



Buzz Aldrin Middle School
The STEM Magnet
173 Bellevue Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07043
www.montclair.k12.nj.us



Principal's Bulletin
March 11th, 2022

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:

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

- **Updates from the week:** We had a busy week at Buzz Aldrin! On Wednesday and Thursday, our 6th and 7th graders participated in CoGAT testing during homeroom. Between Wednesday and Friday, students participated in a Women's History Month advisory, a Start with Hello advisory, and Battle of the Classes dance competition in their homerooms.
 - Thank you so much to our staff and students for doing such a great job with the testing. There were a few glitches with the server, and we still managed to successfully complete all testing. Thank you to Ms. Bernheim, Mr. Gannon, and Mr. Persad for coordinating the testing and training for staff.
 - For the Women's History Month advisory, students learned about International Women's Day on March 8th. They also learned about women in leadership and politics both nationally and globally.
 - For Start with Hello, the students participated in an advisory in preparation for *See Something, Say Something* week, the week of March 14-18. This initiative was started by the Sandy Hook Promise to promote and teach students how to become upstanders. The goal is to promote positivity and create a stronger sense of school community.
 - Questions to ask your child:
 - What is an upstander?
 - What is a bystander?
 - Why is it important to be an upstander?
 - Are people more likely to when they are by themselves or in a group?
- **Battle of the Classes Dance Competition:** Each one of our dance classes has worked hard on choreographing a dance routine and performing in a friendly competition for the class with the strongest dance. Today, during homeroom, the entire school watched a dance routine performed by each class. Then, the staff and students voted on the best overall dance performance. Special thanks to our wonderful dance teacher, Ms. Zetta Cool for organizing this event. I am pleased to announce the winner of the Battle of the Classes as the Block 4AD Dance Class! The students danced to Michael Jackson's song, "Thriller", a

dance choreographed by seventh grader Victoria Muller. Students also voted on the solo spotlight recipients who were: Marley Kim, Aliyah Thom-Rogers, Zora Tracy, Olivia Gilbertson, Malaika Mankey-Ajogbeto, and Rowan Wicks-Bowles. Congratulations to all of the participants and the winners. We are so proud of you!

- **Start with Hello Information:** The week of is March 14th – 18th is *See Something Say Something* week.
 - For this week, we will host the Battle of the Backpacks competition in which students can participate in this wonderful initiative. Please see the attached flyer for more information. There are daily ways to participate in activities. To sum up, there are three ways to earn points. Points will be counted during homeroom each morning. Teachers will be provided with a link to a spreadsheet to input their daily points. The homeroom the earns the most points will win a prize! Please see the three ways students can participate:
 - 1. Bring in the food items listed on the flier and form. Every item is worth one point. Food items for Toni's Kitchen will be collected from Monday, 3/14 - Thursday, 3/17, so we can pack the backpacks Thursday afternoon and deliver them on Thursday/Friday. People can sign up here as well to see what items are needed.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f45aca62da0fdcf8-battle>
 - 2. Write a letter of appreciation to people in our community. Each letter is worth a point. Directions for these letters will be provided to homeroom teachers as well.
 - 3. Participate in the daily themed days. The themes are:
 - Monday: Comfy Clothes Day!
 - Tuesday: Crazy Hat/Hair Day!
 - Wednesday: Sports Day!
 - Thursday: St. Patrick's Day! – Wear Green!
 - Friday: Wear your House Color Day!
 - House 1 – Red
 - House 2 – Black
 - House 3 – White
 - House 4 – Blue
 - House 5 – Yellow
- **Pi Day:** As you know, March 14th, is Pi Day because of the date 3-14. Pi is an irrational number that is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. The symbol for pi is π . You can learn more about pi from the website:
<https://www.piday.org/>
- **Women's History Month Information:** We continue to honor Women's History Month at Buzz Aldrin in various classes and through advisories.

- **Message from the PTA:**

- **BAMS PTA Ice Skating Party:** On Saturday from 4:45-6:15 (note the slight time change), all Buzz Aldrin students, parents and siblings are invited to a skating party at Clary Anderson Arena. Admission is FREE and free rental skates will be provided (or you can bring your own). Helmets are optional, masks are optional, and as usual, we expect your best behavior!

- **Registration is still open, so please use the link to sign up:** <https://signup.com/go/montDcP>

- **21-Day Racial Equity Challenge:** 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 1st. Students and families are still able to sign up and participate.

- *It's not too late to join the program-- you can catch up at your leisure.*

- (1) To join (you and/or your student) click

- here: <https://signup.com/go/zQuiROL>

- (and then join the private Facebook group)

- (2) To join the private Facebook group (where the content will be posted) (note: this is a new

- link!) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/250905587214343/?ref=share>

- (3) Don't use Facebook? Don't worry, we'll also send you an email with links to the weekly content after you sign up!

- Interim Grades: Marking Period 3 Interim grades will be available to parents after 4 pm on Tuesday, March 15th.

- Message from SEPAC: There will be a SEPAC Parent/Caregiver Zoom Meeting on Monday, March 14th at 7:00 pm. This meeting is ONLY for parents and caregivers of Montclair students with IEPs, 504 plans or suspected learning disabilities to ensure a safe and supportive environment for those in attendance.

- Time: Mar 14, 2022 07:15 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

- Join Zoom Meeting

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88007116954?pwd=SmNLdForWHElWlBSZOZzWVBWcFIwdzO9>

- Meeting ID: 880 0711 6954

- Passcode: 215365

- **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!
- At 2 am on Sunday, March 13th, we spring forward for Daylight Savings time. While we will lose an hour of sleep, we will gain an hour of daylight!
- Happy Pi Day on Monday, March 14th to all of our mathematicians and scientists.
- On Thursday, March 17th, we celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. St. Patrick's Day was originally created to observe the death of St. Patrick of Ireland. Over time, this holiday has evolved in a celebration of the Irish culture, traditions, foods, music, dance, and with the color green. Happy Saint Patrick's Day!
- On Friday, March 18th, we wish everyone a Happy Holi to those who celebrate. The Holi Festival is a Hindu festival that welcomes spring, but also represents a new beginning and a fresh start. May your life be colored with hues of happiness! Enjoy the festive spirit and Happy Holi!

Next Week's Schedule of Days

- Monday, March 14th - F Day
- Tuesday, March 15th - A Day
- Wednesday, March 16th - B Day
- Thursday, March 17th - C Day
- Friday, March 18th - D Day

Please mark your calendars:

- Tuesday, March 15th - Marking Period 3 Interims available @ 4 pm
- Thursday, March 17th - Curriculum Thursday - Abbreviated Day Schedule
- Monday, March 21st - Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 pm

"I never dreamed about success, I worked for it."

- Estee Lauder

"Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else."

-Judy Garland