



**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**  
**March 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.

- **Women's History Month Information:** For the month of March, we are honoring Women's History Month at Buzz Aldrin. Our teachers and counselors have planned various activities and advisories to honor this month and celebrate the accomplishments women have made in American History. Today, students participated in an advisory that incorporated both Black History Month and Women's History Month since last week's advisory was cancelled due to the delayed opening. Various women were highlighted and celebrated for their accomplishments, including women such as Sojourner Truth, Ruth E. Carter, Diane Nash, Fannie Lou Hamer, Althea Gibson, Ella Baker, Madam CJ Walker, Katherine Johnson, Mary McLeod Bethune, Jane Bolin, Ruby Bridges, and Amelia Boynton Robinson.
  - Conversation starters for parents:
    - What did Sojourner Truth accomplish?
    - How did Sojourner Truth work towards helping women and African Americans?
    - What is one influential figure you learned about from the video shown during the advisory?
    - What does the term oppression mean?
- **CoGAT Testing:** We will conduct CoGAT testing for all sixth and seventh graders on Wednesday, March 9 and Thursday, March 10. Please remind your child to bring in a fully charged Chromebook as well as wire headphones. We cannot use wireless headphones or earbuds with the Chromebooks. Testing will begin first thing in the morning, so please ensure your child is on time.
- Since the district is closed on March 8<sup>th</sup>, this means Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> will be a C Day.
- **COVID-19 Protocols Update:**
  - Beginning next week, masks will be optional. Students listened to an announcement this afternoon regarding the new mask policy, and reminded the students to be mindful and respectful of each person's personal choice regarding mask wearing.

- As of now, we are no longer requiring staff and students to complete the health forms.
  - The district's weekly COVID-19 testing will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Annex.
- **Start with Hello Update:** The Start With Hello students and advisors have been meeting to prepare for *See Something Say Something* week, which is March 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. This initiative was started by the Sandy Hook Promise to promote and teach people how to become upstanders. During that week, Start with Hello will hold many activities to promote overall positivity throughout the school community. This will include an advisory on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - **PTA Update:**
    - Please see the attached document from the PTA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. They are beginning a 21-day Racial Equity Challenge that began on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Students and families are still able to sign up and participate.
  - **District Devices:** We are no longer issuing loaner Chromebooks to students. Students will be responsible for bringing their own charged devices to school. Chromebooks are the only items we are accepting for parent drop-offs. Additionally, we are not accepting parent drop-offs for any items other than Chromebooks.
  - **Set Painting Club - The Little Mermaid Jr. - The Musical:** Our evening Set Painting / Props Club sessions are quickly filling up. We are now accepting signups for March and space is limited. Our weekly painting sessions have been a huge success, the sets are coming alive in color and look beautiful! Thank you to everyone who has participated. 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!
  - **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
- 
- Please see Mr. Taylor's attached STEM Bulletin.

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

- Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – B Day
- Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – School Closed
- Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – C Day
- Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – D Day
- Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – E Day

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

- Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – Schools Closed – Election Day
- Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> – Marking Period 3 Interims available @ 4 pm
- Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> – Curriculum Thursday – Abbreviated Day Schedule
- Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> – Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 pm

**“The most difficult thing is the decision to act; the rest is merely tenacity.”  
– Amelia Earhart**

**“Accentuate the positive, not the negative. It sounds so trite, but a lot of people will pick out something to complain about, rather than say, ‘Hey, that was great!’ It’s not hard to find great stuff if you look.”  
– Betty White**