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

- **Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service:** On Monday morning, we had over 50 students volunteer their time to come to Buzz Aldrin to create various packages and gifts for those in need. The students created birthday gift baskets, thank you cards, and flowerpots for various local organizations that support those in need. I was so impressed by the number of students who took time on their day off to donate to others. Special thanks to Ms. Jennifer Escobar and the PTA for coordinating these efforts and supervising our students!

- **Montclair’s 2023 Black History Month Poster Competition:** The Montclair Black Coalition (MBC) has launched their 2023 Black History Month Poster competition. This competition provides students with an opportunity to dive deep into Black History and share what they’ve learned with the community. Please see the attached flyer and information and encourage your child to participate. The deadline for submissions has been extended to January 27th. Please encourage your child to participate!

- **Yearbook Information:** Yearbooks are on a first come first served basis. To order your copy of the yearbook, please go to [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com) or call 1-877-767-5217. Email our yearbook advisor, Mrs. Mintz at [Jmintz@montclair.k12.nj.us](mailto:Jmintz@montclair.k12.nj.us) with any questions.
  - 8th grade families: Please see the attachment to purchase a Recognition Ad in the yearbook for your child.

- **SATp & PTA Meeting:** On Tuesday evening, we had a productive SATp and PTA meeting. We shared updates for current happenings at Buzz Aldrin such as No Place for Hate, Joe’s Violin, and other schoolwide activities. Additionally, we presented our 2021-2022 NJSLA data. Thank you to all the parents who attended and provided your feedback. We appreciate your attendance and support.

- **Buzz Aldrin Carnival Night:** We had over 80 families attend Wednesday evening’s Carnival Game Night. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Thank you to Mr. Taylor for coordinating Wednesday evening’s event, and allowing our students the opportunity to showcase their work.
• **Dance Concert Performance**: The Buzz Aldrin dance department put on a wonderful show yesterday evening. The choreography, costumes, and themes for each song were impressive! I am so proud of all the performers for their tremendous dedication and courage to perform in front of a packed audience. A heartfelt thank you goes to Ms. Zetta Cool, Dance Director for all her hard work with our fall semester students. Thank you to Mr. Reissig, Mr. Buonocore, and Ms. Panico for your assistance in ensuring the dance show was a success. Lastly, thank you to the staff members who supported with supervision and ticket sales. We are very appreciative!

• **Buzz Aldrin PTA Updates:**
  - **TOUR NIGHT**: *We desperately need volunteers for the school tours on Wednesday night from 6-8 pm. We are asking for parent volunteers, including parents of students with IEPs and parents who are bilingual in Spanish and English. Parents will not be conducting the tours. Rather, you are just there as a Buzz parent. Come represent your child’s house and the school! Sign up now please!*
    - Parent Sign Up: [https://signup.com/go/QCLXzxJ](https://signup.com/go/QCLXzxJ)
  - **CASINO NIGHT IS IN TWO WEEKS! Buy your tickets now!** February 3rd at the Montclair Art Museum 7-11 pm. Your ticket includes food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, casino gambling courtesy of Wild Willy’s, a DJ and dancing, AND prize drawings (win an XBox, a PS5, or a Oculus virtual reality headset). **BRING CASH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 50/50 RAFFLE**-- winner takes home half the proceeds. Dress is "smart casual".

  Don't wait to buy your ticket-- capacity is limited and ticket prices increase on February 1st. We have 20+ teachers and staff planning to join us, and we need your support. **Remember, this event funds everything we do during the year, including providing thousands of dollars toward the spring musical AND funding graduation celebrations for ALL our students! Please buy your ticket, sponsor a teacher or make a donation TODAY!**
    - Buy a ticket to attend: [https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/817250](https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/817250)
    - Buy a ticket **AND SPONSOR A TEACHER/STAFF MEMBER** to attend for free: [https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/820731](https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/820731)
    - Or just make a donation (of any size) if you cannot attend. **Every dollar counts! Give what you can!** [https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/817253](https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/817253)

