



Buzz Aldrin Middle School

The STEM Magnet

173 Bellevue Avenue

Montclair, NJ 07043

www.montclair.k12.nj.us



Principal's Bulletin

November 24th, 2021

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:

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

- Please join me in congratulating Mr. Daniel Taylor and the Buzz Aldrin Robotics team for their wonderful accomplishments at the Robotics competition this past Saturday. The Robotics team, led by Danica Stout and Aseem Rai made it to states and received a project award. The judges expressed that they were impressed in many ways by the team's two presentations (research project and robot design and programming) and team conduct. The Robotics team had wonderful peer mentors, Joshua Stout and Andrew Press. The team of students did an exceptional job competing this past Saturday and we are so proud of all their hard work and dedication. We are looking forward to the NJ State Robotics Competition next month. Congratulations to team members Aseem Rai, Danica Stout, Gabriella Mehta, Anisa Adhami, Wyatt Foster, Max Bellack, Collin Brooks, Sabrina Juergensen, Charlotte Wurmser. Also, thank you to Joshua Stout and Andrew Press, our club mentors and former alumni.
- Reflections Competition: There is an excellent 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, and due to the overwhelming requests to have another social event, the PTA is planning another holiday party. 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 an opportunity to meet, greet and mingle once again. Please see the attached flyer for more details. Additionally, please RSVP using the link below.
 - PTA Buzz Holiday Party RSVP Link:
<https://buzzaldrinpta.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.
- Thanksgiving Food Basket Drive – Special thank you to the Buzz Aldrin PTA, the Buzz Aldrin community, and our wonderful staff members for doing such an incredible job with the Thanksgiving baskets. I can personally say that the families who received baskets were extremely grateful and appreciative of your thoughtfulness. Thank you to Ms. Jacqueline Brower for leading and organizing this annual tradition, the generous Buzz parent/PTA community for their support, and all of our staff members for your help. This was a tremendous success, as we doubled the number of baskets that we distributed in past years. Thank you to the following staff members for your assistance with putting the baskets together and distribution: Michael Santos, Paulette Schlatmann, Shivan Persad, Marilyn Pichardo, Diana Grassi, Michele Kinnas, Emanuel Sargeant, Tara Berger, Arin Leard, Dana Glaser, Taylor Mandel, Daniel Taylor, Cheryl Cottle, Dwight Phillips, Nisha Gandhi, and Aja Douglas for all your help.
- **General Reminders & Updates for Parents/Families:**
 - Please remind your children he/she/they must be careful with their Chromebooks. The district-issued devices need to be taken care of, and we have many students who are placing requests for damaged devices.
 - 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 also be mindful of 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.

- I wish all our Buzz staff, students, and families who celebrate a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday weekend! Please enjoy the long weekend—take a few minutes to reflect on this year and share what you are grateful for with others.
- On Friday, November 26th, we wish you a wonderful American Indian Heritage Day! On this day, we celebrate the historical, cultural, and social contributions of the American Indian communities to the state and country. November is American Indian Heritage Month, and our teachers participated in wonderful activities such as:
 - Exploring Joy Harjo, the first Native American poet laureate, in Ms. Grassi's 8th grade classrooms
 - Studying the cultural significance of food and “Frybread Dreams” by Richard Walker in Ms. Grassi's 7th grade classrooms
 - The exploration of “The Salad Bowl” metaphor to describe multiculturalism in the United States. Analysis of stories, maps, and graphs, as well as the languages of the Native American peoples in Prof. Romero's classrooms
 - Discussing the current exhibit at Montclair Art Museum “Color Riot: How Color Changed Navajo Textiles”, featuring vibrant works from 1860-present and celebrating the courage and vision to experiment creatively, while honoring the history of the Navajo people in Ms. Kaiser's classrooms.
 - Learning about Dr. Susan LaFlesch-Picotte, the first Native American female doctor, of the Omaha tribe (who has a French and New Jersey connection as well!) in Madame Woody and Madame Thompson's classrooms.
 - Studying the Aztecs and Incas in Ms. Eden-Mintz's seventh grade classes and participating in a fun and exciting Inca relay activity. Students will be required to answer questions at the end of the road which must then be relayed back to the Cuzco
 - Learning about the lasting impacts of European Colonization of the New World in Mr. Persad's seventh grade classes
 - Studying the impact of westward expansion and settlement on Native American groups in Mr. Persad's eighth grade classrooms
 - Reading Newsela articles that address Native American cultures and customs
 - Creating children's books about Native American history and analyzing the geography and contributions of several North American and South American groups in Mr. Turner's seventh grade classes
 - Conducting weekly discussions on the life, legacy, and contributions of Native American individuals in Mr. Turner's sixth grade classrooms
 - Studying the history and origins of Native American Heritage Month in Mr. Reissig's classes.

- Exploring a reading from “An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States” to learn US history from the perspective of Native Americans in Mr. Reissig’s eighth grade classes, specifically learning about Tecumseh and his attempts to organize a Pan-Indian resistance to American settlement in the years following the War for Independence
- Sunday, November 29, marks the first night of Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights that commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem. Wishing those who celebrate a happy holiday!

Next Week’s Schedule of Days

- Monday, November 29th – B Day
- Tuesday, November 30th – C Day
- Wednesday, December 1st – D Day
- Thursday, December 2nd – E Day
- Friday, December 3rd – F Day

Please mark your calendars:

- 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

“I have seen that in any great undertaking it is not enough for a man to depend simply upon himself.”

- **Lone Man (Isna-la-wica)**

“Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse.”

- **Henry Van Dyke**