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

- **Advisory Information:** This week, our students participated in two different advisories in honor of Italian American Heritage Month and Red Ribbon Week. The students learned about various traditions and cultural beliefs about Italian Americans and discussed their prior knowledge about the history of Italians in the United States. They also learned about famous Italian Americans and their contributions in history. For Red Ribbon Week, this cause focuses on creating drug free schools across the nation. They learned the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices, the negative impact drug and alcohol use has on the brain, and the harmful consequences of substance abuse. Staff and students were encouraged to wear Red on Thursday in support of Red Ribbon Week. Please see some discussion questions to ask your child at home:
  - What did you learn about Italian Heritage Month that you didn’t know before?
  - Are there any Italian traditions or cultural beliefs that you found most interesting?
  - Can you give one example of the negative consequences of drug and alcohol use on the brain?
  - What are some signs to look for if you suspect someone is struggling with substance use or abuse?

- **Buzz Aldrin Goes Pink Update!** On Friday, our staff and students wore pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month. Staff and students were encouraged to wear pink and donate to the Side Out Foundation, a foundation dedicated towards breast cancer research. We raised $345 to donate to Side Out! Thank you to Ms. Brower and Ms. Eden-Mintz for coordinating this initiative. Please see our Pink Day staff photo attached.

- **Halloween Spooktacular:** On Friday evening, our amazing PTA hosted the Halloween Spooktacular party for our students. The students had an amazing time filled with wonderful music, costumes, and dancing! Thank you so much to our PTA and the parent chaperones for volunteering your time and efforts in planning such a fun-filled event for our Buzz Aldrin students. Special thank you
to Dave Buonocore, Diana Grassi, and Tai-Anne Linton for chaperoning yesterday!

- **Halloween:** Students are permitted to dress up for Halloween on Monday, October 31st if they choose to do so. Face masks are not permitted.

- **Kiwanis Shoe Drive:** The Kiwanis organization of Montclair is short 90 pairs of shoes to reach their goal of 700 pairs! Please dig into your closets and find old shoes that are lightly worn and bring them to Buzz Aldrin to donate. There is a blue bin where we are collecting shoe donations located in the front hallway.

- **Panera Band Fundraiser:** We are happy to announce that the Buzz Aldrin Middle School Band is participating in a fundraiser with the Panera on Bloomfield Ave. in Montclair. The event will take place on Thursday, November 17th and will run from 4:00 pm-8:00 pm. BAMS Band will receive 20% of every order for all those who provide our flyer or enter the online code (FUND4U) at the time of purchase. Digital copies of the flyer will be accepted at the restaurant. Please know that this does not apply to DoorDash, Grubhub, or any other third-party delivery companies. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please reach out to Mr. Mandel at tmandel@montclair.k12.nj.us. We look forward to your support of the Buzz Aldrin Middle School Band! Please see the attached flyer for more information.

- **School Action Team for Partnership (SATp) Parent Volunteers still Needed:** We are still 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>
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<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>
</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

• **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 PTA Announcements:**
  - A reminder that you should join MemberHub if you want to stay informed on a timely basis about events and classes outside of school. To join, click here: [https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/join/98c0dd](https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/join/98c0dd)
  - Thank you to our wonderful PTA for coordinating last Friday’s Wine & Whiskey Night. Thank you goes to Mr. and Mrs. Shaw for hosting the lovely event at their house. A special thank you goes to Mrs. Holly Shaw for sharing her expertise with Buzz families. Ms. Gandhi, Ms. Drozd, and I had a wonderful time mingling with parents and we appreciate all of your support. It was a great time!
  - After School Enrichment Information: Register here. Remember, if you are interested in a scholarship to cover the costs, please do not hesitate to call the office. We want everyone to be able to participate!
    - Chess - [https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/793546](https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/793546)
    - Street Art - [https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/793543](https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/793543)
    - Financial Literacy - [https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/793544](https://buzzaldrinpta.memberhub.com/store/items/793544)

• **AAPI Diwali Celebration:** Please see the attached flyer for AAPI’s Diwali Celebration on Sunday, October 30th from 2 – 6 pm at the Montclair Art Museum.

• Happy Halloween and trick-or-treating to all those who celebrate!
Next Week’s Schedule of Days

- Monday, October 31st – E Day
- Tuesday, November 1st – F Day
- Wednesday, November 2nd – A Day
- Thursday, November 3rd – B Day
- Friday, November 4th – C Day

Please mark your calendars:

- Monday, October 31st – Halloween
- Wednesday, November 2nd – Staff & Grade-level Yearbook Photos
- Tuesday, November 8th – Election Day, Schools Closed
- Thursday, November 10th & Friday, November 11th – NJEA Convention, District Closed
- Tuesday, November 15th – Picture Day Retakes

“What divides us pales in comparison to what unites us.”

— Edward Kennedy

“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.”

— Thomas Edison