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

- **Black History Month Update:** Yesterday, the Buzz Aldrin students participated in an all day Zero Day, filled with various activities and learning experiences. Students learned that Black history is American history. They participated in a meaningful advisory coupled with enriching reflection activities that covered the historical context of Black history and its significance in US History. The students enjoyed a dance party, learned how to step dance, played Trivia, and attended an engaging assembly that further showcased the many contributions that African Americans have made in this country. I am humbled by the award I received from the BHM committee. I would like to sincerely thank Ms. Zetta Cool and the entire BHM planning committee for working tirelessly to create engaging activities for our students to participate in throughout the month of February. Students heard and participated in daily announcements and worked very hard to create their Black History Month door decorations. Our entire school community benefitted and learned many important facts about black history. My sincerest thank you to all the staff members and students who’ve helped make this year’s Black History Month such a success. Please use the link below to see the finalists for the door decorating competition.
  - Black History Month Door Finalists: [https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=MiPOOZZNedk](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=MiPOOZZNedk)

- **SATp & PTA Meeting Update:** Thank you to the staff members and the parents who attended Tuesday evening’s SATp/PTA meeting. The conversation was informative and the discussion was meaningful. We are so grateful for the parents who step up and give back to the Buzz Aldrin community. It helps us to know that we have such dedicated parents committed to making this school the best possible experience for all children.

- **Architecture Students Update:** Congratulations to Buzz Aldrin Architecture students! The Newark and Suburban Architects’ Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, (AIA), hosted the Holiday Student Art Contest this past semester to celebrate the architecture throughout the holidays. They asked students throughout North Jersey to portray an architectural building, group of buildings or place defined by architecture which incorporated a holiday feeling or setting. Ms. Rodriguez’s Spring Architecture students at Buzz Aldrin submitted amazing artwork! We are happy to announce Buzz Aldrin students earned multiple awards in the Middle School categories! Also, there is an art exhibition of
the winning entries planned for the month of April at the main branch of the Montclair Library! More details to follow! Thank you to John Fallon and Robert Epstein from AIA for extending the invitation to participate in this contest for facilitating the opportunity and thanks to all the Architecture Students that participated. Everyone’s work was beautiful and thoughtful, and it made us very proud! Thank you very much Ms. Rodriguez for encouraging our students to participate and shine. Congratulations to all of our award recipients. We are so proud of you! Please see the attached PDF of our amazing students’ work.

- **Gold Award:** Arianna Lamb
- **Silver Award:** Emily Gyan, Mason Lin
- **Bronze Award:** Lily Kikata, James Rae, Lena Shapiro, Hanna Nwoso
- **Honorable Mention:** Clara Brooks-LaBlanc, Anna Rutledge, Mia Wallace, Isabelle Hayes

**Buzz Aldrin PTA Updates:**

- **WE HAVE A NOMINATING COMMITTEE!!** Thank you to the following individuals who have graciously offered to help with selecting the PTA Board for next year:
  - Lizza Andrea
  - Danielle Bear
  - Jennifer Escobar
  - Kathy Walsh
  - Kelly Whiteside

As you know, PTA is a corporation and we cannot function without board members, so this committee has a very important job– RECRUITMENT! They will be reaching out for volunteer to take officer positions! **We will have between 3-5 vacancies next year as our board members "graduate".** Experienced PTA volunteers and newbies alike are encouraged to join the board! PTA is responsible for many of the things that enrich our students' lives: ice cream socials Halloween parties after school enrichment classes ice skating parties trivia nights graduation festivities.... without a PTA board these things will not happen!!! **With the exception of President, all jobs can be shared!**

- **SEPAC MEETING MONDAY NIGHT** - There will be a SEPAC Zoom meeting on February 27th at 7:00 pm for parents and caregivers. This is meant to be a safe space to discuss any issues, questions or concerns.
  - **Topic:** February Parent/Caregiver Meeting
  - **Time:** Feb 27, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
  - **Join Zoom Meeting**
    - [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82551856249?pwd=ejlZOUdlb2RmNjVzSFhpU00cFhoZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82551856249?pwd=ejlZOUdlb2RmNjVzSFhpU00cFhoZz09)
  - **Meeting ID:** 825 5185 6249
  - **Passcode:** 032345

- **REGISTER FOR THE COLOR RUN!** Enjoy a memorable morning of fitness, cultural immersion, and fun with your family while supporting our school! When you **sign up for AAPI Montclair’s Color Run** at Brookdale Park on April 16 and enter the code [BUZZALDRIN] at check-out, 10% of your race fees will be donated to our school. This event combines two joyous festivals. Holi is popularly known as the “Festival of
Colors" and the "Festival of Spring." On Holi, entire towns are bathed in vivid colors as people play Holi by splashing colored powder and water. Songkran in Thai means "to move" or "change place." Thai believe that water is purifying: it cleanses one of any bad luck from the past year, and blesses one with good fortune and happiness for the year ahead. On Songkran, people celebrate by engaging in water play. Runners and walkers will enjoy a closed course inside Brookdale Park and be splashed with colored powder and water (optional). Choose between the 5k (8:30am) or 1-mile fun run (9:30am). Fees are $30 for the 5k and $25 for the 1-mile fund run before March 20 ($35 for 5k and $30 for 1-mile run after that date) and include a race t-shirt and online registration closes April 6. (Note: confidential fee waivers available; please email wendy.wong@aapimonclair.org for the code.)

Hope to see you there!

- **Event URL:** [https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Montclair/AAPIMontclairColorRun](https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Montclair/AAPIMontclairColorRun)
- **Code to enter at checkout:**
  - School: Buzz Aldrin Middle School
  - Code: BUZZALDRIN

- **G&T Referral Information:** This information applies to families of students in Grades K-7. The referral window for gifted and talented services for students currently in grades K-7 will be open from **Monday, February 13th (opens at 8:00 am) until Monday, February 27th** (closes at 4:00 pm). We have a [Family Identification Information Video](https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Montclair/AAPIMontclairColorRun) for your reference and the Referral Form in **English** and **Spanish** linked here and available on our website. The district Comprehensive Plan and more information can be found on our **district website**. Thank you!

- **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 not 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)

**Next Week’s Schedule of Days**
- Monday, February 27th – C Day
- Tuesday, February 28th – D Day
- Wednesday, March 1st – E Day
- Thursday, March 2nd – F Day
- Friday, March 3rd – A Day

**Please mark your calendars:**
- Thursday, March 23rd – Curriculum Thursday, Abbreviated Day Schedule
Wednesday, March 29th – Abbreviated Day Schedule, Conferences
Thursday, March 30th – Abbreviated Day Schedule, Conferences

“My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together.”

—Desmond Tutu

“For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

—Nelson Mandela