



Buzz Aldrin Middle School The STEM Magnet

173 Bellevue Avenue
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Principal's Bulletin December 10th, 2023

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:

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

- **Band & Chorus Doughnut Run:** This morning, our Buzz Aldrin band and chorus students woke up bright and early to provide the runners in Montclair's Doughnut Run with beautiful music. They did an amazing job singing and performing, and we are so proud of all of them. Thank you to all the parent volunteers, Mr. Mandel, and Ms. Giarratano for coordinating this opportunity for our students to showcase all their hard work. Fantastic job everyone!
- **Empathy Advisory Information:** This week, our students participated in an advisory centered around empathy. Students learned the definition of empathy, the different types of empathy, ways to show or express empathy towards others, and discussed the impact empathy has on promoting healthy relationships. Afterwards, they had an opportunity to review various real-life scenarios and share what they felt would be the most appropriate way to show empathy in that situation. Please see the conversation starters below:
 - What does empathy mean to you?
 - Describe a situation when you've seen or expressed empathy towards someone else.
 - Describe a situation when you've expressed empathy towards someone else.
 - Why is empathy such an important part of establishing and maintaining healthy relationships?
- **Attendance Information:** Student attendance and tardiness is an issue with some of students. Effective as of Monday, October 23rd, student attendance has been closely monitored, as there are quite a few students who are chronically late. This is not only disruptive for the student who is late, but also to the class as well. Parents—we appreciate your help and support in ensuring you're your children get to school on time each day. Students with ten tardies will receive an afterschool detention will be issued.
- **Important Information Regarding 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. This presents a serious safety issue. As a school, we have been lenient, but we can no longer allow this. Recently, students have fallen in the stairwell and outside, and several of these students were not wearing the required footwear. Additionally, this is a safety requirement for when we conduct safety drills. Moving forward, referrals will be issued for inappropriate footwear, as indicated in the Code of Conduct.

- **Restorative Justice:** Please see the attached Buzz Aldrin Restorative Justice updates.
- **Buzz Aldrin PTA Updates:**
 - **Holiday Cookie Banquet for BAMS Teachers and Staff:** This is a much beloved BAMS tradition! Please sign up here to donate items (you can send in to the office with your student or drop off the MORNING of December 18th). Not a baker? We also need a few people to help set up and clean up. <https://signup.com/go/zqfCYbm>
 - **Buzz Family Ice Skating at Clary Anderson: Saturday December 30th 1:15pm - 2:45pm** FREE for Buzz students! Sign up for December skating here: <https://signup.com/go/ftNeXaS> We also need volunteers for check in and general supervision.
 - **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=CjOKCQjw4vKpBhCZARIsAOKHoWRnu8p8zWIPLER7CKQpjXQzxxkgyWjRsF8tteyBxtZO_vTO4W3cKi6saAnrTEALw_wcB
 - **NEW Buzz Merch** is available now! Orders placed now will arrive in January. We have t-shirts, long sleeve jerseys, hoodies, flannel PJs & jogger pants in lots of different colors and sizes. Ship to your home or to school: <https://academyapparel.nj.tuosystems.com/.../buzz-winter-2023>
 - **PTAC's Reflections Art Contest - deadline extended!** This year, the theme is "I am hopeful because..." Categories are Visual Art, Photography, Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Musical Composition, and Special Artist. Please contact Jennifer Escobar, PTA President at jen.escobar3@gmail.com for more information.
 - **Parent Volunteers needed:** The PTA is 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.
 - **Next PTA Meeting:** January 16th
- **Happy Hanukkah!** Hanukkah began sundown on Thursday, December 7th and ends at nightfall on December 15th. "Hanukkah" means dedication in Hebrew, and the Jewish holiday, also known as The Festival of Lights, represents joy. It's punctuated by an eight-night display of dancing flames atop candles held in

intricate menorahs, conveying warmth, comfort, and a miracle. I wish everyone a Happy Hanukkah once again to all those who celebrate!

Next Week's Schedule of Days

- Monday, December 11th – B Day
- Tuesday, December 12th – C Day
- Wednesday, December 13th – D Day
- Thursday, November 14th – E Day
- Friday, December 15th – F Day

Please mark your calendars:

- Monday, December 18th – PTA Cookie Exchange
- Friday, December 22nd – Abbreviated Day Schedule
- Monday, December 25th – January 1st – Winter Break, District Closed
- Monday, January 15th – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, District Closed
- Tuesday, January 16th – PTA Meeting @ 7 pm

“You should not judge; you should understand.”

– **Ernest Hemingway**

“You never really learn much from hearing yourself speak.”

– **George Clooney**