



Buzz Aldrin Middle School
The STEM Magnet

173 Bellevue Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07043
www.montclair.k12.nj.us



Principal's Bulletin
April 1st, 2022

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:

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

- **Advisory Information:** Today, our students participated in grade-level meetings to discuss middle school stressors, coping skills, and how to handle conflict/mental health issues in a positive manner. Thank you to our school counselors, Ben Brennan and Aja Douglas for presenting on this topic. Additionally, students participated in an SEL advisory, which discussed the five core competencies encompassed by Social-Emotional Learning (SEL). Please see the conversation starters below you can try at home.
 - What are some positive coping skills you can try when feeling overwhelmed or stressed?
 - What should you do if you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed?
 - What does self-awareness mean?
 - What were the five strengths you listed about yourself in the homeroom advisory?
- **Heritage Months:** Today marks the first day of Arab American Heritage Month. This month was established in 2017 as a way to recognize and celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of Arab Americans. Today marks the first day of the Muslim holiday, Ramadan. We would like to wish our Muslim community a Happy Ramadan! Ramadan Mubarak (*Have a Blessed Ramadan*) to all our families participating in this holy month!
- **Middle School Tours:** We are desperately seeking parent volunteers to help with our school tours on April 12th from 7 to 9 pm. Students will lead the tours, but we need parent volunteers to welcome our 5th grade parents, answer questions, and to help with general items. Spanish speaking parents/volunteers are welcome. Please sign up to help using the link:
<https://signup.com/go/NwcQeYv>
- **Career Day Planning:** We would love for any parents and community volunteers to participate in Buzz Aldrin's Annual STEAM Career Day! Career Day is an opportunity for community members to inform our students about various professions by sharing personal knowledge and experiences so our students can learn more about the characteristics, skills, and talents required

in different occupations. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Mr. Dan Taylor at dtaylor@montclair.k12.nj.us. Please see the details below.

- **Date:** Thursday, May 26th
 - **Where:** Virtual presentations given to students via Zoom
 - **Additional Information:** Please see the attached STEM bulletin.
 - **Sign Up:** If you are interested in participating, please complete the Google form: <https://forms.gle/Nd2jxopeVLMzyUvL6>
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- **Honorable Mention:** Congratulations to Buzz Aldrin's Valentina Moscoso for earning an honorable mention in the NJ PTA's Reflections competition. We are so proud of you!

 - **NJHS Update:** This announcement is for 7th and 8th grade students who have been nominated for induction into the National Junior Honor Society. The community service log and two letters of recommendation are due by Monday, April 11th. Late documents cannot be accepted, so please be sure to upload all required documents into Google Classroom on time. Please email Ms. Perillo or Mrs. Megdanis if you have any questions.

 - **Message from Side Door:** Hey everybody! Side Door will be OPEN this Friday and masks are optional. There will be a ton of stuff to do outside plus things to do inside if you'd rather be inside. In addition to all the free food, we'll be selling snacks and pizza. Come have fun with your friends this Friday at Side Door!

 - **Montclair High School Information for 8th graders & families:**
 - On Monday, April 4th, Montclair High School will host an information meeting for all rising 8th graders at the Montclair High School auditorium. At this meeting, students and families will have a chance to learn about the high school from the administrators and more. Please see the attached flyer.

 - Montclair High School will host an Athletic Night on Tuesday, May 24th at 6 pm in the Montclair High School auditorium. All of our high school sports teams will be represented at this event. The event is intended for rising 9th graders through seniors who are interested in participating in athletics for the 2022-2023 school year. Parents/caregivers will be able to speak with our coaches and gather information about what they can expect when they get to the high school.

 - **Middle School Girls Volleyball Clinic Grades: 5-8**
 - **Fee:** \$85
 - When: Thursday Nights from March 31, 2022 - May 26, 2022
 - Where: MHS Main Gym 7:00PM - 8:30PM
 - ****Registration will close once the capacity of 85 is reached. (SPACE IS LIMITED) ****

- Register online at <https://www.leaguelineup.com/forms.asp?url=mountiesmiddleschoolclinic>
 - ***The link above is for registration Only! Payment can be made separately via PayPal or Zelle to mhsgvballboosters@gmail.com. Please include name(s) of participant in online payment. Alternate payments (checks/cash) will be accepted on the first night of the clinic.**
 - **Program Description:** The 8-week clinic features basic instruction for those who are new to the game and advanced training for those with previous experience. The clinic will be run by the Montclair High School Volleyball Coaches. **Masks are optional but strongly recommended! Appropriate athletic attire and knee pads required!**
 - For more information contact Coach Pam Reilly at preilly@montclair.k12.nj.us
- **Message from SEPAC:** On Sunday, May 1st, there will be a Montclair Disability Parade held from 2 to 4 pm. Please see the attached flyer for more information.
 - **Important Information for Parents:**
 - Please speak with your child about his/her/their behavior both in school and uptown. Several local businesses located near the school have reached out urging parents to speak with their children about their conduct and behavior.
 - We are instilling behavior contracts for all three grade levels. Students must maintain appropriate behavior in school to be able to attend field trips/school events.
 - Please visit the district website for the updated COVID-19 guidelines. It is located on the homepage under COVID-19 School Year 2021-2022.
 - **MFEE Update:** MFEE is gearing up for its next big community event: [ShowUS Montclair](#). In 2018, we hosted a **ShowDOWN**, a talent show with a competitive twist. In 2020, we decided to **ShowUP**, bringing us together virtually for a much-needed night of talent, laughter, and togetherness. And now in 2022, it's time to **ShowUS** all the talent that's been hiding right in our midst. On April 30th, we will be inviting the whole town to gather outside at Lackawanna Plaza for a fun evening filled with talented performers and storytellers.
 - **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.
 - On Saturday, April 2nd, we honor World Autism Awareness Day. This day celebrates the resilience of those affected by the disorder and supports autism awareness. You can show your support by wearing the color blue on Saturday!

Additionally, April 1st marks the beginning of Autism Acceptance Month, also known as Autism Awareness Month. This month is dedicated to sharing stories and providing information that promote the understanding and support of people with autism on a worldwide level.

Next Week's Schedule of Days

- Monday, April 4th - C Day
- Tuesday, April 5th - D Day
- Wednesday, April 6th - E Day
- Thursday, April 7th - F Day
- Friday, April 8th - A Day

Please mark your calendars:

- Tuesday, April 5th - PTA Intro to MHS Meeting @ 7 pm
- Wednesday, April 6th - Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 pm
- Tuesday, April 12th - Buzz Aldrin Middle School Tours (7 - 9 pm)
- Friday, April 15th - District Closed, Good Friday
- Monday, April 18th - Friday, April 22nd - District Closed, Spring Recess
- Thursday, April 28th - Curriculum Thursday, Abbreviated Day Schedule

“We are stronger when we listen and smarter when we share.”

- **Queen Rania Al Abdullah**

“When we go deep enough or high enough, we meet. It is only on the surface that we differ and sometimes clash. True, we do not always find our way to the depth or the height, or we do not take the trouble to do so.”

- **Ameen Rihani**