



Buzz Aldrin Middle School
The STEM Magnet

173 Bellevue Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07043

www.montclair.k12.nj.us



Principal's Bulletin
October 8th, 2021

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:

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

- The Week of Respect was a busy week here at Buzz Aldrin. Our students participated in two schoolwide advisories to celebrate this special week. The first advisory was all about the word respect, what respect means to you, and showing respect and empathy for others. Students participated in various activities such as a respect self-assessment, a thumbs up activity, and a respect scavenger hunt. The second advisory covered Hispanic Heritage Month. The students learned about various cultures, cuisines, music, arts, entertainment, and the different countries. Thank you to our lovely school counselors for planning the SEL activities.
- Our students also took the Start Strong assessments this week in Mathematics, ELA, and Grade 6 Science. There was a great deal of preparation and planning that went into this test administration, as it was so early in the school year. This week went so well and I am very grateful! We will schedule make up assessments for next week. Special thank you to Shivan Persad, Ben Brennan, Marni Latman, and Nisha Gandhi for all your hard work.
- Our amazing PTA cordially invites you to our first Buzz Aldrin PTA Fall Social. This is a chance for Buzz Aldrin community members to come together and celebrate what makes Buzz Aldrin special. All Buzz Aldrin parents, caregivers, teachers and staff are invited to an outdoor Parent & Teacher Fall Social at the Montclair Bread Company on Wednesday, October 13th from 6-8 pm. RSVPs are requested for headcount and contact tracing purposes. The event is free but the Buzz Aldrin PTA is grateful for any donations to help cover the cost. Please see the attached flyer and you can RSVP using the link below.
 - <https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/519117>
- Do you have a child with an IEP or 504? If you do, please consider joining SEPAC's confidential email list by contacting MontclairSEPAC@gmail.com. The Montclair Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a group of parents, professionals and concerned community members with a shared interest in and concern for special education issues.

SEPAC holds open monthly meetings, often featuring topical experts, and member gatherings where families can share information, experiences and concerns

- Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/montclairsepac or our website at <https://montclairpta.org/sepac/>

The Buzz Aldrin SEPAC liaisons are Cathy Patullo and Andrea Smalley. SEPAC liaisons support each of the Montclair public schools by connecting SEPAC with the school administration, PTA and families. Please contact either of them at smalleyandrea@gmail.com or weezer1773@aol.com with questions regarding special needs issues.

- Please join me in welcoming our new school counselor Ms. Aja Douglas. Ms. Douglas is taking the place of Ms. Morrison and will serve as our school counselor for the following groups of students:
 - 7th Graders: Last Names beginning with M - Z
 - 8th Graders: ALL 8th graders
- **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. 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.
- Did you know? The MPS website is multilingual! We have many families in Montclair for whom English is not their native language, and the administration wants everyone to be included and well-informed.

The MPS website can be easily and automatically translated into the following languages: Spanish, French, German, Italian, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Russian, and Hindi. To use this function, simply go to <https://www.montclair.k12.nj.us/> and click on "Language".

- Try outs for Montclair Police Athletic League (PAL) basketball travel teams for grades 5th through 8th grade girls & boys will begin next week. **No basketball experience necessary, first time players are encouraged to try out.**
 - Register your child at the following link:
<https://montclairpal.org/competitive-team/>
 - **Location:** Charles H. Bullock School gym (55 Washington St. Montclair, NJ)
 - **Dates:** Week of 10/11 - 10/15
 - Tuesday (6pm - 7:30pm): 5th Boys
 - Wednesday (6pm - 7:30pm): 6th Girls, 7th Girls, 8th Girls
 - Thursday (6pm - 7:30pm): 6th Boys, 7th Boys, 8th Boys
 Dates and times are subject to change so make sure you create an account at the link above so you receive updates.

- Please see Mr. Taylor's STEM bulletin.

- Buzz Aldrin Club/Activity Announcements: Please note that all students must arrange for their own transportation home for all clubs and activities.
 - Yearbook Club - The Yearbook Club is looking for members! Please join our Google Classroom for updates about our first meeting! The classroom code is lofsl2f.
 - School Production: 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. Auditions will be held in mid-late October and our production is tentatively in April 2022. For more information or if you are interested in joining, please email Ms. Karen-Ann Panico at kpanico@montclair.k12.nj.us.
 - Informational Meeting: Wednesday, October 13th from 2:15 to 3:00PM. students must arrange for their own transportation home.
 - Auditions: Friday, October 29th @ Dismissal
 - Model Congress/Model UN - Are you passionate about an issue that has a local, national, or global impact? Do you want to learn more about how our government works? Do you enjoy debating? At Model Congress and Model UN, students learn debating techniques associated with Parliamentary procedure. Model Congress is held in the Fall/Winter with a concentration on Congressional issues, and Model UN is held in the Spring, with a concentration on world issues. Students may participate in either club or both clubs. Our first Model Congress meeting was held on Tuesday, October 5th in Room 215. If you have any questions, please email club advisor, Mr. Joseph Turner at jturner@montclair.k12.nj.us.

- GSA – The GSA is an inclusive and confidential group that allows members of any gender or sexuality (allies encouraged!) to come together to discuss LGBTQIA+ community. This club provides a safe space for students to share their experiences, their questions, and concerns regarding gender and sexuality. Please join us and talk about your week, make new friends, and be a part of a larger cause! The first GSA meeting will be held on Friday, October 8th from 2:15 to 3:15 pm in Room 215. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact club advisors, Ms. Dana Glaser or Mr. Joseph Turner at dglaser@montclair.k12.nj.us or jturner@montclair.k12.nj.us.
 - Science Olympiad – Students who have a love for STEM should consider joining the Science Olympiad team. Science Olympiad held an interest meeting on Wednesday, October 6th. Please see or email Mr. Jeffrey Lawton at jlawton@montclair.k12.nj.us if you have any questions.
 - Stage Crew – Stage Crew met on Wednesday, October 6th in Room 114. This meeting was for any student interested in joining Stage Crew. Please email Mr. David Buonocore at dbuonocore@montcliar.k12.nj.us if you have any questions.
 - Greenhouse – Greenhouse students continue to work on improving the landscape of the front of the building. Later this month, students will plant native and pollinating species with the help of the NEEC. These plants will be placed around the Greenhouse in the pre-established flower beds. If you know anyone who is interested in helping us procure plants for the front of BAMS, please contact Mr. Daniel Taylor, at dtaylor@montclair.k12.nj.us.
- I wish you all a Happy Indigenous Peoples' Day, celebrated on Monday, October 11th! This holiday celebrates and honors Native American people and commemorates their histories and cultures. The schools are closed for students, but the district will be open for Staff Professional Development. On Monday, more states, cities, and communities than ever will observe Indigenous Peoples' Day in place of or in addition to Columbus Day.

Next Week's Schedule of Day

- Monday, October 11th – District Closed
- Tuesday, October 12th – D Day
- Wednesday, October 13th – E Day
- Thursday, October 14th – F Day
- Friday, October 15th – A Day

Please mark your calendars:

- Monday, October 11th – Schools Closed, PD for Teachers
- Wednesday, October 13th – PTA Teacher/Staff Fall Social @ 6 pm
- Thursday, October 21st – Abbreviated Day Schedule, Curriculum Thursday

“If people respect you respect them back, if they disrespect you respect them back. They represent their ideology you represent yours.”

-Anonymous

“I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university.”

-Albert Einstein