



# NEWSLETTER

February 2019

## *A Note from our Director*

Happy February! It is hard to believe the year is more than half over, and we are already looking to the 2019-2020 school year! Priority and Open Enrollment were both hugely successful, and we have already started a waitlist for some programs. Encourage families you know to register soon so they can get a spot.

The weather this winter has been especially wild! From the lack of snow cover for weeks, to the polar vortex, to the rapid melt/freeze cycles covering the ground with either mud or ice, the conditions in our outdoor classroom have presented many challenges for our children and teachers. These days are opportunities for growth and reminders of the lessons children learn when we go outside every day:

“Encouraging a child to go outside in all weather builds resilience, but more importantly it saves them from merely tolerating the ‘bad’ days in favor of a handful of ‘good’ ones – a life of endless expectations and conditions where happiness hinges on sunshine.” –Nicolette Sowder

This and many other Aldrich experiences are seeds which we hope will grow to influence children long after they’ve moved beyond their preschool years.

Your Partner in Education,  
Jessica Paolini



*“Children need the freedom and time to play.  
Play is not a luxury. Play is a necessity.”*

*–Kay Redfield Jamison*

## Aldrich Dates to Remember

- Feb. 5&6:** Library Check Out  
Bend & Boogie Enr. Starts
- Feb. 7&8:** Pajama Days
- Feb. 9:** Aldrich Gives Back: Valentines at  
Realife Co-Op, 10:30am-12:30pm
- Feb. 11:** Canvas & Chardonnay Event  
6:30pm
- Feb. 12&13:** Library Books Due Back
- Feb. 14:** Valentine's Day (please check with  
your child's teacher about if/when  
and how their classroom will  
celebrate this holiday)
- Feb. 18:** No School: Presidents' Day
- Feb. 19:** Aldrich Board Mtg. 7:30pm
- Mar. 1:** No School: Aldrich Staff Training Day
- Mar. 25-29:** No School: Spring Break

## Weather Closings

If Rochester Public Schools are closed because of weather, Aldrich will be closed also. What's the best way to determine if we are open?

- Aldrich Calendar on our website at <http://aldrichschool.com/calendarnews/letters/>
- "Like Us" (Aldrich School) on Facebook
- K TTC website: [www.kttc.com/category/153919/school-closings](http://www.kttc.com/category/153919/school-closings)
- Always use your own judgment about driving and the weather situation. If you are not comfortable driving, feel free to stay home.

### Aldrich Closure Guidelines:

- If Rochester Public Schools are closed, Aldrich will be closed.
- If Rochester Public Schools begin 2 hours late, Aldrich will be closed in the morning only. Lunch Bunch will still be available.
- If Rochester Public Schools dismiss early, Aldrich will close in the afternoon, and Kids Club will be cancelled as well.



## Calling All 3-5 Year Olds!

Looking for an option to extend your child's learning at Aldrich?! Our enrichment classes may be a great option for your child! Children must have been at least 3 years old on September 1, 2018 to be eligible to participate. Classes are held on Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 1:00pm-3:30pm. There may be options to extend the afternoon with either Lunch Bunch or Kids Club. The cost of these fun 4 week enrichment opportunity is \$75. Stop by the office for more information and to sign up today!

**Bend and Boogie** (February 5/6-February 26/27)

**Wacky Weather** (March 5/6- April 2/3 \*no class week of March 25)

**Spy Kids** (April 9/10- April 30/May 1)

## Remember to Enroll for 2019-2020!

Many of you have already enrolled for the upcoming school year, but we encourage all families to register as soon as possible because a few classes have already filled and others are filling quickly! We have started waiting lists for full classes and will call names on those lists if there are any changes in the coming months. In order to register for next year, families will need to turn in a completed enrollment contract and fee (\$60 per family) along with an immunization record (new students only.)

Many new families who enroll are referred by current Aldrich families. Thank you for telling your friends, neighbors, and co-workers about Aldrich! Please encourage anyone interested in Aldrich to call the office at [507.289.3097](tel:507.289.3097) to schedule a tour.



**Let us know if you are an in-home childcare provider (or know of one) that provides transportation to Aldrich! Every year we have several families that ask us this question. We would love to help them connect with you!**

## Health Information

Part of maintaining a healthy school is cooperation between parents and Aldrich. It's the time of year that we need your help to help prevent the spread of infection to others. Colds, viruses, childhood illnesses are most easily transmitted in the early stages before the most obvious symptoms appear. To help us prevent the spread of infection, please observe your child before sending them to school. Some reminders regarding illness:

- A child should be able to participate in all parts of the regular school day, including outdoor play.
- If your child has a **fever**, they should remain at home for at least 24 hours after the temperature has returned to normal (**without a fever reducing medication**)
- Children should be kept home until a full 24 hours has passed from the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.
- Parents are required to inform Aldrich within 24 hours when a child is diagnosed as having a **contagious disease or infestation**. Parents of children who may have been exposed to an illness at school will be notified by a note in their child's cubby or via e-mail.

Please take a moment to review pages 16-18 in the Parent Handbook for more specific information regarding our health policies. Thanks for helping keep our children healthy!



## News from the Board



**Aldrich Gives Back: Valentines at Realife Co-Op**  
825 Essex Parkway NW (right next to Aldrich!)  
**Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:30am-12:30pm**

We are excited to partner with our next door neighbor for this fun intergenerational event! The children will create Valentine's Day Themed art with the residents of Realife Co-Operative. Light snacks will be served.

Located right next door to Aldrich, REALIFE Cooperative is a resident/member-owned community independent seniors age 55 and over. Children and residents will work together to create art to be used as Valentine's Day decorations in the Co-Op hallways.



## Canvas & Chardonnay Parents Night Out

Aldrich will be hosting an evening out at Canvas and Chardonnay on Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm that will also raise some funds for Aldrich!

Each person will have the opportunity to pick from a variety of stencils and three wood stains to create the masterpiece of their choice (examples to right).

Cost per adult is \$35- with \$10 of that going back to support Aldrich!



Register by visiting: <https://canvasandchardonnay.com/pec-events/aldrich-pre-school-fundraiser/1549909800/>



## Carnival Fun Coming to Aldrich!!!

The Aldrich Carnival will be May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This very popular Aldrich tradition is a fantastic event for families to engage in meaningful play both inside and outside the newly remodeled walls of our school. Success of the event depends on efforts made in these early stages. If you are interested in participating in the planning, please contact

Michelle Kazos-Dailey at [michellekdailey@gmail.com](mailto:michellekdailey@gmail.com).

We will be asking Aldrich families to consider donating items that can be used in the raffle or silent auction. We welcome all types of contributions! Look for more information in March and April about how you can help!

Are you or someone you know a **local business owner**? This is a great opportunity to receive recognition for your generous donation. Businesses that donate will be listed in our newsletter, posted on our Facebook page, Instagram and the Aldrich website. Aldrich is a non-profit school so all donations are tax deductible. If you are a business owner or know of a business owner that would like to sponsor a room or donate items, please contact Tanya Pool at [mail@tanyapool.com](mailto:mail@tanyapool.com)

Possible donations include:

- A product, service or gift card for our raffle.
- A cash donation for the purchase of raffle items.
- Sponsor a special event or discovery room. A sign will recognize you as the sponsor and your promotional material can be placed with the activity.

Carnival proceeds partially benefit the Aldrich financial assistance fund which allows many students in need to benefit from a nurturing and educational preschool experience. We appreciate your support!