



Buzz Aldrin Middle School

The STEM Magnet

173 Bellevue Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07043

www.montclair.k12.nj.us



Principal's Bulletin

January 21st, 2024

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:

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

- **Buzz Aldrin Dance Company Competition Results:** Congratulations to our Buzz Aldrin Dance Company performers! Our dancers earned first place in the middle school division after performing at Montclair State University last weekend. Excellent job to Ms. Tucker and her talented dancers!
- **Science Olympiad Competition Results:** On Friday, January 12th, the Buzz Aldrin Science Olympiad Team traveled to NJIT to compete against some of the top STEM schools in Northern New Jersey. Buzz Aldrin finished in 10th place overall, with some students earning notable recognition below. Congratulations to Mr. Lawton and his team, as they've qualified for the state competition in March!
 - Anya Amin & Jaden Hayes finished in 6th place for Optics
 - Jasper Lee & Charles Simpson finished in 4th place for Tower
 - Anya Amin & Anjoola Okesanya finished in 3rd place for Ecology
- **Winter Dance Concert Updates:** Congratulations to Ms. Giarratano, Mr. Mandel, and our wonderful band and chorus performers. Amazing job to all! It was wonderful to see many attend our winter concert on Thursday evening. This is a friendly reminder that our dance concert will be held on Wednesday, January 24th at 7 pm. Admission costs are \$8 for adults, \$5 for students, \$3 for children five years and younger. Ticket sales are used to assist with student scholarships, provide financial assistance for equipment purchasing and rentals, costume purchases, and to help offset the costs for field trips and transportation. Please see the attached flyer for the Dance Concert and come out and show your support!
- **STEM Challenges Carnival Night:** The students of the STEM Challenges elective have been working hard on their table-top carnival-style games of chance and skill. We cordially invite you to challenge yourself with these student-made games and to enjoy their creative genius! All games will be free to play, and the game designers will be on hand to referee and monitor games, as well as answer any question you may have about their games and their development process. Carnival Game Night will take place on Tuesday, January

23, in the BAMS gym promptly between 6-8 pm. If the weather does not cooperate, the postponement date is set for Thursday, February 8. We will keep you posted if this is necessary. Please come and join us! Please see the attached flyer for more information. We look forward to seeing you at the BAMS Carnival! If you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Dan Taylor at dtaylor@montclair.k12.nj.us.

- **Mindfulness Advisory:** Despite our short week, we still managed to conduct our Mindfulness advisory during homeroom. Students learned the definition of mindfulness, the importance of mindfulness and its effects on the mind and body. They also discussed various techniques that involve mindfulness, such as staying present in the moment, getting in touch with your senses, avoid multi-tasking, removing yourself from distractions and technology, and more. The benefits of mindfulness include stress reduction, increased attention and focus, and better emotional regulation, physical and overall well-being. Here are some conversation starters to ask your children at home:
 - *What is mindfulness and why is it important?*
 - *What is one strategy that you want to try to become more mindful?*
 - *Name one benefit of mindfulness.*
 - *How can we incorporate mindfulness at home?*

- **General Reminders:**
 - **Cell Phone Use:** Students are not permitted to use their cell phones throughout the school day. This is stated in the school's code of conduct. Consequences will be issued for those who violate this rule.
 - **Dress Appropriately for Weather:** Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the winter weather conditions, particularly outdoor recess.
 - **Attendance Information:** Student attendance and tardiness is an issue with some of students. Students with ten tardies will receive an afterschool detention will be issued. Additionally, attendance records affect your child's ability to attend/participate in end of the year events/field trips.
 - **Student Attire:** We continue to have serious concerns over students dressing appropriately for middle school, especially with footwear. Slides, Crocs, flip flops, and any shoes without a backing are not permitted, as they do not have a back to the shoes. Referrals will be issued for inappropriate footwear, as indicated in the Code of Conduct.

