



**Buzz Aldrin Middle School**  
**The STEM Magnet**

173 Bellevue Avenue  
Montclair, NJ 07043  
[www.montclair.k12.nj.us](http://www.montclair.k12.nj.us)



**Principal's Bulletin**  
**February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:**

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

- **Buzz Aldrin Middle School Tours:** Our staff, students, and parents did an amazing job highlighting Buzz Aldrin for our school tours on Thursday evening. I am truly honored to be part of such a wonderful community and am so proud of the dedicated staff we have at Buzz. The feedback from potential parents and students was positive. Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted in ensuring Thursday evening was a success. Special thanks goes to Stephanie Drozd and Jamie Scala for all their planning and preparation in coordinating the event.
- **Buzz Aldrin PTA Fundraiser!** Please see the attached flyer for our annual big PTA fundraiser. We appreciate all the support and generosity from our PTA board and our generous parents. We hope to see you there dressed in your best 80s gear!
- **Yearbook Information:**
  - **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook Information:**
    - Yearbook Recognition Ads are available!! All orders must be placed by February 8th!!
    - '24 BAMS Yearbook Grad Ads on Sale! Click HERE to complete your order by 2/8/24!
    - Please see the attached flyer for more information.
  - **Yearbook Purchases:** Yearbooks are currently available for purchase and are on a first come first served basis. Please visit [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://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](mailto:jmintz@montclair.k12.nj.us)
- **NJHS Souper Bowl Challenge:** Get ready to make a difference with our 'Souper Bowl' Challenge! 🏈 The BAMS National Junior Honor Society is gearing up to Tackle Hunger next week, starting February 5th. Show your support by bringing in canned food items throughout the week to benefit Manna Food Depot in Bloomfield and assist local families in need. 🍽️ Let's huddle up and score big for our community! Donations will be collected by our student volunteers visiting homerooms every morning until February 9th. Thank you in advance for 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 Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, in the BAMS gym between 6-8 pm. Please come and join us! 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](mailto:dtaylor@montclair.k12.nj.us).
- **MFEE Information:**
  - The MFEE will come to speak with our 8<sup>th</sup> graders this week to explain their Life After High School workshop series. Please see more information below.
  - Help win a \$1,000 grant for Buzz Aldrin! [The Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence \(MFEE\)](#) is our town's local education fund that supports *all* Montclair students, teachers, staff, and caregivers. Buzz Aldrin students receive social/emotional support and innovative teaching tools through MFEE grants, teachers boost their learning through out-of-the-box Professional Development grants and Teacher Learning Communities; and families get resources and support through events like [Life After High School](#) and programs like Navegadores Escolares. Your donations - no matter how small - fuel all of this work! From now until February 28<sup>th</sup>, any donor who gives \$20 and above will be entered in a lottery to award a \$1,000 grant to their favorite school. Two winners will be chosen! Bradford and Renaissance won \$1,000 last year; it's Buzz Aldrin's turn! Be sure to "credit" Buzz Aldrin's team page when donating. Even better, right now there is a 1:1 match happening on all donations! While you're there, check out all of the ways that your donations boost learning at Buzz Aldrin. Donate here: <https://givebutter.com/c/mfeeforthem2024/members/buzzaldrinmiddleschool1>
- **Buzz Aldrin PTA Updates:**
  - **Throwback 80s Party Spring Fundraiser:** This is our biggest fundraiser for the year and our goal is to raise \$15,000. We need the support of our school community. March 22, 2023 from 7-10pm at St James Church Parish Hall, 581 Valley Road, Montclair. Featuring 80s tunes from DJ Cotter, Dinner & Drinks, and a Silent Auction. Adults only. 80s costumes encouraged!
    - Early Bird tickets are on sale now until February 19. All proceeds help to support the Buzz Aldrin School STEAM magnet and end of year festivities. <https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.gives/throwback80sparty>
    - ***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. Registration is now live for Chess, Basketball, Street Art, CPR/First Aid, Financial Literacy: <https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store?limit=21&live=true>
- **We need parent volunteers to help ASE!** Parent volunteers are needed to help assist instructors. No experience needed. Contact Jennifer Escobar at [jen.escobar3@gmail.com](mailto:jen.escobar3@gmail.com) if you can assist on any of our ASE days.
- **Life After High School: The Montclair Fund for Educational Excellence (MFEE)**, in partnership with Montclair High School, is bringing back its award-winning mini-conference, [Life After High School](#). On February 24th from 10am-1pm, 8th-12th graders - and their caregivers - will gather at Montclair High School's George Inness Annex for this free, one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect and learn. Unlike a traditional college or job fair, Life After High School looks to leverage Montclair's amazing community members and alumni to share "wisdom nuggets" or small takeaways that will inspire adolescents through high school and beyond. There will be over 10 workshops on topics such as how to lean into your interests, how relationships can guide you through tough times, how to put yourself out there when you don't think you can, how to harness your superpowers (like ADHD) to lead you to success, and being okay with uncertainty. Caregivers can take a separate track of workshops geared towards creating connection and supporting their teens. Read about the speakers and register today: <https://www.mfee.org/lahs>.
- **Nominating Committee:** Your board is happily serving you through the end of this school year, but there will be some positions available for next year. We need 3-5 people (not currently on the board) to serve on a nominating committee to source new leaders. We have the emails and documents you will need. All of this can be done remotely, it doesn't take that much time, but the process needs to start now. Without a board, the PTA cannot raise money, spend money, or provide things like Spooktacular, ASE programs, ice skating and movie nights, and graduation parties will not happen. ***If you were involved in your elementary school PTA but have been holding back, THIS IS THE JOB FOR YOU.***
- **Funds2Orgs Fundraiser: GET COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS BY SENDING IN NEW OR GENTLY WORN SHOES!** On February 9th from 7:20 AM- 7:50 AM and 2:00 PM- 2:30 PM bring in your shoes to receive community service hours. For every 5 pairs of shoes, you will receive an hour of community service. Your gently worn, used, or new shoes to send to developing countries. [https://funds2orgs.com/?gclid=CjOKCQjw4vKpBhCZARIsAOKHoWRnu8p8zWIPLER7CKQpjXQzxkgyWjRsF8tteyBxtZO\\_vTO4W3cKi6saAnrTEALw\\_wcB](https://funds2orgs.com/?gclid=CjOKCQjw4vKpBhCZARIsAOKHoWRnu8p8zWIPLER7CKQpjXQzxkgyWjRsF8tteyBxtZO_vTO4W3cKi6saAnrTEALw_wcB). Please drop off all shoes at the school office and either tie the shoes together or wrap them with a rubber band.
- **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](mailto:jen.escobar3@gmail.com) if you are interested.

