



Buzz Aldrin Middle School
The STEM Magnet

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



Principal's Bulletin
May 6th, 2022

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:

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

- **COVID-19 Masking Update:** In an effort to mitigate our recent COVID-19 numbers, we are implementing a mandatory masking period effective from now through May 13th. Please encourage your child to bring a mask to school every day as well as a backup mask. We are unable to supply masks on a daily basis for the students. We thank you in advance for your help and cooperation with this.
- **Clean Up Montclair:** On Saturday, April 30th, various students and community members worked towards beautifying the grounds of Buzz Aldrin and various locations in Upper Montclair. Thank you to Sareena Sabharwal for spearheading this initiative with Deputy Mayor William Hurlock.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week:** As you know, this week was Teacher Appreciation Week. In honor of this week, consider taking time to send some of your child's teachers a brief note of appreciation. We have been encouraging our students to do the same. Teachers are the heart and soul of our building, and we could not do anything without them. I am eternally grateful and blessed to work among such dedicated staff members who are committed to educating all of our students. Teachers, please know that you are appreciated!
- **PTA Teachers Appreciation Luncheon:** On behalf of the entire staff, I thank our generous and thoughtful PTA for hosting a luncheon in honor of Teacher Appreciation Week for the Buzz Aldrin staff on Wednesday. The staff was grateful, and we all thank you!
- **NJHS Induction Ceremony:** On Thursday, May 5th, we inducted 132 Buzz Aldrin seventh and eighth graders into the National Junior Honor Society. We are so proud of these students who completed the induction requirements for entry into NJHS. In addition to the strong academic records that established the eligibility for membership, our chapter members serve as leaders in many student clubs and organizations, and they provide service to our school and community. The honor society students completed a total of over 3,000 hours of community service this school year. Students served in a variety of ways such

as: providing free tutoring at the library, making meals for Toni's kitchen, coaching at sports camps, reading books at daycare centers, assisting teachers at elementary school events, shoveling snow for neighbors, planting bulbs at Anderson park, and more. Congratulations to the 2022 NJHS Inductees! A heartfelt thank you goes to our two dedicated NJHS club advisors, Ms. Kate Megdanis and Ms. Christin Perillo!

- **Advisory Information:** Today, our students participated in an advisory on Arab American History Month. The students learned various facts about the culture, various Arab countries, and attire. They also learned about the accomplishments of many famous Arab Americans. We will begin our May heritage month advisories next week. The month of May is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Jewish American Month.
 - Questions to ask at home:
 - What is one interesting fact that you learned from today's advisory?
 - Name one famous Arab American who you learned about today. What significant accomplishments did they have in American history?

- **Little Mermaid Production:** Tonight is our final showing of the Little Mermaid spring production. I am so proud of what a wonderful performance our Buzz Aldrin students put on yesterday evening and look forward to another fantastic performance. We are delighted with our performers and Ms. Karen-Ann Panico for their hard work and dedication to the performing arts at Buzz Aldrin. Please join us tonight!
 - When: Friday, May 6th @ 7 pm
 - Doors open at 6:30 pm
 - Where: Buzz Aldrin Middle School Auditorium
 - Details: Adult Tickets \$10.00, Student Tickets \$6.00, Children 6 years and under \$3.00

- **NJSLA Update:** Buzz Aldrin students will participate in New Jersey Student Learning Assessment from May 10th – May 20th. Testing will occur on the morning of each school day, so please ensure your child arrives to school on time with plenty of rest and a healthy breakfast. Additionally, see the important information below. Please review this information with your child prior to testing beginning on Tuesday morning.
 - Each day of testing will follow a delayed opening testing schedule. Testing will begin promptly by 8 am.
 - Students should come to school with their Chromebooks charged. They should also bring their charger as a backup.
 - Parents will not be allowed to drop off Chromebooks until after testing is finished. Since we have a limited number of loaner Chromebooks available, students may have to take their test during a makeup session.
 - Students should bring in their own wired headphones, as they are required for testing. Bluetooth headphones/earbuds are NOT permitted during testing. We will have a limited number of headphones available.

- All student cell phones and electronic devices should be turned off and placed in their book bags. Wearables such as Apple Watches, Fitbits, Garmin Watches, etc., are not permitted during testing. They should be left at home.
- **Buzz Aldrin Community Yard Sale:** Our creative and active PTA is hosting a community yard sale on Saturday, May 21st. The yard sale will be from 9 am to 1 pm in the Buzz Aldrin gymnasium to support our students! We are relying on your **donations** of saleable items and on **volunteers** (both adults and students) to manage donations on May 19th and 20th to help run the sale on May 21st. This event will be lots of fun! Who doesn't love a yard sale? Please start looking around your home for things (no clothes) to donate. Consider signing up below to help out.
 - **Volunteer Sign-ups:**
 - Sign up to Co-Chair: <https://signup.com/go/AnkWAek>
 - Sign up to Volunteer: <https://signup.com/go/XmBXYTm>
- **Yearbook Update:** Yearbooks are nearly sold out and are on a first come first served basis. To order your copy of the yearbook please go to www.jostensyearbooks.com or call 1-877-7675217. Email or yearbook advisor Mrs. Mintz at Jmintz@montclair.k12.nj.us with any questions.
- **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.
- **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.
- I wish everyone a Happy Mother's Day this Sunday! Please enjoy the family time with loved ones.

Next Week's Schedule of Days

- Monday, May 9th - C Day
- Tuesday, May 10th - D Day
- Wednesday, May 11th - E Day

- Thursday, May 12th - F Day
- Friday, May 13th - A Day

Please mark your calendars:

- Friday, May 6th - Little Mermaid School Production @ 7 pm
- Tuesday, May 10th - Friday, May 20th - NJSLA Testing
- Thursday, May 19th - Curriculum Thursday, Abbreviated Day Schedule
- Thursday, May 26th - Career Day & Marking Period 4 Interims Posted
- Friday, May 27th & Monday, May 30th - District Closed, Memorial Day Weekend

“A creator is not in advance of his generation but he is the first of his contemporaries to be conscious of what is happening to his generation.”

- **Gertrude Stein**

“Success isn’t about the end result, it’s about what you learn along the way.”

- **Vera Wang**