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

- **PTA Latin Fusion Night**: We would like to thank PTA president, Ms. Redfern and her amazing team for organizing Latin Fusion Night. This fun filled evening included refreshing spirits, excellent food, and wonderful Latin music and dance lessons. We hope to see more participation by our community members at our next PTA event. Please make a conscious effort to support our wonderful PTA fund raising events.

- **Week of Respect Advisory Information**: The Week of Respect has been full with morning announcements, advisories, and a themed spirit week. This week, our students participated in two advisories on Respect and Empathy. The students learned about different forms of respect, such as self-respect and respect for others. They also completed a self-assessment survey to gain a better understanding of themselves and discussed the ground rules for creating a respectful homeroom environment for advisories. They also discussed different ways they could show respect towards others. In the second advisory, homerooms learned about empathy, putting yourself in someone else’s shoes. They learned the importance of feeling empathy and displaying that towards others. They even discussed the eight elements of empathetic listening and ways to show empathy towards others. If you would like some conversation starters to use with your child, please see some questions below:
  - What are ways you can demonstrate self-respect and respect towards others?
  - Why is important to have self-respect?
  - How would you describe empathy using your own words?
  - Why is it important to show empathy towards others?

- **Townhall Update**: We would like to thank our parents and guardians who were able to attend the Buzz Aldrin Townhall Meeting. We heard from Lieutenant Williams from the Montclair Police Department, and representatives from various businesses from the community expressing their concerns. Our central goal was to develop a plan that would help our students realize the importance of respecting others and how best to exemplify appropriate behavior while enjoying themselves uptown on Fridays. We are planning to invite members
from the community to join us during grade level assemblies in the near future to reinforce the goals at the Townhall meeting.

- The district will be closed Monday, October 10th for Professional Development. Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples’ Day are both celebrated on October 10th. Indigenous Peoples’ Day honors the cultures and histories of the Native American people.

- **Start Strong Testing Information:** We will begin Start Strong testing on Tuesday, October 11 thru Friday, October 14th. Start Strong testing is a state test that tests students in the areas of Math, ELA, and Science for Grade 6. The Start Strong assessments are designed to maximize instructional learning, as the data will help guide instructional practices. We will follow a delayed opening bell schedule for the week, and students will test in their homerooms. Please read the following information carefully:
  - Students should arrive promptly at 7:40 am, as testing will begin promptly by 7:55 am.
  - Students should get a good night’s rest before each night of testing.
  - Eat a healthy breakfast.
  - Students should bring in their charged Chromebooks daily, as they will be used for testing. They should also bring in their own chargers as a backup.
  - Start Strong requires wired headphones. All students should bring in wired headphones. Wireless headphones, Air Pods, and Bluetooth earbuds are not permitted.

- **Buzz Aldrin Theater Club Announcement:** Casting has begun! It was wonderful to see the tremendous amount of our Buzz thespians at the auditions today! WOW does Buzz have talent! Every student who auditioned should now be part of our google classroom. Please email with any concerns or for an invitation to join. If your child was absent from school and or missed auditions, please let me know. Stay tuned for information regarding our Set Painting Club sign ups next month. Please email Karen-Ann Kaelin-Panico ~ Theatrical Producing Director with any questions at kpanico@montclair.k12.nj.us.

- **Stage Crew Announcement:** There will be a general interest meeting for Stage Crew on Wednesday, October 12th, from 2:15 to 2:45 pm. Any student interested in joining Stage Crew should attend. Students must provide their own transportation home. If you have any questions, please email Mr. Buonocore or Mr. Reissig at dbuonocore@montclair.k12.nj.us or freissig@montclair.k12.nj.us.

- **Buzz PTA Updates:**
  - **OCTOBER 21ST WINE & WHISKEY NIGHT**
    Join Buzz parents, caregivers and teachers at this relaxed backyard party. Your ticket includes tastings of wine and whiskeys, non-alcoholic beverages and food. Come meet your friends, make new ones, listen to
some chill music and learn something about wine and/or spirits. Montclair (address provided to ticket holders).

- TICKETS: https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/7808

- **AFTERSCHOOL ENRICHMENT** coming soon-- and a request for help! Thank you to everyone who filled out the survey about after school interests. We will definitely be offering classes in chess, financial literacy, CPR and basketball. We are also exploring art classes and fitness classes of some type. **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TEACHING OR CO-TEACHING CLASSES IN YOGA, BODYWEIGHT EXERCISES OR SOME OTHER FITNESS DISCIPLINE**, please email ptapres@buzzaldrinpta.org.

- **SIDE DOOR OPEN ON FRIDAYS! (2:15 PM - 5 PM)**
  Side Door is a FREE program at Union Congregational Church (176 Cooper Avenue) that welcomes middle school students after school on many Fridays. Kids engage in a variety of mostly outdoor activities, including basketball, 4-square, crafts and board games. There are also special and holiday events (not religious). Pizza, water and snacks are sold for a nominal fee. Volunteers from MHS, MSU and the community serve as mentors and chaperones. **Ellos tienen voluntarios de habla hispana!**

  - You can pre-register at www.unioncong.org/children-youth/side-door or your child can simply go on Friday-- a form will be emailed to you. Questions-- email sidedoor@unioncong.org

- **UPCOMING EVENTS:**
  10/18   PTA Meeting 7 pm and Discussion about "Tips for Middle School Success" (IN PERSON ONLY!)
  10/21   Wine and Whiskey Night 7:30 pm (registration coming soon)
  10/28   Spooktacular Dance (details coming soon)

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

**Next Week's Schedule of Days**

- Monday, October 10th – District Closed
- Tuesday, October 11th – D Day
- Wednesday, October 12th – E Day
- Thursday, October 13th – F Day
- Friday, October 14th – A Day

**Please mark your calendars:**

- Saturday, October 1st – Latin Fusion Night @ 6 pm
- Monday, October 3rd – Buzz Aldrin Virtual Townhall @ 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, October 5th – Yom Kippur, District Closed
- Monday, October 10th – Schools Closed, Professional Development Day
- Tuesday, October 18th – PTA Meeting @ Buzz Aldrin – 7 pm
- Thursday, October 20th – Curriculum Thursday, Abbreviated Day Schedule
“The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.”

— Albert Schweitzer

“Empathy may be the single most important quality that must be nurtured to give peace a fighting chance.”

— Arundhati Ray