



Buzz Aldrin Middle School
The STEM Magnet
173 Bellevue Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07043
www.montclair.k12.nj.us



Principal's Bulletin

March 31st, 2024

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:

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

- **Autism Awareness Month:** April represents Autism Acceptance Month, an opportunity for all of us to raise awareness regarding autism, celebrate neurodiversity, promote inclusion, and create connections with those who have autism. Tuesday, April 2nd, is World Autism Awareness Day. World Autism Day is a day dedicated to celebrating the uniqueness of every individual on the spectrum and to educate more people about autism, promoting acceptance and inclusion. **In honor of World Autism Day, wear blue to celebrate!** There will be more fun and informative information shared throughout the rest of the month.
- **Yearbook Information:** 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
 - Yearbook Recognition Ads are still available to 8th grade families. There are only a few spots left, so they are on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested in purchasing a Recognition Ad for your 8th grader, please email our Yearbook Advisor, Ms. Eden: jmintz@montclair.k12.nj.us
- **NJHS Update:** This announcement is for 7th and 8th grade students who have been nominated for induction into the National Junior Honor Society. The community service log and two letters of recommendation are due by Wednesday, April 3rd. Late documents will not be accepted, so please be sure to upload all required documents into Google Classroom on time. NJHS students who complete the requirements by the deadline will receive an invitation to the formal Induction Ceremony, which will be held on April 30th at 6 p.m. Please email Mrs. Megdanis (kmegdanis@montclair.k12.nj.us) if you have any questions.
- **Buzz Aldrin PTA Updates:**
 - **The 2024-2025 PTA Board needs YOU!** The Nominating Committee is working to source new leaders for the next PTA Board. We are looking for a new President and two co-Vice Presidents! These are extremely

rewarding roles that can fit around your schedule: everyone on the current Board has full-time or part-time work, grad school, volunteering, and parenting responsibilities!

"I love Buzz PTA because it is important work! There is no better way to learn about what is happening inside the school, to get to know the faculty, staff and fellow parents, and to get involved and make a difference in our children's day-to-day lives. Middle school is an important transition period between elementary and high school, but these three years go quick. Being a part of the Buzz PTA reminds me to be present, here at Buzz, for our kids, right now!" Mike K, Buzz PTA Secretary.

Without a Board, the PTA cannot provide things like Spooktacular, ASE programs, free ice skating events, and movie nights, graduation parties, and end of year festivities for ALL of our students. Please contact the Buzz PTA for all the details and thank you!

- **FUNDS2ORGS FUNDRAISER:** We are still collecting shoes through April when they will be collected! For every 5 pairs of shoes, your student will receive an hour of community service. Please drop off all shoes at the school office and either tie the shoes together or wrap them with a rubber band. This is a fundraiser for the PTA and also supports communities in developing countries.
- **Set Design Painting & Prop Club - Mary Poppins Jr. - The Musical:** Our evening Set Design Painting/Prop Club (SDPP) sessions are in progress! We are accepting sign-ups and space is limited. Our beautiful rendering designs are in the process of being painted and brought to the stage. We will continue to make each of them come alive in color and 3D. Welcoming all families interested in joining us! 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!
- **Message from Side Door:** Hey everybody! Side Door is OPEN this Friday, so you don't have to wander around in the bad weather, trying to think of something to do – just come to Side Door! Even if we're stuck inside, there is a bunch of stuff to do and plenty of room to spread out and spaces where you can spend time with your friends. There is always a craft, plus a ton of board games to pick from. And we have free food! Come have fun with your friends this Friday at Side Door.

- Nominate a Teacher for 2024 Weston Awards!** The Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence is calling for nominations for the [2024 Judy Weston Awards for Inspired Teaching](#)! The awards, established by **Josh and Judy Weston** in 1991 to acknowledge and celebrate Montclair Public Schools teachers, were given each year until 2016. After a brief hiatus, the awards returned in 2023 and are administered by MFEE. Last year, 16 teachers won \$2,000 each from a pool of 110 nominated educators. All parents/guardians of current Montclair Public Schools students and current MPS students are encouraged to nominate teachers. [Nominations](#) can be written or submitted as an audio or video recording. Students can also submit photos of their written nomination. The deadline for nominations is **April 5, 2024**. Visit mfee.org to learn more. Read more in the Montclair Local: <https://montclairlocal.news/2024/02/nominate-a-teacher-for-the-judy-weston-awards/>
- Optional Parent Informational Session:** On April 17th, parents are invited to attend a presentation given by Mykee Fowlin, a motivational speaker who has spoken with students, staff, and families throughout the country. This parent presentation is open to all middle school families, and it will take place at Glenfield Middle School at 7 pm. If you are interested in attending, please complete the Google form to RSVP.

 - <https://forms.gle/JtfLnG7kWd5pwhDn7>
- Information for YMCA Families:** Please see the attached flyer for more information about homework assistance to families who are members of the YMCA.
- General Reminders:**

 - Student Behavior Contracts:** 8th grade behavior contracts were issued on Friday, March 1st. 6th and 7th grade behavior contracts were issued on Wednesday, March 6th. Please review the contracts with your child at home so you are aware about the requirements to participate in the end of the year trips/activities.
 - 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.

- **Easter Sunday:** Today is Easter Sunday. This is a significant holiday that deeply resonates with Christians around the world. Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, a day that symbolizes victory over death. I send Easter blessings and well wishes to all those who celebrate.

Next Week's Schedule of Days

- Monday, April 1st – C Day
- Tuesday, April 2nd – D Day
- Wednesday, April 3rd – E Day
- Thursday, April 4th – F Day
- Friday, April 5th – A Day

Please mark your calendars:

- Monday, April 8th – Friday, April 12th – Spring Break, Schools Closed
- Wednesday, April 9th – 10th – Eid al-Fitr
- Wednesday, April 17th – Buzz Aldrin Performance at BOE Meeting @ 7:30 pm
- Thursday, April 18th & 19th – Mary Poppins Jr. Musical Production @ 7 pm

"Do as much homework as you can. Learn everybody's job and don't just settle."

— **Michael B. Jordan**

"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

— **Pablo Picasso**