- **Yearbook Purchasing:** Yearbooks are currently available for purchase and are on a first come first served basis. Please visit www.jostensyearbooks.com or call 1-877- 767-5217 to order your copy! If you have any questions please contact our Yearbook Advisor, Ms. Eden: jmintz@montclair.k12.nj.us

- **Set Design Painting & Prop Club - Mary Poppins Jr. ~ The Musical**
Our evening Set Design Painting / Prop Club sessions are quickly approaching. We are now accepting sign-ups and space is limited. Semester 1 is coming to an end soon after we return from break! Ms. Rodriquez and our Set Design

elective class will be ready to pass our beautiful rendering designs to the stage. We will begin to make each of them come alive in color and 3D beginning in February 2024. All participants will receive community service hours. This is also a great way for parents to join us and their child as part of the Buzz Aldrin Musical Theatre Family! Break out your painting clothes and come join the fun! **FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DATES & TO REGISTER your student for an email invite to our google classroom:** Please email Karen-Ann Kaelin-Panico Theatrical Producing Director / Set Design Director kpanico@montclair.k12.nj.us Thank you for supporting the BAMS Theater Department!

- **Math Midterms:** This is a reminder that our Math Midterms will be held during the week of Monday, January 29th through Thursday, February 1st during math classes. The midterm exam is in two parts and students will take one part per class during that week. All students have been given a study guide packet and they should be studying at home. Please remind your child to bring sharpened pencils for the exam, to arrive to school on time, and to minimize absences.
- **Buzz Aldrin SOUPER BOWL:** The Buzz Aldrin National Junior Honor Society will be holding their annual "Souper Bowl" during the week of February 5th-9th. All students are encouraged to bring in canned food items that will be donated to a local food pantry. NJHS students should check Google Classroom for more information about how to participate in this event for community service hours. Thank you in advance for your support!
- **Buzz Aldrin PTA Updates:**
 - **Throwback 80s Party Spring Fundraiser:** Our throwback 80's party and silent auction will take place on March 22, 2023 from 7-10pm at St James Church Parish Hall, 581 Valley Road, Montclair. Featuring DJ Cotter, Dinner & Drinks, and a Silent Auction. Early Bird tickets are on sale from January 22-February 19. All proceeds help to support the Buzz Aldrin School STEAM magnet and end of year festivities. ***We would love some help!*** We are in need of silent auction item donations and volunteers to help run the event. Contact Jennifer Escobar or Lauren Moore at the Buzz PTA.
 - **After School Enrichment (ASE) Programs:** start February 12 and continue through March 25. More details soon!
 - **Funds2Orgs Fundraiser:** it's time to clear out your closets! The PTA is collecting your gently worn, used, or new shoes to send to developing countries. This is also a fundraiser for the PTA. We start collecting now through mid-January. Please drop off all shoes at the school office and either tie the shoes together or wrap with a rubber band. https://funds2orgs.com/?gclid=CjOKCQjw4vKpBhCZARIsAOKHoWRnu8p8zWIPLER7CKQpjXQzxkgyWjRsF8tteyBxtZO_vTO4W3cKi6saAnrTEALw_wcB
 - **Save the Date:** FREE Buzz Family Ice Skating Event on March 9th from 5:15 pm- 6:45 pm at Clary Anderson Arena. If your kids love to bake and

need community service hours, we are also hosting a bake sale at the event. Please contact Anneka Street at the Buzz PTA for more details.

- **Parent Volunteers needed:** The PTA is always looking for parent volunteers for our ASE, Special Events and Fundraising committees. Contact PTA President, Jennifer Escobar at jen.escobar3@gmail.com if you are interested.

- **International Holocaust Remembrance Day:** January 27th marks International Holocaust Remembrance Day, as we commemorate the date along with the rest of the world. This day, observed also by the United Nations, is a day to honor and remember both the tragedies of the Holocaust and the millions of Jewish people and countless others who lost their lives at the hands of the Nazis. January 27th was chosen as International Holocaust Remembrance Day because January 27, 1945 marks the day when Soviet troops from the Red Army liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest concentration camp operated by the Nazis. The world will never forget the devastation and mass genocide that millions of Jewish people endured, and we must work to ensure that nothing like this ever happens again.

Next Week's Schedule of Days

- Monday, January 22nd – D Day
- Tuesday, January 23rd – E Day
- Wednesday, January 24th – F Day
- Thursday, January 25th – A Day
- Friday, January 26th – B Day

Please mark your calendars:

- Thursday, January 18th – Band & Chorus Winter Concert @ 7 pm
- Tuesday, January 23rd – BAMS Carnival Night @ 6 pm
- Wednesday, January 24th – Dance Winter Concert @ 7 pm
- Monday, January 29th – February, 2nd – Math Midterms in class

“If you don’t know what you’re living for, you haven’t lived yet.”

— **Rabbi Noah Weinberg**

“Kindness, I’ve discovered, is everything in life.”

— **Isaac Bashevis Singer**