- **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.
- **Schedule Changes:** As stated in my bulletins since the beginning of the year, we cannot honor schedule change requests. We do our best over the summer to ensure that students are scheduled for some or a majority of their elective choices.

- **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. Rodriguez 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](mailto:kpanico@montclair.k12.nj.us) Thank you for supporting the BAMS Theater Department!

- **Lunar New Year:** On Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, I wish all those who celebrate a Happy Lunar New Year! Lunar New Year, which lasts from February 10<sup>th</sup> thru 25<sup>th</sup> is also known as Spring Festival. The holiday calls for reflection on the past year and well wishes for good fortune in the upcoming year. The holiday is

celebrated by traditional rituals which include exchanging gifts, special feasts, and the use of red decorations and attire for luck. Each year is paired with one of the twelve Chinese Zodiac animals, and this year is year of the dragon! Dragons are associated with strength, luck, and good fortune.

**Next Week's Schedule of Days**

- Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> – B Day
- Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> – C Day
- Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> – D Day
- Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> – E Day
- Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> – F Day

**Please mark your calendars:**

- Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> – BAMS Carnival Night @ 6 pm
- Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> – Presidents' Day, District Closed
- Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Curriculum Thursday, Abbreviated Day Schedule

**“The time is always right to do what is right.”**

– **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

**“We will not march back to what was. We move to what shall be, a country that is bruised, but whole. Benevolent, but bold. Fierce and free.”**

– **Amanda Gorman**