



**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**  
**December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

**Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:**

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

- On Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, our fabulous PTA hosted a Buzz PTA Holiday Party at the Pineapple Express restaurant. The event was a huge success! Every parent I spoke to was grateful to all the teachers who attended and shared their love for the Buzz Aldrin faculty and staff, and the community as a whole. The parents were so grateful for what all of our staff members have done this year. I am so grateful to the PTA for hosting the event and to our staff and parents for attending this lovely celebration. We had a fantastic time! Special thanks to the following staff members for attending yesterday's event: Atara Bernhiem Aq, Jackie Brower, Dave Buonocore, Sharon Chambers, Cheryl Cottle, Ana Dooley, Stephanie Drozd, Luke Fess, Jeff Gannon, Diana Grassi, Brian Hillman, John Montesano, Shivan Persad, Marilyn Pichardo, and Mike Santos.
- Beginning on Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, we will no longer issue loaner Chromebook devices to students. Students will be responsible for bringing their own charged devices to school. Additionally, we are not accepting parent drop offs for any items other than Chromebooks.
- Remote Instruction Requests: Remote instruction will be provided for students who travel during the holiday break and need to quarantine upon return or if the absences are COVID-related. We are not responsible for providing remote instruction while students travel prior to the Winter Break. If you are planning on traveling during the Winter Break, all notifications must be submitted via the Google form which goes directly to administration. We will not accept notification via emails or phone calls to administration, teachers, or office staff. Requests must be done via the Google form by Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - Winter Break Google Form:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeunohwgLmELsNE6P-o\\_81aj3aHUL4eopqeC8Wuj7eAtoWuwA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeunohwgLmELsNE6P-o_81aj3aHUL4eopqeC8Wuj7eAtoWuwA/viewform)
- Today is the last day Side Door will be open for 2021! There will be a virtual Zoom Side Door on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

- If you missed the in-person forum, “The Science Behind Vaccines for Children Ages 5-11,” a virtual information session will be held Tuesday, December, 7 at 7 pm. The session, co-hosted by the district and the PTAC, will feature Dr. Chris T. Pernell, Chief Strategic Integration and Health Equity Officer, University Medical Center, Newark, NJ. Dr. Pernell will provide an overview and answer questions. [Registration required](#) for Zoom link.
- Robotics Team Update: Again, we are so proud of our Robotics team for qualifying for the state competition. Please see the [Robotics Montclair Local Link](#) below from the Montclair Local on this wonderful accomplishment. Again, we are so proud of Mr. Taylor and his amazing Robotics team for this wonderful accomplishment! Please see the Mr. Taylor’s blurb below:
  - BAMS would like to again congratulate the FLL robotics Team on their recent accomplishment. On November 20, 2021, ten BAMS students competed in the New Jersey Qualifying Event and placed in the top six of 24 teams! They were also given the Innovation Award for their research project, Power Tower. The Innovation Award is given to the top two projects- their research and presentation were solid. A Power Tower is a solution to the dwindling availability of fossil fuels and a green technology. The Power Tower is a platform located in the oceans along shipping channels which will offer electric ships the opportunity to recharge during their voyage. Electricity is generated by wind turbines and water turbines. This use of technology will decrease the danger of spilling oil into the oceans in the event of a shipping disaster, but it also eliminates the use of, and dependence upon, fossil fuels. It will also allow the ship more cargo space due to the reduction of fuel storage for a diesel engine, making their trip more efficient. Electric cargo ships are still only a project in development, so this research and idea are revolutionary as they are well ahead of their time. Here is a [link](#) to the \*project.
  - If you are in the field of engineering and would like to discuss this with the students it would be very helpful to our research and project! Please contact Mr. Taylor immediately if you are interested. The students are eager to hear from you!
  - On December 11 and 12, the team will return to competition in the New Jersey FLL Competition where they will face 47 top teams from the state. This event will also take place virtually. Wishing the BAMS FLL Robotics Team the best for their upcoming competition!!!
  - Congratulations to Anisa Ahdami, Gabby Mehta, Charlotte Wurmser, Sabrina Juergensen, Eleanor Rothman, Danica Stout, Aseem Rai, Wyatt Foster, Collin Brooks, and Max Bellack.
- Ms. Kaiser’s students created and submitted designs for the NJDOT Aviation contest, and we’ve had over 300 participants.
- 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! The deadline for submissions is December 12<sup>th</sup>!

- **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.
  - December parent-teacher conferences will be Wednesday thru Friday of next week, by appointment only.

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

- Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup> – A Day
- Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – B Day
- Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> – C Day
- Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – D Day
- Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – E Day

**Please mark your calendars:**

- Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> - Abbreviated Day - Evening Conferences
- Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> - Abbreviated Day - Afternoon Conferences
- Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> - Abbreviated Day - Afternoon Conferences
- Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup> - PTA Cookie Banquet
- Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> - Abbreviated Day - Curriculum Thursday

**“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”**

- **African Proverb**

**“My students have shown me so many times that it’s not always about being the perfect person in the perfect position—it’s about showing up when you’re needed.”**

- **Jill Biden**