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

• **Back To School Night:** Thank you to all the staff members for doing such a wonderful job presenting to parents during yesterday evening’s Back to School Night. The atmosphere was electric and the feedback we received from parents was excellent. Overall, parents were very complimentary and pleased to be back in the building to meet their child’s teachers in person. Both Ms. Gandhi and I were so happy for such a fabulous turnout. It was nice to many familiar faces, and were certainly pleased to meet the incoming families. Thank you to our excellent Peer Mentors for their assistance in directing our parents and our wonderfully supportive PTA for all your help. You were all fantastic! I do apologize that we were unable to deliver on the cookies and water in the cafeteria. I promise to ensure we will have them at our next parent event!

• **Hispanic Heritage Month:** Today, our students participated in a Hispanic Heritage Month advisory, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. The students learned about the meaning of various terms, the contributions and cultures in Latin America and Spain. Additionally, Senora Pichardo and the Spanish teachers created and will continue to read morning announcements throughout Hispanic Heritage Month for our students to hear. Thank you for all your hard work! If you like some conversation starters to use with your child, please see some questions below:
  o What is one thing you learned about Hispanic Heritage Month during today’s advisory?
  o Why does Hispanic Heritage Month run from September 15th to October 15th?
  o Name one country who has an Independence Day that coincides with Hispanic Heritage Month?

• **Chromebook Distribution:** All 6th graders received their Chromebooks this week.

• **Picture Day Announcement:** This is a reminder that our school Picture Day is on Monday! Please remind your child to bring in his/her/their permission slip and payment on Monday if you are planning to purchase pictures. There will be
a makeup Picture Day for those who are absent on Monday. All students are asked to take a photo even if you are not purchasing photos. If your child does not take a picture for Picture Day or the makeup day, then his/her/their photo will not be in the yearbook.

- **Buzz Aldrin’s First PTA Meeting:** Our first PTA meeting of the school year will be on Tuesday, September 20th at 7 pm at Buzz Aldrin. Hope to see you there!

- **Buzz Aldrin Theater Club Announcement:** Buzz Aldrin is proud to announce our 2022-2023 Musical Production of Disney’s ❄ Frozen Junior. Join us, as we bring the magical land of Arendelle to life, onstage. This production features all of the memorable songs from the animated film, plus a few new songs written for the Broadway production. Frozen Jr. expands upon the emotional relationship and journey between siblings. When faced with danger, the two discover their hidden potential and the powerful bond of solidarity. With a large cast of beloved characters and filled with magic, adventure, life lessons and plenty of humor, Frozen Jr. is sure to thaw even the "coldest heart!" This production is exuding with catchy songs, show stopping lighting and amazing special effects. Never will both cast / crew and our audience have this much fun being part of this type of enchanted fairytale theater magic.
  - **Disney’s Frozen Jr.** is for anyone who enjoys all aspects of theater. We are looking for ALL students who want to be a part of this musical to join us. We support students’ involvement in other clubs/sports etc. and will accommodate schedules when possible.
  - **Interest Meeting / Audition Signups:** Wednesday, September 21st @ dismissal to 2:45 pm in the auditorium
  - **Auditions:** Friday, October 7th @ dismissal
  - **Production:** April 2023
  - To join or for more information, please email Karen-Ann Kaelin-Panico, our Theater Director, with any questions. Please include your child’s name, grade, and house to be invited to our Google Classroom at kpanico@montclair.k12.nj.us

- **Stage Crew Announcement:** Do you love theatre and productions, but would rather work behind the scenes? Our Stage Crew students learn about (and become responsible for) controlling the sound, lighting and sets backstage for all plays, assemblies, chorus, and band events in the auditorium. Our Stage Crew kids are the backbone of our productions! Returning members of our Stage Crew will be invited to regular “meet ups” soon. All new students that would like to join us, please email Mr. Buonocore or Mr. Reissig at dbuonocore@mpsdnj.us or freissig@montclair.k12.nj.us with your name/house/grade and you will be added to the Stage Crew Google Classroom where you will find more information regularly about our club!
  - Advisors: Mr. Buonocore & Mr. Reissig

