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

- **PTA Meeting Update:** On Tuesday evening, we had our second Buzz PTA Meeting. Dr. Ben Brennan and Ms. Michele Kinnas did a wonderful job presenting tips for middle school success. Thank you to all the parents who attended. The conversation was rich, open, and collaborative. This is what Buzz Aldrin is all about.

- **Evacuation Drill:** Today, our students participated in a schoolwide evacuation safety drill to our alternative site. The staff and students did a wonderful job with following all of our safety drill procedures. Special thanks goes to our Safety Team and the Montclair Police department for their assistance in planning and implementing today’s drill. We successfully evacuated 615 students and 115 staff members.

- **School Action Team for Partnership (SATp) Parent Volunteers Needed:** We are looking for parents to join Buzz Aldrin’s School Action Team for Partnership committee, a committee focused on working together as a team to help support the school’s goals and to focus on school improvement overall. We appreciate all the help and support we can get working on school goals. This is an opportunity for parents to work together with administration and teachers to enhance the school as a whole. If you are interested in joining our SATp committee, please email me at mbjennings@montclair.k12.nj.us by Wednesday, October 26th.

- **Governor’s Educator of the Year (GEOY) Nominations Needed:** We are seeking nominations for the 2022-2023 Governor’s Educator of the Year Award! Governor’s Educator of the Year (GEOY) nominations seek to celebrate one of our amazing teachers or educational service professionals. Please see the attached GEOY nomination form to nominate one of our amazing staff members. The criteria states that the winners of this award must not have earned the title of school Teacher of the Year or Educational Services Professional (ESP) of the Year in the past five years. Nominations should be emailed to me no later than 3 pm on Friday, November 11th. The most recent awardees are:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Teacher of the Year</th>
<th>ESP of the Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021-2022</td>
<td>Diana Grassi</td>
<td>Kaitlin Machuca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020-2021</td>
<td>Jacqueline Brower</td>
<td>Maritza DeJesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019-2020</td>
<td>Joseph Turner</td>
<td>Toni Paccione</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2019</td>
<td>Kate Megdanis</td>
<td>Lora Orta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>Tracey Belsky</td>
<td>Donna Kobza</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Educational Services Professionals include the following:  • Anti-Bullying Specialist • Athletic Trainer • Behavior Specialist • Child Study Team • Cooperative Education Coordinator/Hazardous Occupations • Educational Interpreter (Cued Speech, Transliteration, Oral Interpreting, Sign Language Interpreting) • Guidance / School Counselor • Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant • Library Media Specialist • Mathematics Specialist / Mathematics Coach • Nurse (Instructional & Non-instructional) • Occupational Therapist • Paraprofessional (Instructional only) • Physical Therapist • Psychologist • Reading Specialist / Reading Coach • Social Worker • Speech Language Specialist • Student Assistant Coordinator • Technology Coach

- **Student Recognition:** Buzz Aldrin would like to congratulate 8th grader, Kiefer Bernard for his winning composition for the 2022 National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Student Composers Competition. Kiefer’s composition, *Battle Cry*, was written for voice and piano and was the winning composition for grades K-8. Congratulations Kiefer!

- **Buzz Aldrin Goes Pink!** Every year in October, we go PINK for Breast Cancer Awareness. This year, we will go PINK on Friday, October 28th. Staff and students should wear PINK and we would love if each student could bring in $1 or more to donate to the Side Out Foundation, a non-profit charity dedicated to breast cancer research. We will also sell Breast Cancer Awareness items in classrooms and all proceeds will be donated as well. If you have any questions, please email Ms. Mintz at jmintz@montclair.k12.nj.us or Ms. Brower at jbrower@montclair.k12.nj.us.

- **General Announcements:**
  - It is imperative that bottles brought to school are filled with water only. Students are not permitted to bring in other beverages to drink throughout the day other than water.
  - Students will be permitted to dress up for Halloween on Monday, October 31st if they choose to do so. Face masks are not permitted.

- **Buzz Aldrin National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Update:** Invitations for the Buzz Aldrin Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society were distributed this week during homeroom. To qualify for this program, students must currently be in 7th or 8th grade and must have achieved high-honor roll status on the final report card from the prior school year. We will hold an informational session for students who received invitations on Friday, October 28th during extended homeroom. If you have any questions, please email
the NJHS Advisors: Christin Joseph at c joseph@mpsdnj.us or Kate Megdanis kmegdanis@mpsdnj.us

- Buzz PTA Announcements:
  - **PTA Wine & Whiskey Night Fundraiser**: I am looking forward to seeing many of you at tonight's PTA fundraiser, Wine & Whiskey Night.
  - **After School Enrichment Starts Next Week!** Register for Chess, Financial Literacy and Street Art for $125 per six-session class. Scholarships are available—just contact the main office. [https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store?limit=21&live=true](https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store?limit=21&live=true)
  - **SPOOKTACULAR IS FRIDAY NIGHT! IT'S A "GLOW" PARTY!**
  - 201 students are signed up already! Remember to feed your kids BEFORE the party. Kids are expected to stay through the end of their time slot and you can pick them up OR they can walk home.
  - **If you haven't already registered your child, click below. PLEASE don't wait until Friday as it will delay them getting into the event.**
    - 6TH GRADE STUDENTS- 6-7:15 pm ➔ [https://signup.com/go/AxhzMnx](https://signup.com/go/AxhzMnx)
    - 7TH AND 8TH GRADE STUDENTS- 7:30 -9 pm ➔ [https://signup.com/go/yTVnHAA](https://signup.com/go/yTVnHAA)
    - We still need a few volunteers to help set up! Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered! [https://signup.com/go/yLoCGSt](https://signup.com/go/yLoCGSt)

- **Diwali**: On Monday, October 24th, the district is closed in honor of Diwali. Diwali, also known as the festival of lights is one of the biggest holidays celebrated in India by Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs all around the world. The festival usually lasts five days, or six in some regions of India, and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika. The festival gets its name from the row (avalii) of clay lamps (deepa) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness with good triumphing over evil. I wish everyone warmth and peace on this Diwali to all those who celebrate.

- **AAPI Diwali Celebration**: Please see the attached flyer for AAPI's Diwali Celebration on Saturday, October 29th from 2 – 6 pm at the Montclair Art Museum.

Next Week’s Schedule of Days
- Monday, October 24th – Diwali, District Closed
- Tuesday, October 25th – A Day
- Wednesday, October 26th – B Day
- Thursday, October 27th – C Day
- Friday, October 28th – D Day
Please mark your calendars:

- Friday, October 21st – PTA Event @ 7:30 pm
- Monday, October 24th – Diwali, District Closed
- Friday, October 28th – PTA Halloween Dance
- Tuesday, November 8th – Election Day, Schools Closed
- Thursday, November 10th & Friday, November 11th – NJEA Convention, District Closed

“*You cannot celebrate the festival of light before combating the darkness within.*”

– Kapil Raj

“*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.*”

– Helen Keller