



**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**  
**November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:**

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

- On Monday evening, we had our first SATp general membership meeting, where our parent participants were dynamic and conversation was rich and filled with passion and the tone was inspiring. Special thank you to Ms. Shari Stout and Mr. Jay Wall for being our SATp co-chairs. Thank you to Ms. Chambers, Ms. Cool, Ms. Douglas, Ms. Grassi, Ms. Kinnas, and Ms. McDonald for joining the SATp committee and attending our first meeting. The work that we are doing is meaningful and important, and we hope to have a stronger turnout in the future. We look forward to seeing more parents attend.
- On Wednesday, Start With Hello met for their second meeting of the year. They split into committees and started to plan out the details of the first club project. These students are truly working together to spread inclusion, positivity and thankfulness throughout Buzz. Start With Hello's next meeting date will be forthcoming.
- On Wednesday evening, we had our monthly PTA meeting hosted by Ms. Avdicevic, Ms. Jenkins, Ms. Oster, Mr. Muller, and Ms. Redfern. We discussed various current topics and the parents had an opportunity to participate in a Q&A with our staff members, as they sought tips and strategies for assisting their 7<sup>th</sup> graders in success.
- On Thursday and Friday, the Buzz students participated in grade-level meetings. We reminded the students about the importance of behaving appropriately and respectfully in the school. Additionally, we laid out clear expectations and explained the consequences if students cannot follow the rules.
- Without question, this was a challenging week. However, we are grateful for the tireless support from our staff, and extremely appreciative for our understanding parents and caretakers. We appreciate your support and collaboration, as it is so important for the betterment of the entire school community.

- Tonight, our children will have an opportunity to enjoy themselves with their friends at the wonderful PTA sponsored Harvest Fest Fall Dance. We truly thank our entire PTA board and the parent community for working so hard to make life as normal as possible for our students. Thank you to all of the families who donated items or their time chaperoning. It is greatly appreciated!
- Congratulations to Ms. Kristine Norat, who gave birth to her son, Darius Jewel on November 1<sup>st</sup>. We are happy to report Darius is a healthy, lively, and energetic baby boy! Ms. Teresa Giarrusso will serve as Ms. Norat's maternity leave substitute. Ms. Giarrusso is an experienced journalist with a strong background in both ELA and Social Studies. We welcome Ms. Giarrusso to the Buzz team!
- **Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive** - Our community of teachers, staff, students, and parents will be creating Thanksgiving food baskets for 50 BAMS families to ensure they have a warm and festive holiday celebration. We need all of our families to join together as a community to purchase the needed supplies. Special thanks to our generous PTA, our parent donors, and our staff members in supporting this initiative. Please give generously in the true BAMS community spirit!
  - **To donate funds towards the purchase of the needed items, please click here: <https://buzzaldrintpta.memberhub.com/store/items/547648>**
  - **Or shop for items from this list. <https://signup.com/go/YPXQfTv>**
  - **FOOD DONATIONS DROP OFF/COLLECTION:** (1) Send in items with your children, who will give them to their homeroom teachers, or (2) drop off donations (except for turkeys) ON WEEKDAYS ONLY starting today through November 22<sup>nd</sup>, between the hours of 9 am - 1pm and 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm in the designated bin on the loading dock on Norwood Avenue. No glass bottles or perishable items please.
  - TURKEY DROP OFF is on Tuesday, November 23 ONLY.
  - Thank you for your generosity during this holiday season!
- Message from SEPAC:
  - MPS & SEPAC are co-hosting an Acadience webinar on Tuesday November 16<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:30. This presentation will be informative for all families and we should ensure our communities have the details.
    - [https://www.montclair.k12.nj.us/news/news\\_stories/m\\_p\\_s\\_\\_s\\_e\\_p\\_a\\_c\\_co\\_host\\_acadience\\_webinar/](https://www.montclair.k12.nj.us/news/news_stories/m_p_s__s_e_p_a_c_co_host_acadience_webinar/)
- We are seeking nominations for the 2021-2022 Governor's Educator of the Year Award! Governor's Educator of the Year (GEOY) nominations sought for our amazing teachers and educational service professionals. Please see the attached GEOY nomination form to nominate one of our fabulous staff members. The criteria states that the winners of this award must not have earned the title of School Teacher of the Year or Educational Services Professional (ESP) of the

Year in the past five years. Nominations are due by Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. The most recent awardees were:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Teacher of the Year</b>	<b>ESP of the Year</b>
2020-2021	Jacqueline Brower	Maritza DeJesus
2019-2020	Joseph Turner	Toni Paccione
2018-2019	Kate Megdanis	Lora Orta
2017-2018	Tracey Belsky	Donna Kobza
2016-2017	Nisha Gandhi	Eva McGorry

Educational Services Professionals include the following: • Anti-Bullying Specialist • Athletic Trainer • Behavior Specialist • Child Study Team • Cooperative Education Coordinator/Hazardous Occupations • Educational Interpreter (Cued Speech, Transliteration, Oral Interpreting, Sign Language Interpreting) • Guidance / School Counselor • Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant • Library Media Specialist • Mathematics Specialist / Mathematics Coach • Nurse (Instructional & Non-instructional) • Occupational Therapist • Paraprofessional (Instructional only) • Physical Therapist • Psychologist • Reading Specialist / Reading Coach • Social Worker • Speech Language Specialist • Student Assistant Coordinator • Technology Coach

• **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.
- When students have indoor recess, they will be in the auditorium. Since there are simultaneous classes running in the auditorium, it is important that students bring their own books to read or something he/she/they can work on independently. It is their free time to unwind and relax, but we must be mindful to our dance classes.
- 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 school 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 while school is in session. Therefore, it is essential that you make sure your child has all the necessary materials he/she/they would need prior to entering the building.
  - 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 when not in use. 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.
- 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 carpools 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.
- The class list for Disney's Little Mermaid has been posted! Congratulations to our amazingly talented cast. We are so proud of all of our starts! Please contact Ms. Kaelin-Panico at [kpanico@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:kpanico@montclair.k12.nj.us) if you have any questions.
  - 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.
  - Please see Mr. Taylor's attached STEM Bulletin 11-12-21.

### **Next Week's Schedule of Days**

- Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> – F Day
- Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> – A Day
- Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – B Day
- Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> – C Day
- Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> – D Day

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

- Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> – Abbreviated Day Schedule, Curriculum Thursday
- Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 pm
- November 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Holiday, District Closed

**“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.”**

– **Mother Teresa**

**“Learning is a result of listening, which in turn leads to even better listening and attentiveness to the other person. In other words, to learn from the child, we must have empathy, and empathy grows as we learn.”**

– **Dan Lipinski**