



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



Principal's Bulletin

March 24th, 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 Success!** Thank you to all the families who attended Friday evening's PTA 80s Night Fundraiser. It was such a wonderful time! We are appreciative of the parents who donated as well. A heartfelt thank you goes to Lauren Moore, Jennifer Escobar, the PTA Executive Board, and our dedicated parent volunteers for coordinating and hosting our fabulous and successful fundraiser on Friday evening. Thank you to the staff members who attended as well. It is during outings like this that I am reminded of how wonderful the Buzz Aldrin family truly is.
- **Montclair High School 8th Grade Parent Meeting:** On Wednesday, March 27th, Montclair High School is hosting 8th grade families for an informational session in the MHS Auditorium. **The meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on March 27th.** This is not required, but optional for 8th grade parents and students.
- **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
- **Women's History Month Advisory:** On Friday, our students participated in Part II of the Women's History Month advisories. Students discussed notable accomplishments and achievements of women throughout the United States and globally. They also learned more about the gender-pay gap, its history, and how it stands in current day. Please see some conversation starters below:
 - *What is the gender pay gap?*
 - *How has the gender pay gap changed from the past?*
 - *How is the gender pay gap evolved to current day?*

- *Why is it important for men and women to have the same opportunities and treatment, especially in the workforce?*
- **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 PTA 80s THROWBACK PARTY SUCCESS:** Oh what a night! We had a blast last night at our 80s Throwback Party!!! The PTA raised over \$30,000 and donations are still coming in!
 - An enormous thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make our event a great success:
 - Lauren Moore and Jennifer Escobar from the Buzz PTA for coordinating all the details from start to finish
 - Wendy Allred, Tammy Drake, and Jenna Suharto & the entire auction committee
 - James Cotter, our awesome DJ and auctioneer
 - Julie Ngo for transforming the space into an 80s disco
 - All the parents who set-up, checked in-guests, and cleaned up at the end of the night
 - And last but not least, the parents who were so generous in their auction bids.

We could not have done this without you! Thank you for your help and generosity!
 - **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 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!
- **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.
- **Battle of the Classes:** On Friday, March 22nd, our Buzz Aldrin students participated in the Battle of the Classes Dance Competition. Each class was responsible for choosing a choreographer, a song, and costumes to compete against one another. They did a fantastic job showcasing their dance skills under the leadership of our dance teacher, Ms. Gianna Tucker. Fantastic job to all!
 - **Holi:** On Monday, March 25th, Hindus around the world celebrate the holiday, Holi. Holi is also known as the Hindu festival of colors. It signifies the changing of winter to spring, celebrating rebirth and new beginnings, and the triumph of good over evil. To all those who celebrate, let the colors of Holi spread the message of love, peace, and unity among all.
 - **Easter Sunday:** Sunday, March 31st 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, March 25th - E Day
- Tuesday, March 26th - F Day
- Wednesday, March 27th - A Day
- Thursday, March 28th - B Day
- Friday, March 29th - C Day

Please mark your calendars:

- Wednesday, March 27th – 8th to 9th Grade Parent Meeting (MHS) @ 6:30 pm
- Friday, March 29th – Good Friday, District Closed
- Monday, April 8th – Friday, April 12th – Spring Break, Schools Closed
- Monday, April 17th – Buzz Aldrin Performance at BOE Meeting @ 7:30 pm

“When the world tells you to shrink, expand.”

— **Elaine Welteroth**

“The success of every woman should be the inspiration to another. We should raise each other up. Make sure you’re very courageous: be strong, be extremely kind, and above all be humble.”

— **Serena Williams**