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

- **Time Management Advisory:** This week, our students participated in an advisory during extended homeroom focused on time management. Students reflected on their own time management practices, discussed the importance of time management, identified their own personal strengths and weaknesses with managing time, and identified personal goals for how to improve this lifelong skill. Please see some conversation starters below to use with your child at home.
  - Why is time management such an important skill to learn?
  - What is one personal strength you have as it pertains to managing your time?
  - What is one time management area that you would like to improve upon for the rest of the school year or in the future?
  - Identify one time management strategy that was discussed and you would want to try.

- **Buzz PTA Update:** Calling all Reflections artists! The Reflections celebration will be on Thursday, May 4th at 6-8pm. All students who submitted for the competition are invited and will be celebrated at the party. We look forward to seeing you there with your families! Please RSVP by emailing your student’s name, school name and number of people attending to reflections@montclairptac.org

- **General Spring Updates:** Please see the general reminders and announcements below and review this information with your child.
  - All grades will have their behavior contracts by the end of this week. These contracts relay the requirements for students to participate in end of the year activities/field trips. Attendance, grades, and behavior are three critical components.
  - We’ve recently had many students who are consistently late to school. It is important that your child arrives to school on time.
  - Please remind your child to bring a water bottle to school. We have water refilling stations available for all staff and students.
  - Please remind your child to dress appropriately for school, including all school activities such as physical education and recess. Pajama pants, slides, and clogs are not appropriate school attire. Additionally, please
• **Community Service Project:** Due to the weather, this event has been canceled for today. We will reach out if we can coordinate an alternative date for the Buzz Aldrin beautification project.

• **7th Grade Fundraiser for NAC:** Each year, 7th grade ELA classes read the novel, *They Cage the Animals at Night* by Jennings Michael Burch. This autobiography, set in the late 1940’s/early 1950’s, highlights a young boy’s experiences in various orphanages and foster homes from ages 8 -11. This story also emphasizes the courage this young boy gained to find love. Prior to reading the book, students learn the process of fostering and adopting children. They also become aware of various agencies which help foster children in our area. This year, the 7th grade students have chosen to donate to New Alternatives for Children (NAC) in Bronx, NY. This organization works not only with children who need foster care placement, but they also specialize in helping children with medical and mental health needs. These separate programs within this facility, set NAC apart as one of the only agencies in New York City to exclusively provide these two special services. Houses 2, 3, 4, and 5, Ms. Kinnas, Ms. McDonald, Ms. Bernheim, Ms. Orlando and their seventh graders will collect money beginning on Wednesday, April 19th thru Friday, May 5th to donate to NAC on behalf of Buzz Aldrin. We are collecting cash or checks. Students can bring their donations to their seventh-grade homeroom teachers. All checks should be made out to: Buzz Aldrin Middle School. Thank you so much for your anticipated support of the children! We plan to donate the money to the facility next month, as May is National Foster care month!

• **National Junior Honor Society:** The NJHS Induction Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 3 from 6-7 pm in the Buzz Aldrin auditorium. This ceremony is only for current NJHS students who’ve completed the requirements for induction and their families. Students should check the NJHS Google Classroom for more details. Please email the NJHS advisors, Kate Megdanis (kmegdanis@mpsdnj.us) and Christin Joseph (cjoseph@mpsdnj.us), if you have any questions.

• **Peer Mentor Applications:** Applications to be Peer Mentors for next school year are currently being accepted at the link below. Peer Mentors are 8th graders who, after participating in training sessions during the 7th grade, help incoming 6th graders acclimate to Buzz Aldrin Middle School and assist with various schoolwide events. As representatives of the school, Peer Mentors must model courteous, friendly, and thoughtful behavior and positive attitudes towards their peers. Peer Mentors must be socially mature, conscientious students who are willing to devote some of their lunch & recess to training sessions, and who are comfortable participating in selected 6th grade advisories. Applications must be received by Friday, May 5th,
2023. Counselors will review the applications and consulting with administration and staff members to identify which best fit the requirements of being a peer mentor. The application link is listed below.