  - **Black History Month Poster Contest-- deadline JAN 27th** - The deadline was extended to January 27th. See the attached flyer for details, and encourage your student to participate.
- After School Enrichment: Chess Club, Fitness Class, and Basketball - Register Now!
  - CHESS CLASS & "CLUB" (THURSDAYS Jan 26-March 2) Chess instructor Steve Montezuma will be returning to conduct chess classes for ALL LEVELS and oversee a chess club for experienced players. He will teach and reinforce students' knowledge of the rules, tactics, and strategies of chess and serve as our Chess Coach for our more experienced players. In addition to receiving chess lessons, students will have opportunities to play with their peers and with Coach M. Classes will take place for six weeks from 2:15-3:30 pm (if it's an early dismissal day, classes will be 12:40-2; snow cancellations mean class is cancelled altogether). Spots are limited; register by clicking below. If you need financial assistance please contact the office. [https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/819859](https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/819859)
  - BUZZ "BOOTCAMP" FITNESS CLASSES (WEDNESDAYS Feb 8-March 8) Join fitness instructor "Miss E" for a fun body-weight fitness and strengthening class on Wednesdays after school, 2:15-3 pm in the gym. No equipment or no special clothing is required --- but please bring a TOWEL OR MAT!! Spots are limited. At the end of six weeks, we **guarantee** you'll be stronger and more flexible! Register below-- if you need financial assistance please contact the office. [https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/819871](https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/819871)
  - PICKUP BASKETBALL (FRIDAYS Jan 20-March 10) Come on Fridays 2:15-3:30 for loosely organized pickup games, shooting contests etc. All genders and abilities welcome. Respectful behavior is expected at all times, and sessions will be cancelled if we don't have parent volunteers—if your child is playing, we expect you to volunteer.
    - Student sign up: [https://signup.com/go/emSuMiP](https://signup.com/go/emSuMiP)
    - Parent volunteer sign up: [https://signup.com/go/zAHgfvG](https://signup.com/go/zAHgfvG)

- **Buzz Aldrin BOE Presentation:** Please join us or tune in to support our Buzz Aldrin dance department as they perform at the Monday, January 23rd Board of Education meeting at 7:30 pm. We are so proud and appreciative of Ms. Zetta Cool and our dance department for presenting our strong arts program.

- **Set Painting & Prop Club - Frozen Jr. ~ The Musical:** Our evening Set Painting / Prop Club sessions are quickly approaching. We are now accepting sign-ups and space is limited. Semester 1 is coming to an end. Our Set Design Elective class will be ready to pass our beautiful rendering designs to the stage in two weeks. We will begin to make each of them come alive in color and 3D beginning in February. All participants will receive community service hours. 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!
• **Winter Band & Chorus Concert:** On Tuesday, January 24th, please join us at 7 pm for our Winter Band & Chorus concert. Admissions are $8 for adults, $5 for students, and $3 for children 5 years and younger. Ticket proceeds go towards instrument rentals, music purchases, providing scholarships, and supporting our music department with various initiatives.

• **Buzz Aldrin Tour Night:** Please consider joining Buzz Aldrin for our tour night on Wednesday evening from 6-8 pm.

• **Side Door Update:** Side Door is up and running for 2023! Please see the information below regarding Side Door. Below this email is the link for our Side Door online registration sheet which is up and running. The link will take parents/guardians and students to the Side Door website which has information regarding days when we are open, direct link to the online registration, as well as a donation link. Please note that students who have handed in a hard copy of the registration do not need to register online. Also, please feel free to ask with regards to any questions or concerns you may have regarding the updated website link. We look forward to serving your student's again in the upcoming months. Have a wonderful rest of your week.
  - **Side Door Registration Link:** [https://www.unioncong.org/children-youth/side-door](https://www.unioncong.org/children-youth/side-door)

• **Panera Fundraiser:** The Trep$ Entrepreneurial Club is hosting a Panera Night fundraiser on January 31st. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

• **Lunar New Year:** On January 22nd, we celebrate Lunar New Year. Lunar New Year is a 15-day festival that begins with the new moon that occurs typically between January 21 and February 20 according to Western calendars. Festivities last until the full moon. The holiday is sometimes called the Lunar New Year because the dates of celebration follow the phases of the moon. This holiday is celebrated by billions of people all throughout the world. I wish everyone a Happy New Year to all those who celebrate!

• **AAPI’s Lunar New Year Celebration:** Montclair’s AAPI Education Committee would like to invite the Buzz Aldrin Middle School community to our Lunar New Year celebration at MAM on Saturday, January 28th. They would love to have as many children and families as possible and have free tickets available for those with financial need. Attached are an email graphic, text, and flyer so you can use whichever you prefer. Over 100 Montclair students will participate as performers and volunteers throughout the event. Some will be in our dragon parades at 11:15 and 1:50, many will perform on the outdoor stage from 12:10-12:40, and others will be running crafts in one of the art studios from 11:00-1:00. We hope many from Buzz will come to support the Mandarin teachers and all the students. Please see the attached flyer for more information.
Next Week’s Schedule of Days
• Monday, January 23rd – D Day
• Tuesday, January 24th – E Day
• Wednesday, January 25th – F Day
• Thursday, January 26th – A Day
• Friday, January 27th – B Day

Please mark your calendars:
• Monday, January 23rd – Buzz Aldrin Presents at BOE Meeting @ 7:30 pm
• Tuesday, January 24th – Winter Chorus and Band Concert @ 7 pm
• Wednesday, January 25th – Buzz Aldrin Middle School Tours from 6 - 8 pm
• Thursday, January 26th – Curriculum Thursday, Abbreviated Day Schedule
• Friday, February 3rd – Casino Night! @ 7 pm

“A single seed can turn into a forest. A single heart can transform a nation.”
— Bryan Thao Worra

“To be beautiful means to be yourself. You don’t need to be accepted by others. You need to accept yourself.”
— Thich Nhat Hanh