- Yearbooks: Yearbooks are now on sale! To order your copy of the yearbook please visit <https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/students-and-parents/about-yearbooks>, or reach out to Mrs. Mintz (jmintz@montclair.k12.nj.us) with any questions.

- **Set Painting Club - The Little Mermaid Jr. - The Musical**
 - Our evening Set Painting / Props Club sessions are quickly approaching. We are now accepting sign ups and space is limited. Our Set Design Elective class will be ready to pass us our beautiful designs in the next two weeks. We will begin to make them come alive in color beginning in February. All participants will receive community service hours. Break out your painting clothes and come join the fun! **FOR MORE INFORMATION & 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 Thank you for supporting the BAMS Theater Department!

- On Tuesday, February 1st, we wish all of you a wonderful Lunar New Year to those who celebrate! Lunar New Year is an annual 15-day festival that Asian communities around the world celebrate. 2022 is the Year of the Tiger. Happy New Year!

Next Week's Schedule of Days

- Monday, January 31st – B Day
- Tuesday, February 1st – C Day
- Wednesday, February 2nd – D Day
- Thursday, February 3rd – E Day
- Friday, February 4th – F Day

Please mark your calendars:

- Friday, January 28th – Casino Night - Montclair Art Museum @ 7 pm
- Wednesday, February 2nd – Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 pm
- Thurs, February 9th & Fri, February 10th – Math Midterms

“Happiness is not something readymade. It comes from your own actions.”

-Dalai Lama

“It is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult task which, more than anything else, will affect its successful outcome.”

- William James