



Buzz Aldrin Middle School
The STEM Magnet

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



Principal's Bulletin
March 10th, 2024

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:

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

- **Buzz Aldrin PTA Fundraiser! We want and need your support!** Please see the attached flyer for our annual big PTA fundraiser. Additionally, hard copies of the flyers were distributed to all students on Friday. Please ask your child for a copy! 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!
- **Women's History Month Advisory:** This week, our students participated in our first Women's History Month advisory. Students learned about the history of Women's History Month, its importance, and participated in thoughtful discussion surrounding equity, gender bias, and compared career opportunities between men and women. Please see some conversation starters below:
 - *Why is it important to honor and celebrate Women's History Month?*
 - *Can you name one of the accomplishments women have made throughout history towards equality?*
 - *What is one area in which where gender inequality still exists?*
- **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:**

- **BUZZ ICE SKATING EVENT:** we had such a blast on the ice with so many Buzz families this weekend and we raised nearly \$150 for the PTA at the bake sale! Huge thanks to all of our student bakers and parents who helped out at the event. Everyone had so much fun!
- **THROWBACK 80s SPRING FUNDRAISER MARCH 22:** Join Buzz parents and teachers for a totally awesome night of drinks, dinner and dancing to support our STEAM magnet. This is our biggest fundraiser for the year and we have raised our fundraising goal to \$20,000. March 22 from 7-10pm at St James Church Parish Hall. Featuring rad 80s tunes from DJ Cotter, Dinner & Drinks, and a Silent Auction. All proceeds support the Buzz Aldrin School STEAM magnet and end of year festivities for all Buzz students.
 - [Buy your tickets today!](#)
 - Silent Auction: We have planned many exciting auction items to bid on, including VIP tickets for Late Night with Stephen Colbert, the opportunity for your child to be Principal for a Day, Yankees tickets, Golf passes, an NBA All Access experience, and so much more. You can only bid on these live auction items at the event so buy your tickets today! Can't make the fundraiser but still want to contribute? *Please make a donation or buy a ticket for a Buzz staff member for \$50!* **Check out our live auction preview flyer for more information!**
 - *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 for all the details.
- **PTA Nominating Committee:** The 2024-2025 PTA Board needs YOU! The Nominating Committee is working to source new leaders for the next PTA Board. There will be Board positions as well as special events and fundraising positions available. You can volunteer for a one-time special event or serve on a committee throughout the year. These roles are extremely flexible and can work around your schedule. Without a board, the PTA cannot raise money, spend money, or provide things like Spooktacular, ASE programs, free ice skating events, and movie nights, and graduation parties will not happen. Please contact Anneka Street at the Buzz PTA for more details and thank you!

- **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/>
- **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.
- **Ramadan:** The Islamic holy month of Ramadan will begin on the night of March 10. During this period, Muslims refrain from eating and drinking from sunrise to sunset as an act of piety and sacrifice. In addition to fasting, Ramadan is also a time to focus on spiritual connection, prayer, and community service. The last day of Ramadan, is followed by a three-day holiday, where families and friends gather in prayer and celebration called Eid al-Fitr, or "Holiday of Breaking the Fast." As a reminder, the District will be closed for Eid on April 10. Wishing all those who observe Ramadan a blessed month. Ramadan Mubarak!
 - **Happy Saint Patrick's Day:** On Sunday, March 17th, I wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. Saint Patrick's Day is a religious and cultural holiday observed by Irish communities throughout the world and celebrated by many others as well. This holiday celebrates the arrival of Christianity in Ireland and Saint Patrick. To celebrate, many people wear green to honor Ireland, participate in parades, and enjoy Irish meals. Happy Saint Patrick's Day to all those who celebrate!

Next Week's Schedule of Days

- Monday, March 11th - A Day
- Tuesday, March 12th - B Day
- Wednesday, March 13th - C Day
- Thursday, March 14th - D Day
- Friday, March 15th - E Day

Please mark your calendars:

- Wednesday, March 20th & Thursday, March 21st - Abbreviated Day Schedule
- Friday, March 22nd - Dance Battle of the Classes @ 2:30 pm
- Friday, March 22nd - PTA 80s Night Fundraiser @ 7 pm
- Friday, March 29th - Good Friday, District Closed

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."

— Helen Keller

"Find out who you are and do it on purpose."

— Dolly Parton