- **Updates from our Buzz PTA:** Right now, there are two things to do for the PTA:
  - (1) BUY YOUR TICKETS FOR LATIN FUSION NIGHT OCT. 1st
On October 1st from 6-8 pm, this is our first big social event of the season. Don't worry, NO ONE IS GOING TO FORCE YOU TO DANCE. But there will be a Latin dance lesson (salsa/bachata) and plenty of hot rhythms. Also--there is no need to be coupled up-- singles are very welcome! :-) Just come enjoy some beverages, nibble on some spicy bites, and meet/make friends. The party is at Fred Astaire Dance Studio, 414 Pompton Avenue in Cedar Grove (two miles from BAMS). $25/person. A very limited number of reduced price tickets are available-- please ask the main office. Buy your tickets now! https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/769722

(2) FILL OUT THE VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM-- PLEASE GET INVOLVED! This is how we'll be collecting information about volunteering for the Buzz community. We have great things planned for our kids and families, but as you know, nothing happens unless people step up to help! Please review the categories below and indicate where you might be interested in helping out over the course of the year. Go Team! https://signup.com/go/QUsXpEQ

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, IDEAS? NEED HELP? We want to hear from you! Email ptapres@buzzaldrinpta.org

Thank you! Courtney, Jen, Stella, Rick and Melissa

• **Architecture News:** I'd like to proudly present this past semester's, Spring 2022, AIA Newark & Suburban Architects Student Art Contest winners for the Middle School category:
  - **Gold Award:** Alex Brennan, Tristan Kouri-Hertle
  - **Silver Award:** Desmond Johnston, Ellie Celis
  - **Bronze Award:** Colette Smokowski, Diego Cruz, Luna Carranza-Polito, Vivienne Baggott
  - **Honorable Mention:** Benjamin Milewski, Caleb Stahl, Fiona Brylka, Jacob Kunkin, Nicolas Dauzier, Paige Gerdes, Sofia Portelli

We are very proud of all the Architecture students who participated in this contest and congratulate all the winners! Thank you to Ms. Rodriguez for your guidance and support with this.

• **Diagnostic Assessments:** As we end the second week of school, it is important to note that our students are participating in various diagnostic and pre-assessments. We will administer Renaissance Learning, Acadience testing, and other diagnostic tests depending on the subject area. Additionally, our students will take the Start Strong 2022 test the second week in October. There will be more information provided closer to the implementation dates.

• **Message from the School Nurse:**
  - Students who are 11 years of age prior to the start of school are required to submit proof of State mandated immunizations.
  - Proof of a Tdap and Menactra (meningitis) must be submitted to the school nurse.
  - Failure to provide the required documentation will lead to an exclusion from school.
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.

**Next Week’s Schedule of Days**
- Monday, September 19th – D Day
- Tuesday, September 20th – E Day
- Wednesday, September 21st – F Day
- Thursday, September 22nd – A Day
- Friday, September 23rd – B Day

**Please mark your calendars:**
- Monday, September 19th – Picture Day
- Tuesday, September 20th – Buzz PTA Meeting @ Buzz Aldrin
- Thursday, September 22nd – Curriculum Thursday, Abbreviated Day Schedule
- Monday, September 26th & Tuesday, September 27th – District Closed
- Saturday, October 1st – Latin Fusion Night

“The most wonderful thing about life is that you can always begin again. No matter what ups and downs you are handed in life today, you can always begin again tomorrow.”

— Kofi Annan

“One of the greatest things you have in life is that no one has the authority to tell you what you want to be. You’re the one who’ll decide what you want to be. Respect yourself and respect the integrity of others as well. The greatest thing you have is your self-image, a positive opinion of yourself. You must never let anyone take it from you.”

— Jaime Escalante