



Buzz Aldrin Middle School
The STEM Magnet

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



Principal's Bulletin
December 10th, 2021

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:

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

- On Thursday evening, our PTA hosted their annual Trivia Night event. The families participated in a lively competition and enjoyed the evening fun. Thank you to our fabulous PTA for organizing this wonderful event for our Buzz families.
- The Start with Hello students will participate in a TeamSeas fundraiser next week, an initiative led by Ben Litman. The TeamSeas fundraiser will begin with an advisory informing students about the initiative and its importance. The goal of this fundraiser is to help create cleaner waters, by cleaning the seas, oceans, and rivers. During the week of December 13-17, homerooms will compete as to see which homeroom can collect the most in donations. Donations will be collected Tuesday thru Thursday of next week. The homeroom that raises the most money will win a Pajama Day!
- Robotics Update: We wish Mr. Dan Taylor and his Robotics team the best of luck at the state Robotics competition this weekend. The Robotics team has worked hard, and they will compete all day on Saturday and Sunday in a virtual competition. We are so proud of this wonderful accomplishment! Please join me in congratulating the following students for making it to states: Anisa Ahdami, Gabby Mehta, Charlotte Wurmser, Sabrina Juergensen, Eleanor Rothman, Danica Stout, Aseem Rai, Wyatt Foster, Collin Brooks, and Max Bellack.
- On Wednesday, December 15th, Mr. Taylor and the North Jersey Astronomical Group will host an outdoor Stargazing event. The event will begin at 7:30 pm. Please see the attached flyer for more information. We hope to see you there!
- I am pleased to announce that some of our BAMS students participated in L'Oreal's Annual Women of Worth celebration, which will air on December 16th at 8 pm on NBC. Please join me in congratulating Samantha Leftwich, Charlotte Wurmser, Ella Reynolds, Samaara Navani, Shayna Safirstein, and Aaria Shah. We are so proud of you all! Thank you to Mr. Taylor for organizing this amazing opportunity for our Buzz students. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

- The Montclair Health Department is hosting two COVID-19 booster vaccination clinics in December for people who are ages 18 and older. The vaccination clinics will be held on Wednesday, December 15 and Tuesday, December 21 from 9 am to 3 pm. The clinics will take place in the Council Chambers at the Montclair Municipal Building, located at 205 Claremont Avenue. Please see the following information below:
 - Moderna and Janssen (J&J)
 - Please bring your vaccination card with you.
 - Health insurance not necessary, but please bring your insurance information if you have health insurance.
 - Please call 973-509-4970 or email mginter@montclairnjusa.org to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome.

- SEPAC is hosting their final meeting of 2021 on Monday, December 13 at 7 pm. Please use the Zoom meeting information below:
 - Meeting Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82312031673?pwd=YUYrNHlWNVYyc3RTOHdzRlZSaXdmdzO9>
 - Meeting ID: 823 1203 1673
Passcode: 868269

- If the pandemic has caused a loss of income that makes it difficult for you to pay your rent and/or utility bills, consider applying for relief through the **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)**. An eligible household may receive assistance for up to 18 months of home energy costs incurred on or after March 13, 2020. Applicants are required to prove loss of income or employment, or are facing a financial hardship due directly or indirectly to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants must also demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability such as past due notices, rent notice or eviction notice, etc.
 - **Please be sure you have all of the below information in order to submit your application:**
 - Personal ID for the applicant and all household members
 - Lease agreement or rental agreement signed by your landlord
 - Income information for all household members older than 18 (Paystubs, Unemployment benefits, Bank statements showing direct deposits, SSI or SSDI statements)
 - Information about unpaid rent and utilities (Statements, Bills, etc.)
 - In order to receive assistance, you must submit an application. **[CLICK HERE To APPLY!](#)**

- We are no longer issuing 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 13th.

- Winter Break Google Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeunohwgLmELsNE6P-o_81aj3aHUL4eopqeC8Wuj7eAtoWuwA/viewform

- 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 12th!
- **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.

Next Week's Schedule of Days

- Monday, December 13th – F Day
- Tuesday, December 14th – A Day
- Wednesday, December 15th – B Day
- Thursday, December 16th – C Day
- Friday, December 17th – D Day

Please mark your calendars:

- Monday, December 13th – PTA Cookie Banquet
- Thursday, December 16th – Abbreviated Day – Curriculum Thursday
- Thursday, December 23rd – Zero Day, Abbreviated Day
- Mon, December 27th – Fri, December 31st – Winter Recess, Schools Closed
- Monday, January 3rd – Schools Return to Session

“If you look at what you have in life, you’ll always have more. If you look at what you don’t have in life, you’ll never have enough.”

--Oprah Winfrey

“When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.”

--Henry Ford