



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

**Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:**

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

- This was a busy week at Buzz Aldrin Middle School, as our students participated in various schoolwide activities. Please see the recap and summary of events below!
- **Buzz Aldrin PTA Yard Sale:** On Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, our PTA hosted its first annual Yard Sale at Buzz Aldrin Middle School. We were pleasantly surprised to see the number of donations and huge assortment of items available for purchase. We did have several student and parent volunteers. All proceeds will be donated towards end of the year activities. Special thanks to Ms. Oster and the PTA for coordinating this event for our school community!
- **Uvalde, Texas:** Our hearts go out to the Uvalde, Texas community, in particular those affected by the tragedy at Robb Elementary School. On Wednesday morning, our staff and students participated in a moment of silence to honor the victims of this horrific attack. The students were also reminded about the importance of following all protocols during school safety drills, as it is proven that safety drills save the lives of others in the event of an emergency. All staff will continue to do their best to ensure the safety of the Buzz Aldrin community.
- **Jewish American Heritage Month Activity:** On Wednesday morning, our students attended an assembly facilitated by Rabbi Laurence Groffman in honor of Jewish American Heritage Month. The assembly was informative and it provided the Buzz Aldrin students with information about the Jewish community in America, as well as the various cultures and traditions within the Jewish community. The students participated in a Q&A session throughout the presentation, and they did a fantastic job answering all of Rabbi Groffman's questions. Thank you to Rabbi Groffman and the Buzz PTA for coordinating this event!
- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip:** On Wednesday, our 6<sup>th</sup> graders attended a field trip to Medieval Times. On this field trip, our students participated in an interactive experience of what life was like during this time period in history. Thank you to

Ms. Drozd, Ms. Scala, and all the chaperones for coordinating this event and making this event run as smoothly as possible.

- **Poetry Slam:** On Wednesday evening, we had our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Poetry Slam at Buzz Aldrin. We had several students produce and perform their poems in front of family and judges. The students demonstrated a tremendous amount of courage by performing, and we celebrate each and every one of them. Congratulations to Zora Tracy, Kayton (Kriss) Reece, and Emma Rodriguez for placing as our top three! Special thank you to Mr. Luke Fess for serving as the club advisor, and thank you to all our judges for volunteering your time.
- **Career Day:** On Thursday, Buzz Aldrin students attended two virtual Career Day presentations conducted by various community members volunteering their time to inform Buzz Aldrin students about their professions, explain their daily job duties, and answer questions from the students. We are appreciative of all the volunteers for donating their time to educate and inspire the Buzz student population. Special thank you to Mr. Taylor for coordinating this initiative for the school!
- **AAPI Cultural Awareness:** On Thursday afternoon, our students participated in an assembly coordinated by Ms. Linda Kow of Montclair's AAPI. This assembly was sponsored by both AAPI Montclair and the Buzz Aldrin PTA. The students had a fantastic time as they learned about the country, history, and traditions of India! The assembly began with an informative presentation including facts and traditions of India, and the students were able to see a dance performance put on by Kulture Kool. At the end of the presentation, all the staff and students participated in a Bollywood dance themselves. The auditorium was electric and our students did an amazing job learning the dance moves! Thank you to the PTA and AAPI for making this event happen for our students.
- **Mental Health Awareness Month:** On Thursday, our students participated in a Mental Health Awareness Advisory in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month. They learned about mental health facts, mental health illnesses, and various coping mechanisms that have proven to be successful.
- **Questions to ask your children at home:**
  - What was one interesting fact or statistic you learned from the Jewish American Heritage Month assembly?
  - Show me one of your Bollywood Dance moves from Thursday!
  - What did you learn from your Career Day presenters? Did the presentations change the way you see these professions?
  - What are two things you can do that have shown to increase mental health?
- **National Foster Care Month Donation Drive Update:** Thank you to all of the generous contributions to our ELA department's donation drive, which supports children in foster care. This connects to our novel, They Cage the Animals at Night by Jennings Michael Burch, which all seventh-graders read this year. **We**

**are happy to announce that we collected \$200 during the lunch collection the past week.** All donations will go to **Together We Rise**, an organization that provides resources for children in foster care. If you would like to contribute, we are still collecting donations until the end of the month:

<https://fundraise.togetherwerise.org/campaign/buzz-aldrin/>. Thank you in advance for your help and support with this!

- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Placement Exam:** On Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> graders enrolled in Math 6 will take the 6<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics placement exam. This exam will be used along with other criteria to best identify your child's appropriate math placement for next year. Additional criteria used to determine math placement include cumulative math grade, midterm score, final exam score, and placement exam performance. This is not a test that students need to prepare for, but rather, a tool that teachers will use to assist with making the most appropriate math recommendation for each child. Individual placement scores are not released, but rather, used in conjunction with the other criteria. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Buzz Aldrin's Math Subject Matter Leader, Ms. Kate Megdanis at [kmegdanis@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:kmegdanis@montclair.k12.nj.us).
- **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
- **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. This behavior is unacceptable.
- **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 relaxing, rejuvenating, and restful Memorial Day on this upcoming Monday. Memorial is a day when we take time to honor and remember the US military members who've lost their lives while serving our nation.

**Next Week's Schedule of Days**

- Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> District Closed
- Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> - D Day
- Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> - E Day
- Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> - F Day
- Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> - A Day

**Please mark your calendars:**

- Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> & Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> - District Closed, Memorial Day Weekend
- Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Spring Dance Concert @ 7 pm
- Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> - Schools Closed, Election Day
- Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> - Curriculum Thursday, Abbreviated Day Schedule
- Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> - Band & Chorus Spring Concert @ 7 pm

**“One small crack does not mean that you are broken, it means that you were put to the test and you didn’t fall apart.”**

**— Linda Poindexter**

**“Life doesn’t make any sense without interdependence. We need each other, and the sooner we learn that, the better for us all.”**

**— Erik Erikson**