- **Peer Mentor Application Form:**  
  https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXgkwegEsollXVz1oPZnaVFwA5FqYT2_9b7K1K8Vv9ndRxBw/viewform

- **Mural Painting Update:** The Montclair Emergency Medical Services approached Buzz Aldrin Middle School in the fall asking if the Mural Painting students could create two murals to go over the doorways in their newly renovated headquarters lobby on Walnut Street. Two classes of first semester Mural Painting students voted on the designs, and created the designs which were recently installed. One of the selected murals is a Montclair landscape designed by 8th grade artist, Vivian James. Come out to see the murals on Sunday May 7th, from 11-4pm as the EMS celebrates its 70th Anniversary with a birthday party at the Walnut Street Fair. The event is sponsored by the Junior League Montclair-Newark and will feature food trucks, retail vendors, as well as arts/craft vendors, and will stretch from Grove Street to Forest Street. Mark your calendar to celebrate with the EMS, check out the murals, and enjoy a fun Montclair afternoon!

- **Community Service Opportunity:** All Montclair elementary schools are hosting a STEM festival for K-5 students and families at Edgemont Park on Sunday, April 30th from 3 – 5 pm. There will be hands-on activities and stations for kids to participate in and we are asking for help from our students to run these activities! In fact, we are counting on our middle school and high school students to help run the show. Please review the time slots below and use the link to sign up. The 2 – 4 pm slots include helping to set up and the 4 – 6 pm include helping to clean up. Thank you in advance for your help!
  - **Sign Up Link:**  
    https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0e45aaab22a5fc1-montclair#

- **NJSLA Information:** Buzz Aldrin students will participate in New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) beginning on May 10th thru the following week. Testing will occur on the morning of each school day, so it is critical your child arrives to school on time and with plenty of rest and a healthy breakfast. Additionally, see the important information below. Please review this information with your child prior to testing beginning.
  - Students who arrive late to school will need to take make-up tests, as we cannot disrupt testing of other students for late arrivals.
  - Please limit signing your child out for appointments as much as possible, especially in the morning.
  - Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle and a nut-free snack to eat during a testing break.
  - Each day of testing we will follow a special schedule.
  - Students should come to school with their Chromebooks charged each day. They should also bring their charger as a backup.
Parents will not be allowed to drop off Chromebooks until after testing is finished. Since we have a limited number of loaner Chromebooks available, students may have to take their test during a makeup session.

Students should bring in their own wired headphones, as they are required for testing. Bluetooth headphones/earbuds are NOT permitted during testing. We will have a limited number of headphones available.

All student cell phones and electronic devices should be turned off and placed in their book bags. Wearables such as Apple Watches, Fitbits, Garmin Watches, etc., are not permitted during testing. They should be left at home.

- **8th Grade Student/Parent Information:** Please see the attached flyer to save the date for Montclair High School’s freshman orientation information. Additionally, please see the instructions for requesting schedule changes for incoming freshman. All MHS schedule change requests are due by May 5th.

- **Cinco De Mayo:** Cinco De Mayo is on Friday, May 5th. This day is a celebration of the Mexican Army’s victory in defeating France during the French and Mexican War of 1862. In the United States, this day is used to celebrate theMexican culture and heritage. I wish everyone a Happy Cinco De Mayo!

**Next Week’s Schedule of Days**
- Monday, May 1st – F Day
- Tuesday, May 2nd – A Day
- Wednesday, May 3rd – B Day
- Thursday, May 4th – C Day
- Friday, May 5th – D Day

**Please mark your calendars:**
- Wednesday, May 10th – NJSLA testing begins
- Monday, May 29th – Memorial Day, District Closed

“‘Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change.’”
— Jim Rohn

“‘Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody’s going to know whether you did it or not.’”
— Oprah Winfrey