



Buzz Aldrin Middle School
The STEM Magnet

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



Principal's Bulletin
November 19th, 2021

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:

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

- Today, our students participated in gratitude advisories in their respective homerooms. They learned the importance of showing gratitude, expressed gratitude towards others, and participated in lively discussions about the value of being grateful. Please ask your child what they said they are grateful for in their homeroom discussions!
- Please join me in wishing Mr. Taylor and the Buzz Aldrin Robotics team the best of luck with tomorrow's Robotics competition. Mr. Taylor and the Robotics students have worked very hard and we are proud of their commitment and dedication!
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Competition: For 23 years, the Alpha Alpha Lambda Scholarship and Educational Foundation, Inc. in partnership with the Alpha Alpha Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has sponsored an annual [Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical Competition](#) for Essex County young men in 7th and 8th Grade. It is time once again to encourage our young men to submit their 6 - 7 minute video on the Topic "Dr. King's Perspectives on the World Today". Preliminary submissions are due no later than Monday, November 22nd at 5pm EST. Please see the attached flyer for more information and encourage your child to participate in this wonderful opportunity.
- Reflections Competition: There is a wonderful competition called "Reflections", in which students are encouraged to express themselves through writing, art, and/or photography. Please see the link <https://montclairpta.org/reflections-2021-22/> and the attached flyer for more information. We encourage all of our Buzz Aldrin students to participate!
- PTA Holiday Party: Since the PTA's Fall Social was such a glowing success, they are planning another holiday party due to the overwhelming requests to have another social event. On Thursday December 2nd, our wonderful PTA is hosting a Buzz Holiday Party from 7 pm to 11 pm. This will provide our staff and families a nice opportunity to meet and greet and mingle during the winter

months. Please see the attached flyer for more details. Additionally, please RSVP using the link below.

- PTA Buzz Holiday Party RSVP Link:
<https://buzzaldrintpta.memberhub.com/store/items/549847>
- Please see the attached COVID Weekly Vaccination Flyer from Essex County. This flyer explains options for Essex County residents to vaccinate children who are ages 5-11 years if they choose to do so.
- Holiday Travel & Remote Instruction: If you are planning on traveling during the November or December breaks, please complete the Google form no later than 11 am on Tuesday, November 23rd. If you sent an email to administration or the office, please complete the Google form anyway so that we have all the travel information housed in one location. Use the link below to let us know:
 - Holiday Travel Google Form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfj6tjazOAvJOjd-laCJL8TrKPVxT_rcoiUskC7CugegkBwQ/viewform
- 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>
 - **FOOD DONATIONS DROP OFF/COLLECTION:** If you signed up to donate an item please drop off or send in with your child by 11 am on Monday morning.
 - TURKEY DROP OFF is on Tuesday, November 23 ONLY.
 - Thank you for your generosity during this holiday season! We are so proud of how much our Buzz community has donated!
- 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 have been extended to Tuesday, November 23rd. Please consider nominating one of our staff members!! The most recent awardees were:

| Year | Teacher of the Year | ESP of the Year |
|-------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 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.
- **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.
 - 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.

Next Week's Schedule of Days

- Monday, November 22nd – E Day
- Tuesday, November 23rd – F Day
- Wednesday, November 24th – A Day, Abbreviated Day Schedule

- Thursday, November 25th – Thanksgiving Holiday, District Closed
- Friday, November 26th – Thanksgiving Holiday, District Closed

Please mark your calendars:

- Thursday, November 18th – Abbreviated Day Schedule, Curriculum Thursday
- Monday, November 22nd – Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 pm
- November 25th & 26th – Thanksgiving Holiday, District Closed
- Wednesday, December 1st – Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 pm
- Thursday, December 2nd – PTA Holiday Party @ 7 pm

“Reflect upon your present blessings—of which every man has many—not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.”

—Charles Dickens

“When eating fruit, remember the one who planted the tree.”

—Vietnamese Proverb