Buzz Aldrin Middle School

The STEM Magnet

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

Principal's Bulletin

December 9th, 2022

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:
We believe that all students can learn, achieve, and grow, in a safe and secure environment.

- Thank you to all the staff and families that attended this week's parent-teacher conferences! I truly believe we have the best staff in Montclair, and I am grateful to the wonderful staff we have here. It was a pleasure to see so many parents attend conferences. The feedback was positive.

- **Buzz Aldrin's Governor Educator of the Year Award:** I am delighted to announce Buzz Aldrin's 2022-2023 Governor Educator of the Year award recipient, as the House 2 In-Class Support Teacher, Mr. Luke Fess. Mr. Fess has built strong and meaningful relationships with not only his students, but students in his house, and in the club that he leads within the building. He is an effective educator in the classroom and believes in the importance of ensuring students take responsibility for and pride in their work. Congratulations to Mr. Fess! We are very proud of you for this tremendous accomplishment!

- **Buzz Robotics Team Update:** On Saturday and Sunday of this weekend, our Buzz Aldrin Robotics team will compete in the State Tournament at Mount Olive High School. We are so proud of the team for qualifying for states and we wish the "Buzz Bots" the best of luck. Our team includes Theo Mital, Naomi Amin, Alexander Desmond-Stein, Collin Brooks, David Lee, Felix Cotter, Maxwell Bellack, Oliver Ro, Tristan Kouri-Hertle, Finn Heneghan, Oliver Portelli, and Ilija Jakimoski. The team advisors are Ms. Sandra Egan, and Mr. Timothy White. We would also like to thank several parents who have supported our team as they've prepared for states. Mr. Ramsay Kouri has graciously given many hours over the past two weeks to help the team with fine tuning the code for their robot. Mr. Raj Amin and Mr. Scott Stein participated in a Zoom call to hear the team present the innovation project, a project designed to extract lithium from the ocean to prevent further damage to the earth's surface from mineral extraction and give their expert opinions. We are thankful for all the help and support.

- **Buzz Aldrin PTA Updates:**
  - **REFLECTIONS ART CONTEST-- TWO MORE WEEKENDS!** The deadline for the Reflections art contest is December 18th. Best of luck to our creative Buzz Aldrin students. SHOW YOUR VOICE!

- Detailed instructions and guidelines by category can be found here: https://montclairpta.org/reflections/
- **How to submit work**: Artwork in physical form, such as drawings, paintings and photos, should be submitted in person to Mr. Mandel in Room 18 along with your artist statement. If the work is in digital form, follow the instructions below.
- Entries in other categories such as dance choreography, film production and music composition, should be saved in acceptable formats as listed in the guidelines and submitted to Mr. Mandel digitally. The preference is for you to SAVE THE FILES TO YOUR GOOGLE DRIVE and provide Mr. Mandel with a link, since some of the files may be very large and get held up by the school district's system. Send the files as attachments/links to Mr. Mandel at tmandel@montclair.k12.nj.us

- **HOLIDAY/STAFF HOLIDAY GIFTS:** Gifts are never mandatory of course, but this is a VERY convenient option for our families. USE A CREDIT CARD to make gifts to your house teachers AND to the 65 staff members not "assigned" to houses (office staff, custodians, counselors, CST staff, aides, and arts/elective teachers). Any amount is appreciated! The deadline is December 22nd but why not do it NOW? Questions go to sarah.r.larson@gmail.com.
  - Buzz Staff: https://bit.ly/22BAMSstaff
  - House 1: https://bit.ly/22BAMShouse1
  - House 2: https://bit.ly/22BAMShouse2
  - House 3: https://bit.ly/22BAMShouse3
  - House 4: https://bit.ly/22BAMShouse4
  - House 5: https://bit.ly/22BAMShouse5
- **SEPAC MEETING – December 13th:** This is a reminder that the next SEPAC general membership meeting will be on Dec. 13th at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Dr. Trim and Ms. Stafford from the Pupil Services Department will present about ieps with a focus on progress reports and data. The recording and any handouts will be posted on our website at this link.
  - Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89326167711?pwd=aTVTSXFXbWNoTW10SkZhTW5TVllHQT09
  - Meeting ID: 893 2616 7711
    Passcode: 168261
- **TEACHER/STAFF COOKIE BANQUET - December 19th** To donate baked goods (homemade or bought), click here: https://signup.com/go/aYkPiSM. Please bring in your donations next Monday morning to the main office.
- **BUZZ FAMILY ICE SKATING PARTY-- REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!** Join us on 12/31 at Clary Anderson Arena (42 Chestnut Street) for a free ice skating party to say goodbye to 2022! Skating is from 9-10:30 am (but you can show up starting at 8:40 am to get your rental skates!!!). Buzz Aldrin students, their parents and siblings are invited! (No friends or neighbors please). Beginners are very welcome (helmets encouraged)!!! Bring your own skates or rent from Clary Anderson (free!). Pick up promptly at 10:30!

        - TO SIGN UP YOUR SKATERS: https://signup.com/go/AejzCSQ
        - TO VOLUNTEER FOR AN HOUR: https://signup.com/go/owjRgbq
    - **USE AMAZON SMILE TO DONATE TO THE PTA:** If you are an Amazon shopper, just sign on to smile.amazon.com and name Buzz Aldrin PTA as your desired charity. It doesn't cost you anything, but it helps us!

- **Yearbook Announcements:** Please see the attached Yearbook flyer for detailed information on how to purchase a yearbook. Additionally, there are specific instructions for 8th graders on how to submit their baby photos for the yearbook.

- **Dr. Martin Luther Kind Oratorical Competition:** Please see the attached flyer for the 25th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorial competition. This competition is open to all 7th and 8th grade males in Essex County. This is an opportunity for students to share their thoughts on today through the lens of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Next Week's Schedule of Days

- Monday, December 12th – F Day
- Tuesday, December 13th – A Day
- Wednesday, December 14th – B Day
- Thursday, December 15th – C Day
- Friday, December 16th – D Day

Please mark your calendars:

- Thursday, December 15th – Curriculum Thursday, Abbreviated Day Schedule
- Friday, December 23rd – Abbreviated Day Schedule
- Monday, December 27th – Monday, January 3rd – Winter Recess, Schools Closed

"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."
— Winston S. Churchill

"Success is peace of mind, which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to become the best of which you are capable."
— John Wooden