



**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**  
**October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:**

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

- Thank you to our wonderful PTA for hosting our first Buzz Aldrin Fall Social. There was a great deal of thought and effort that went into planning such a wonderful outing for our staff and families. Everything was so nicely done from the charcuterie board, to the pizzas and sandwiches, and the beverages. This social gathering gave us a great opportunity to just simply “hang out” together. The parents and staff were absolutely delightful and such wonderful company. Both Ms. Gandhi and I are so appreciative of all the staff members that came to the Fall Social to mingle with our Buzz families and show their support. We were all so happy to be there and felt it was a great idea and a lovely event!
- We had a productive meeting today with our SATp co-chair parents, Mr. Jay Wall and Ms. Shari Stout. We are pleased to announce our first SATp general meeting will be on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. This will be a virtual meeting where parents and staff can collaboratively work together on helping the school meet its desired goals. All are welcome to attend! This is a wonderful way for parents to participate in meaningful growth and change for the school community. Please consider attending. The Zoom meeting information will be shared in next week's bulletin.
- I am pleased to announce that our outdoor tents have arrived and our custodians did a wonderful job installing them!
- On Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, the House 2 teachers participated in the Out Of The Darkness Community Walk at Verona Park. As a team, they raised over \$1,500 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. This foundation is near and dear to them and they will continue to raise money and participate in the walk each year. Thank you to the teachers for volunteering your time and raising this money for such a worthy cause.
- Invitations for the Buzz Aldrin Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society were handed out today during extended homeroom. The NJHS program is for students who are currently in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. To qualify for this program, students must have achieved high-honor roll status (minimum of all A's and the

possibility one B) for last year's final grades. If you have any questions, please email the NJHS Advisors: Kate Megdanis ([kmegdanis@mpsdnj.us](mailto:kmegdanis@mpsdnj.us)) or Christin Perillo ([cperillo@mpsdnj.us](mailto:cperillo@mpsdnj.us)).

- Pooled testing will begin at Buzz Aldrin the week of October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The Language Arts department will administer the Acadience test over the next two weeks to all sixth graders. This is a district level initiative and the information will be used to guide instruction for this year.
- Please see the following updates from SEPAC:
  - Please note that our October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting has been replaced by the 10/14 and 10/20 presentations about reading.
  - Upcoming Events and Resources
    - *Every Sunday in October* - TOPS Soccer - 12-1 pm at Heningburg Field in Montclair.
    - *October 20, 7:00pm* - Ms. Dee Rosenberg, Head of the Laurel School of Princeton & Director of the Ann Robinowitz Education Center, will present an overview on the Science of Reading. Please register in advance for the webinar - [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlIce-oqjssHtTy69fRMs\\_WGccyXzMR2bF8](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlIce-oqjssHtTy69fRMs_WGccyXzMR2bF8)
    - *October 22, 2021* - Montclair NAACP Dyslexia Poster Contest - Submissions due by 10/22, see attached flyer
    - *October 27, 2021* - Parent Empowerment Workshop - "How Do I Know Whether My Child's Reading Program is Appropriate?". Sign up with this [Google Form](#).
    - *Volunteer Lawyers for Justice Resource* - Please click [here](#) for the recording of a webinar on Unfulfilled IEPs and Compensatory Education
- **General Reminders & Updates for Parents/Families:**
  - Cell phone use is not permitted during the school day. Parents should not text or call their children during school hours.
  - Masks are required at all times while in the building. If students fail to wear their masks in school, he/she/they will be sent home. If possible, please send your child to school with an extra mask in case the original mask is misplaced or damaged.
  - Please make sure your child has a water bottle with him/her/them each school day.
  - Students are required to bring their fully charged Chromebooks to school each day. We are also encouraging students to bring their Chromebook chargers to school.
  - Please complete a free/reduced meal application if you would like to do so. The online form is available at <https://www.nlappscloud.com/> and hard copies are available in the main office. You may also visit the Department of Agriculture's website to access an application in a language other than

English or Spanish (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/translated-applications>).

