



Buzz Aldrin Middle School
The STEM Magnet

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



Principal's Bulletin
October 22nd, 2021

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:

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

- Students participated in various advisories this week, such as learning about HIB, promoting a positive school culture, and online cyber safety during extended homerooms. Thank you to our school counselors for organizing these important activities for our students. Additionally, all of our students participated in a schoolwide evacuation drill on Wednesday. I am pleased to say that our staff and students handled the drill remarkably. I am very proud of them and the excellent behavior exhibited.
- In Dr. Ponds' Community Message #6, he stated that parents will have the option to choose whether or not their children continue to use desk shields in classrooms beginning on Monday, November 8th. Please complete the Google Form below to indicate your preference for your child by Friday, October 29th, 2021.
 - [Desk Shield Use Google Form](#)
- On Tuesday, October 26th at 6:30 pm, we will have our first SATp general committee meeting. The meeting will be virtual. All staff and families are welcome to attend and join this committee. The purpose of the School Action Team for partnership (SATp) is for families and the community to collaboratively work together to promote positive change and work towards school goals for the Buzz Aldrin community. This is a wonderful way for parents to participate in meaningful growth and change for the school community. This year's goals will focus on character education, promoting an antiracist school culture, and improving the overall school climate. Please consider joining. The Zoom meeting link is listed below.
 - **Topic: SATp General Meeting**
 - Time: Oct 26, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
 - Zoom Meeting link: <https://mpsdnj.zoom.us/j/86010391201>
 - Passcode: 582544
- Pooled testing will begin at Buzz Aldrin the week of October 25th.

- The Language Arts department will finish administering the Acadience test next week 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 - Please note that our October 25th meeting has been replaced by the 10/14 and 10/20 presentations about reading.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 22, 2021* - Montclair NAACP Dyslexia Poster Contest - Submissions due by 10/22
 - *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:**
 - As the cooler weather approaches, please ensure your children are dressed appropriately for outdoor conditions. This means he/she/they should have a coat, sweatshirt, hat, or any other clothing that allows for them to be comfortable during the day and for outdoor lunch/recess.
 - 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. If students cannot follow the mask policy, they will be sent home.
 - 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 a problem. 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 health forms are not completed in time, students 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.
 - 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.
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- 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. Activities will be outdoors, but masks are required. Please see the attached student and parent flyer.
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- **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.
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- 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 by Monday, October 25th.
 - **Auditions:** Friday, October 29th @ 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 29th 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.
 - Pizza and food items will not be sold at the event.
 - 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.
 - **Drop off is ONLY at the Lorraine Avenue parking lot entrance. Please park on the same side of the school for safety reasons.**
 - 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.
 - SUBMIT ONLINE PERMISSION SLIP HERE (this is preferred method - click on the link, scroll down to "Attend Event", and submit the requested information)
 - <https://signup.com/go/cSJBSZO>

- If you cannot fill out the online form, you may download and print out the required form (link below) and have your child bring it to the event. <https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/public/uploads/7c59fb0e-e9d3-4431-b30b-8889dd933e3d>
- Please see Mr. Taylor's attached STEM Bulletin.
- Spirit Week: Next week is our first Spirit Week at Buzz Aldrin! For our Fall Spirit week, each day has a set theme listed below. Please see the attached flyer for more details.
 - Monday - Cozy Pajama Day
 - Tuesday - Pink Out Day
 - Wednesday - Flannel Day
 - Thursday - Buzz Spirit Day
 - Friday - Costume Day

Next Week's Schedule of Days

- Monday, October 25th - A Day
- Tuesday, October 26th - B Day
- Wednesday, October 27th - C Day
- Thursday, October 28th - D Day
- Friday, October 29th - E Day

Please mark your calendars:

- Tuesday, October 26th - Virtual SATp Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- Friday, October 29th - PTA Halloween Dance @ 7 pm
- Monday, November 1st - Student Council Elections
- Tuesday, November 2nd - Election Day, Schools Closed
- Thursday & Friday, November 4th & 5th - Schools Closed, Teachers Convention
- Tuesday, November 9th - Picture Day Retakes
- Wednesday, November 10th - PTA Meeting @ 7 pm

“We cannot be separated in interest or divided in purpose. We stand together until the end.”

- Woodrow T. Wilson

“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

- Henry Ford

