



**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 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:**

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

- **NJSLA Testing:** NJSLA testing was a success and its completed. We will begin makeup exams next week for the students who were unable to test this week. If your child is taking a makeup exam, please ensure he/she/they brings a fully charged Chromebook to school as well as wired headphones. Thank you to the staff members for doing such a wonderful job supporting the building with testing. It was truly a team initiative and took a great deal of planning! Special thank you to Mr. Persad, Dr. Brennan, and Ms. Gandhi for coordinating this.
- **Advisory Information:** As you know, Buzz Aldrin continues to honor Asian American Pacific Islander and Jewish Heritage Month this May. Our students participated in an advisory this week in which they learned about facts about Asia and Pacific Islanders, the most well-known landmarks in Asian countries, as well as various inventions, tools, and discoveries that contribute to our everyday life.
  - Questions to ask your children at home:
    - What are some of the most popular tourist attractions in Asia?
    - Name one famous Asian American/Pacific Islander you learned about in the advisory.
    - Name one tool or invention that came from Asia.
    - Where did calligraphy originate? What was its original purpose?
- **Buzz Aldrin Poetry Slam:** We are very excited to host Buzz Aldrin's Poetry Slam on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Buzz Aldrin auditorium. We are so proud of our poets and their courage to speak their voice. Please come out and support our performers!
- **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.

- **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 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. Please see the attached flyer.
  - **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.
- **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:** Today is the last day of Side Door for this 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.
- **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 23<sup>th</sup> - A Day
- Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> - B Day
- Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> - C Day
- Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> - Zero Day
- Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> - District Closed

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

- Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> - Curriculum Thursday, Abbreviated Day Schedule
- Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> - Buzz Aldrin Yard Sale @ Buzz - 9 am to 1 pm
- 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

**“In a time of destruction, create something.”**

**— Maxine Hong**

**“It’s not that I’m so smart, it’s just that I stay with problems longer.”**

**— Albert Einstein**