- Again, please **DO NOT** drop off or pick up your child in the front of the building or in a location where they must cross the street. Grownups need to remain in their cars, and be sure not to block the staff parking lot while waiting for their children. Students should not cross the street at any location other than the designated crosswalks. Parents should not stand in the staff parking lot to pick up their children. This is a safety issue. Despite the number of times this is written in my communications, this is still an issue. Please abide by the school's rules.
  - **Parents are not permitted to drop off belongings, lunches, materials throughout the day.** We will not accept materials dropped off during the school day. Therefore, it is essential that you make sure your child has all the necessary materials he/she/they would need prior to entering school for the day.
  - The health forms must be completed by 7:00 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This must be done in order for students to attend classes. If students do not complete the health forms, they will need to wait in the auditorium until they can complete one themselves. This results in a loss of valuable instructional time.
  - There are no visitors permitted in the building at any time.
  - Please encourage your child to leave their desk shields (dividers) in their lockers. We do not have enough extras to provide loaners for all those who forget.
  - All students must have their masks on at all times. If possible, please send your child to school with an extra mask in case the original mask is misplaced or damaged. If students cannot follow the mask policy, they will be sent home.
  - Parents are not permitted to ask teachers for remote instruction without prior approval granted from building administration. Remote instruction can only be granted for COVID-related reasons.
- Side Door Announcement: Are your children looking for something to do on Fridays after school? Side Door is open every Friday for the month of October, and there will be lots of outdoor activities and games, plus free food! It's located a short walk from Buzz Aldrin, on Cooper Ave (right down the street from CVS). You don't have to register to go, and it's FREE! For more information or to pre-register your child, go to [sidedoormontclair.org](http://sidedoormontclair.org). Activities will be outdoors, but masks are required. Please see the attached student and parent flyer.
  - **After School Clubs & Activities Protocols:**
    - Students are not permitted to leave the building and return for afterschool activities. They must remain in the building until the program/club has ended.
    - Students are responsible for their own transportation home from all clubs and activities. Please pick your children up in a timely manner.

- Club advisors and staff members do not participate in arranging car pools or parent pick-ups after the club ends.
  - Students must report directly to the designated club meeting room or location immediately after the dismissal bell rings.
  - Students are to report to their lockers at dismissal then to the club meeting with their belongings. They will be dismissed straight from the designated club room.
  - Students are not permitted to go to their lockers or roam throughout the building after a club or activity is dismissed. This is a safety issue. If this occurs, a student may be removed from the club or activity.
- Yearbooks: Yearbooks are now on sale! To order your copy of the yearbook please visit <https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/students-and-parents/about-yearbooks>, or reach out to Mrs. Mintz (Jmintz@montclair.k12.nj.us) with any questions.
- **School Musical Production: The Little Mermaid Junior**
    - We are pleased to announce this year's Buzz Aldrin Musical Production is Disney's *The Little Mermaid Junior*. The production will be both exciting and a visual delight. The fairy tale about a mermaid living in an undersea country. The production is full of catchy songs and enchanted fairytale theater magic. The *Little Mermaid* is for anyone who enjoys all aspects of theater. We are looking for ALL students who want to be a part of this musical and join our theater family. We support students who part of other clubs/sports/extracurricular activities.
    - There was an informational meeting that took place this week. If you missed the meeting, but are still interested in signing up, please email Ms. Panico at [kpanico@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:kpanico@montclair.k12.nj.us) by Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.
    - **Auditions:** Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> @ dismissal until approx. 4:30 pm. Students will be permitted to text when they are ready to be picked up, if earlier than 4:30 pm. Students must arrange for their own transportation home.
- **Halloween Spooktacular Dance: The 2021 Buzz Spooktacular Halloween dance will be held outdoors on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 pm.** This is a PTA sponsored event. There will be a DJ, a photo booth, water, sweet treats and lots of spooky fun. Please see the attached flyer.
    - Check in and pick up will be at the Lorraine Avenue parking lot entrance ONLY, and permission slips are REQUIRED.
    - Parents: Please click below to contribute badly needed items or your time! <https://signup.com/go/jKvgQgD>
    - If your child is attending, please review these expectations and discuss them with your child. Then fill out the permission slip below!
      - Students must be picked up promptly at 9 pm, and are not permitted to leave early. The PTA is not responsible for your child or their behavior when they leave school grounds.
      - Costumes are welcome but not required.
      - NO costume masks or weapons permitted.

- COVID masks must be worn at all times (unless eating or drinking)
- Appropriate behavior is expected at all times. No littering! Respect school property, school staff and the volunteers.
- Current BAMS students ONLY.
- Students will not be permitted to enter without a permission slip.
- ONLINE PERMISSION SLIP (preferred!)  
<https://signup.com/go/cSJBSZO>

**Next Week's Schedule of Day**

- Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> – B Day
- Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – C Day
- Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> – D Day
- Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> – E Day
- Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> – F Day

**Please mark your calendars:**

- Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> – Board of Education Meeting @ 7 pm
- Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> – Abbreviated Day Schedule, Curriculum Thursday
- Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> – Virtual SATp Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> – PTA Halloween Dance @ 7 pm

**“If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things.”  
– Albert Einstein**

**“Everything negative – pressure, challenges – is all an opportunity for me to rise.”  
– Kobe Bryant**