



**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**  
**May 13<sup>th</sup>, 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:** Based on guidance from the County Health Department and the district health professionals, the mask mandate will be lifted beginning on Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. We will update the Buzz Aldrin community if changes are needed with this.
- **National School Nurse Day:** On Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated National School Nurse Day with our wonderful school nurse, Ms. Eva McGorry. We are so appreciative of all of the hard work and dedication Ms. Eva has shown to the Buzz community, especially during the trying times of COVID-19. We appreciate you!
- **Little Mermaid Production:** For those of you who had an opportunity to attend the Thursday and Friday evening performances of the Little Mermaid, I am sure you were blown away by the fantastic job our performers did. I certainly was! The school production sets were designed and created by Buzz Aldrin students, and they were so creative and artistic. Our stage crew students also did a wonderful job! Special thank you to Ms. Panico, Mr. Buonocore, Ms. Rodriguez, and Ms. Magnus for all your dedication in making the school productions such a success. Thank you to all of our parents for volunteering your time and support to our theater students. We are all very appreciative.
- **Gifted & Talented Update:** There have been several inquiries about the Gifted & Talented programming. Buzz Aldrin is in alignment with the other two middle schools in that we are currently in the midst identification process in selecting students for next year's Gifted & Talented programming. We've established a committee at Buzz that will assist in the selection of students based on various pathways for entry. Families are expected to receive notification in June if your child has been identified for the G&T program.
- **NJSLA Testing Update:** NJSLA testing will continue next week, from May 16<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup>. Our first week of testing was a success. Thank you to all of our staff for doing such a wonderful job with testing and providing coverage this week. Special thanks to Mr. Persad and Dr. Brennan for coordinating the testing for

the building. This was an arduous task! 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.

- **National Foster Care Month Donation Drive:** Please read the following message donation drive coordinated by our wonderful Language Arts department. May is National Foster Care Month, an initiative of the Children's Bureau. From their website, "Each May, we take time to acknowledge foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, and other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections."

In honor of this month, the language arts seventh-grade students will participate in a **donation drive to support children in foster care**. This closely connects to the seventh-grade novel, *They Cage the Animals at Night* by Jennings Michael Burch, a memoir of a young boy who traveled through orphanages and foster homes in the 1950s.

For the donation drive, we have chosen to support **Together We Rise**, an organization that provides resources for children in foster care. Please consider donating to our school website:

<https://fundraise.togetherwerise.org/campaign/buzz-aldrin/> and help us reach our goal of **\$300!**

Seventh grade students will also create posters to put up around the building, make school announcements with related facts, and collect donations during lunch periods. Our drive officially kicks off on Monday, May 16, but you are welcome to donate as soon as today. We appreciate all of your support in our philanthropic efforts. For further information, please visit the Children's Welfare Resources site:

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/resources/> Thank you in advance for your help and support with this!

- **Buzz Aldrin School Newspaper:** On Monday morning, Buzz Aldrin students are in for a special treat! For the past few months, student journalists of the Buzz Aldrin School Newspaper Club have been hard at work assembling the schoolwide publication. Articles were compiled from both semesters of the Inside Buzz Aldrin class and were also written by a few motivated club members. Topics include a wide-range of issues that concern the middle-school population. All comic strips and activity boards were also digitally created by Buzz Aldrin students. Reading the pages of *The Buzz Aldrin Eagle* will serve as an unexpected treat for the students when they finish their NJSLA exams. Please encourage your child to participate in next year's Newspaper club!
  
- **Buzz Aldrin Community Yard Sale:** Our creative and active PTA is hosting a community yard sale on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. 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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> to help run the sale on May 21<sup>st</sup>. 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. We are in need of three big asks from all of you! All proceeds will go towards graduation and grade-level activities.
  - **Donations:** We are accepting items in good/working condition: toys, games, sports equipment, kitchen items, household goods, art, antiques, small pieces of furniture, books... No clothes please! Donations can be dropped off after school on Thursday and Friday next week, the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Norwood Avenue/Gym entrance.
  - **Volunteers:** We need you and your children to help!
    - **Volunteer Sign-ups:**
      - Adults Sign Up here: <https://signup.com/go/XmBXYTm>
      - Students Sign Up here: <https://signup.com/go/XmBXYTm>
  - **Please spread the word!** You can post on Facebook, tell your friends, and neighbors. Please stop by yourself!
  
- **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](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com) or call 1-877-7675217. Email or yearbook advisor Mrs. Mintz at [Jmintz@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:Jmintz@montclair.k12.nj.us) with any questions.
  
- Please see Mr. Taylor's attached STEM Bulletin.
  
- **Message for 8<sup>th</sup> grade families attending MHS:** Due to a scheduling conflict, we had to change our dates for when physicals are provided. Free athletic physicals will be offered at the fieldhouse at the Aubrey Lewis Sports Complex on the following dates: These will be the only dates we offer free athletic physicals for the 2022-2023 school year.
  - Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> – 5 pm – 8 pm
  - Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> – 5 pm – 8 pm

- **Side Door Update:** Side Door will be open on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, with mainly outdoor activities. This will be the last Side Door of the school year!
- **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.
- **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.

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

- Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> - B Day
- Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> - C Day
- Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> - D Day
- Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> - E Day
- Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> - F Day

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

- Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> -Curriculum Thursday, Abbreviated Day Schedule
- Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> - Poetry Slam @ 7 pm
- Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> - Career Day & Marking Period 4 Interims Posted
- Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> & Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> - District Closed, Memorial Day Weekend

**“Being a fish out of water is tough, but that’s how you evolve.”**

**— Kumail Nanjiani**

**“Trust yourself. Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all your life. Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement.”**

**— Golda Meir**