



**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**  
**February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:**

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

- I can honestly say that the PTA Casino Event held on Friday evening was an amazing time! Our staff, the PTA, and parent attendees had a fantastic evening. The night was filled with tables, food, and ended up with everyone on the dance floor. It was wonderful to see our Buzz community members mingle together and simply have fun. Thank you to all the donors seeking to help improve our building and the school overall. Many thanks to our PTA Executive Board, Selma Avdicevic, Nakia James-Jenkins, Rick Muller, Imke Oster, and Courtney Redfern for organizing such a special event.
- On Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, the Buzz Aldrin students recognized two important events in our school community. First, we honored the Lunar New Year. Happy New Year to all those who celebrate! On Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, Montclair's AAPI group is hosting a Lunar New Year event at the Montclair Art Museum from 12-3 pm. We hope to see you there.
- February is Black History Month, an important time for our staff and students to learn about and recognize the history, culture, context, and contributions of African Americans throughout American history and current day. This month will be recognized in classrooms throughout our building and in the form of homeroom advisories. I will share updates and feedback throughout the month of February.
- Thank you to our PTA for hosting after school financial literacy classes for our Buzz students. We appreciate all that you are doing for our school community!
- Please see the following updates from SEPAC:
  - Winter 2022 - Workshops offered by SPAN - Click [here](#)
  - 2/28 - SEPAC General Meeting @ 7:00 pm - Tentative Topic - Assistive Technology
  - **SEPAC is hosting a forum on February 28th** to meet the BOE candidates. The goal of the forum is to formally meet the candidates, gain a better understanding of their basic knowledge of Special Education within Montclair Public Schools, programming, current practices and

allow each candidate an opportunity to share their thoughts, ideas, and/or concerns as well answer questions submitted by our community as a whole.

- The forum will be via zoom (zoom link will be shared at a later date) starting promptly at 7:07 p.m. We ask that you share this date and details with your families in your respective buildings. All questions can be submitted via email to the general SEPAC mailbox [montclairsepac@gmail.com](mailto:montclairsepac@gmail.com) **by February 21st.**
- **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 cooperation and understanding.
- **MFEE Update:** 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.
  
- 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!**
  
- 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.
  
- **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](mailto:kpanico@montclair.k12.nj.us) Thank you for supporting the BAMS Theater Department!

- This is a reminder that our Math Midterms will be held on Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> during math classes. Please remind your children to get enough rest and eat a healthy breakfast prior to the exam. Additionally, please make sure your children arrive to school on time.
- February 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> is School Counselors Week. We thank our school counselors, Dr. Brennan and Ms. Douglas, for dedication to our Buzz Aldrin students.
- The Buzz Aldrin National Junior Honor Society is organizing a "Souper Bowl" during the week of February 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>. All students are encouraged to bring in cans of soup that will be donated to Toni's Kitchen. NJHS students should check Google Classroom for more information about how to help with this event. Thank you in advance for your support!
- **Attention 8<sup>th</sup> grade art students!** If you are interested in submitting a portfolio to apply for Art 1 Honors at Montclair High School, please email Ms. Leard at [aleard@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:aleard@montclair.k12.nj.us) for more information. There is a Google Classroom to join, and there will be a Zoom Q & A session in February. Portfolios are due mid-April, so if you think you might be interested, don't delay!

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

- Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> – A Day
- Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> – B Day
- Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> – C Day
- Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> – D Day
- Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> – E Day

### **Please mark your calendars:**

- Wed, February 9<sup>th</sup> & Thurs, February 10<sup>th</sup> – Math Midterms
- Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> – Presidents Day, District Closed
- Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> – BOE Meeting @ 7:30 pm – Buzz Aldrin Presentation
- Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> – Curriculum Thursday, Abbreviated Day Schedule

**“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.”**

**— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**“The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression.”**

**— W.E.B. Du Bois**