Buzz Aldrin Middle School
The STEM Magnet
173 Bellevue Avenue
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Principal’s Bulletin
December 24th, 2022

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

- **PTA Cookie Exchange:** On Monday, our staff attended the PTA’s annual cookie exchange. The cookies were plentiful and delicious! Thank you to all the families who donated cookies and provided the staff with some sweet holiday treats!

- **Buzz Staff Holiday Gifts:** The staff at Buzz Aldrin is extremely grateful for the generous gifts they’ve received from the Buzz parent community. Your generosity and thoughtfulness were greatly appreciated! Thank you to the PTA and Ms. Sarah Larson for coordinating these efforts, for thanking our staff who work tirelessly to ensure that Buzz Aldrin is a wonderful place for our students.

- **No Place for Hate Update:** As you know, Buzz Aldrin has teamed up with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and is participating in their No Place for Hate program. Since then, we’ve created a No Place for Hate (NPFH) school committee, consisting of students, staff members, parents, and administration. The committee has met on five occasions, three of which were subcommittees to design, create, and collaborate schoolwide activities for Buzz Aldrin to fight hate and promote anti-bias education within the school. The first activity the committee created was to review the No Place for Hate pledge, create a way for each community member to sign the pledge (consisting of six statements) that each member agrees to work towards making Buzz Aldrin a more inclusive and welcoming place. The NPFH committee came up with the idea of creating a sunflower as the center surrounded by colorful petals containing each person’s signature and their most resonating pledge statement. This week, we implemented the pledge signing activity the committee developed. Each homeroom participated in an advisory session and engaged in thoughtful and meaningful discussions regarding the pledge. Please see the attached No Place for Hate Pledge and a photograph of how the final product turned out. I couldn’t be prouder of the Buzz NPFH committee, and the entire community for their participation and the final product. It is beautiful! Although we didn’t have 100% of the school sign, we certainly had at least 90%. Please see some conversation starters below:
  - Why do you think it is important to sign and commit to the pledge?
  - Did you participate in signing the pledge?
Which statement did you write on your flower petal? Why did you choose this statement in particular?

What is one thing you learned from the advisory session that you hadn’t thought about before?

- **Zero Day & Student Council Positions:** Yesterday, our entire Buzz Aldrin school was buzzing with excitement! Ms. Scala and Ms. Drozd coordinated many fun-filled activities for our students yesterday such as door decorating, house games, trivia games, and an advisory on positivity. Additionally, they coordinated our winter spirit week, which was a great way to end 2022! They also arranged our Student Government elections. The school gathered to hear each candidate’s speech and then voted on their choices for class officers. Congratulations to all of the candidates who ran for office, and to those who were elected. Please join me in congratulating the following students!
  - President – Samuel Carlin
  - Vice President – Ashley Brewington
  - Treasurer – Henry Lynch
  - Secretary – Samantha Leftwich

- **Yearbook Reminder:** Please see the attached flyer for yearbook updates and information for how 8th graders and upload and submit their baby photos for the yearbook.

- **Happy Holidays!**
  - On December 25th, Christians celebrate the Christmas holiday, a holiday dedicated to honor the birth of Jesus Christ. This is a joyous holiday for Christians. Merry Christmas to all those who celebrate!
  - Kwanzaa begins on Monday, December 26th through January 1st. Kwanzaa involves gift giving and ends with a large feast. It is a weeklong celebration that honors African heritage and African-American culture. Happy Kwanzaa to all those who celebrate!
  - I continue to wish those who celebrate a Happy Hannukkah!
  - I wish everyone a Happy New Year and I am looking forward to a wonderful 2023! Staff and students return on Tuesday, January 3rd, which will be a “C” Day.

- I wish for all of you to have a wonderful, restful, and joyous winter break. As we close out 2022, please take some time to reflect, rejuvenate, and set goals for the new year. It is never too late to set goals and achieve them.

**Next Week’s Schedule of Days**
- Monday, January 2nd – District Closed
- Tuesday, January 3rd – C Day
- Wednesday, January 4th – D Day
• Thursday, January 5th – E Day
• Friday, January 6th – F Day

Please mark your calendars:
• Monday, December 27th – Monday, January 2nd – Winter Recess, Schools Closed
• Tuesday, January 3rd – District Reopens
• Friday, January 6th – Marking Period 2 Interims Available to Parents @ 4 pm

“The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written.”

– Melody Beattie

“Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.”

– Oprah Winfrey