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

Principal’s Bulletin
September 9th, 2022

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

General Information:

- Our Buzz Aldrin students had a great start of the school year. It was a wonderful experience to meet and greet all of the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders over the past four days. To kick the year off, students participated in various activities within their homerooms. They toured the building, received locker assignments, participated in ice-breaker activities, and attended grade-level assemblies. The homeroom teachers and buddies did a wonderful job touring our students around the school so they knew exactly where to go. When we visited the different classrooms, the students looked happy to be back and were engaged in their homerooms. Welcome back Buzz Aldrin!

- I would like to thank our amazing Buzz Aldrin staff for ensuring that the past four days were a success for all the Buzz Aldrin students. I am so grateful for their hard work and dedication to our students.

- Thank you to our fabulous PTA for hosting our faculty luncheon on the first day back for staff. The staff was so grateful for the delicious lunch to welcome them back to a new school year. Additionally, our PTA hosted this morning’s welcome back Coffee & Donuts for Buzz parents/guardians. The weather worked out perfectly. Many thanks to the parents who showed up this morning to chat and mingle with other Buzz families today. Thank you to those parents who volunteered to sign up for various PTA committees. Your help and participation is critical in ensuring that we are able to host various events for students and families throughout the year.

- As you know, Sunday marks the 21st anniversary of September 11th. Today, our students listened to two morning announcements regarding the significance of September 11th and its impact on American history and another announcement regarding the death of Queen Elizabeth II. We also participated in a schoolwide moment of silence to honor of the victims of September 11th and the passing of Queen Elizabeth.
• Digital Photography students from last year participated in a community service project to create a series of cheerful, funny, and inspiring photo postcards to be given to the long-term patients at Children’s Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. The hope is that these postcard images will inspire children to stay positive, bring a smile, and make them laugh during difficult times. Buzz students either took a new photo for this project, or chose one from their own photo collection. The postcards will be delivered this coming week to Children’s Specialized Hospital at Mountainside.

• **Message from the School Nurse:**
  o Students who are 11 years of age prior to the start of school are required to submit proof of State mandated immunizations.
  o Proof of a Tdap and Menactra (meningitis) must be submitted to the school nurse.
  o Failure to provide the required documentation will lead to an exclusion from school.
  o Please contact our school nurse, Ms. Eva McGorry with any questions or if you need assistance with this matter. Her direct line is 973-509-4221 and her email address is emcgorry@montclair.k12.nj.us.

• **Reminders for Parents/Families:**
  o Again, please DO NOT drop off or pick up your child in the front of the building or in a location where they must cross the street. Grownups need to remain in their cars, and be sure not to block the staff parking lot while waiting for their children. Students should not cross the street at any other location other than the designated crosswalks. Parents should not stand in the staff parking lot to pick up their children either. This is a safety issue. It is important that everyone follows these rules to ensure smooth arrival and dismissal procedures.

  o Parents are not permitted to drop off belongings, lunches, materials throughout the day. It is essential that you make sure your child has all the necessary materials he/she/they would need prior to entering school for the day.

  o For school lunches, you can add money onto your child’s account using [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com). If you are interested, please complete a free/reduced meal application via the online form, which is available at [https://www.nlappscloud.com/](https://www.nlappscloud.com/). The online form is available in English and Spanish. You may also visit the Department of Agriculture’s website to access an application in a language other than English or Spanish ([https://www.fns.usda.gov/on/translated-applications](https://www.fns.usda.gov/on/translated-applications)). Please note that free and reduced lunch applications must be completed each school year.
As stated before, we are unable to grant schedule changes unless there is an error in a child’s schedule. Our scheduling team has worked to ensure the classes are balanced and equitable. This includes elective requests as well. To clarify, students submitted their elective requests in June, but we cannot and do not guarantee that all requests are able to be granted. This means students may take some electives that they did not request.

Thank you to the many families for the warm welcome both Nisha and I have received as the leaders of Buzz Aldrin Middle School. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to me at mbjennings@montclair.k12.nj.us, and/or to Nisha Gandhi at ngandhi@montclair.k12.nj.us.

**Message from the PTA:**
- The PTA would like to know what kinds of afterschool activities your children would be interested in. They are asking you to complete a quick (only three questions!) survey to assist them in planning.
- Please take a minute to complete the survey today – responses are due September 15th.
  - [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeCvLc57EzBEczeb9yMw9gv18TT7w4o7LyUXw0P9fKi79W9jD6Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeCvLc57EzBEczeb9yMw9gv18TT7w4o7LyUXw0P9fKi79W9jD6Q/viewform)
- **ANNOUNCING: LATIN FUSION NIGHT sponsored by the Buzz PTA!**
  - We are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month in the best way! On SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1st from 6-8 pm, join other Buzz parents for spicy snacks, adult beverages, music, dancing and a Latin dance lesson/demonstration. Get your tickets now as space is limited and this party is going to be HOT! HOT! HOT! The party is at Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 414 Pompton Avenue in Cedar Grove. $25/person. A very limited number of reduced price tickets are available— please ask the main office. [https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/769722](https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/769722)

- Wishing all of you a Happy Grandparents Day on Sunday, September 11th.

- This is a friendly reminder that Buzz Aldrin’s Back to School Night will be from 6-8 pm on Thursday, September 15th.

**Next Week’s Schedule of Days**
- Monday, September 12th – E Day
- Tuesday, September 13th – F Day
- Wednesday, September 14th – A Day
- Thursday, September 15th – B Day
- Friday, September 16th – C Day

**Please mark your calendars:**
- Thursday, September 15th – Back To School Night @ Buzz – 6 pm
- Monday, September 19th – Picture Day
- Tuesday, September 20th – Buzz PTA Meeting @ Buzz Aldrin
• Monday, September 26th & Tuesday, September 27th – District Closed
• Saturday, October 1st – Latin Fusion Night

“Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.”

– Kofi Annan

“For me and my family personally, September 11 was a reminder that life is fleeting, impermanent, and uncertain. Therefore, we must make use of every moment and nurture it with affection, tenderness, beauty, creativity, and laughter.”

– Deepak Chopra