



NEWSLETTER

November 2019

A Note from our Director

When the weather gets colder this time of year, I am always grateful that my children have opportunities at school to continue playing outside. As an educator, I know how vital consistent outdoor play is for child development. However, as a parent I admit I am less likely this time of year to suggest outdoor activities first. Sometimes putting on all the gear that is required to play outside during a Minnesota winter is just overwhelming, especially for this transplant from Texas. How lovely for my children that they could practice the life skills of snow gear AND explore the sensory experiences of winter here at Aldrich!



Angela Hanscom, pediatric occupational therapist and author of last year's best seller Balanced and Barefoot calls outdoor free play "the most beneficial gift we as parents...can bestow on our children," because "movement through active free play, especially outside, improves everything from creativity to academic success to emotional stability." As the weather turns colder, rest assured that your children will still have the opportunity for outdoor play EVERY DAY there is not heavy rain, the temperature is above 0°F, and the wind chill is above -10°F. Cheers to cold noses and developing brains and bodies!

Your Partner in Education,

Jessica Paolini

Child-centered doesn't mean child-run, and warm and responsive early childhood settings are not the opposite of intellectually oriented ones.

-Erika Christakis



#thealdrichway

Aldrich Dates to Remember

- November 4-8: Scholastic Book Fair
- November 4-15: Channel One Food Drive
- November 5 & 6: Library Check Out
- November 6: Infuzn Meal Pick Up 3:30-4:00pm
- November 7 & 8: Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School)
- November 7: Grands Event at Book Fair 9-11am
- Nov. 12 & 13: Library Book Due Dates
- Nov. 12 & 13: Picture Retakes (11:15am-12:00pm, 12:45-1:15pm)
- November 14: RPS Kick Off to Kindergarten Open House
- November 14-26: Scrip Gift Card Fundraiser
- November 19: Aldrich Board Meeting, 7:30pm
- November 21: Kindergarten Readiness Presentation at Aldrich, 6:30pm
- November 27-29: Thanksgiving Break (No School)
- Dec. 23-Jan. 3: Winter Break (No School)



Is There School Today?

While we generally follow the same calendar as Rochester Public Schools, there are a few days which differ. If in doubt about our school schedule, check the calendars listed on our website at

<http://aldrichschool.com/calendarnewsletters/>

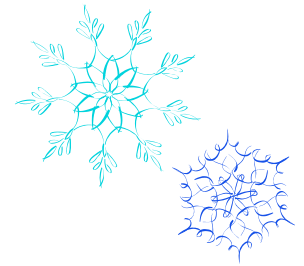
We hope that this will be a quick and useful tool for you.

RPS Kick Off to Kindergarten Open House



Have a child who will be starting Kindergarten next fall? Rochester Public Schools will be hosting their Annual Kick Off to Kindergarten Open House on **Thursday, Nov. 14th** from **4:30pm-7:00pm** at **Mayo High School**. It is a great opportunity to learn more about Kindergarten in the Rochester Public Schools. Adults and children are welcome to attend Kick Off to Kindergarten for information and activities. Registration is not necessary. For questions, contact PAIIR at 328-4020.

***See Board section below for information about the Kindergarten Readiness Presentation at Aldrich presented by Rochester Public Schools. We have moved this event up, to better align with Kindergarten Open Houses and Registration.**



Winter Reminders

Winter weather will be here any minute! Below is some helpful information and reminders as we brace for another MN winter.

Closures:

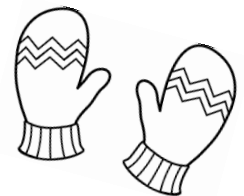
- If Rochester Public Schools are closed, Aldrich will be closed.
- If Rochester Public Schools begin 2 hours late, Aldrich will be closed in the morning only. Lunch Bunch will still be available.
- If Rochester Public Schools dismiss early, Aldrich will close in the afternoon, and Kids Club will be cancelled.
- There are many ways to find out if we will be closed due to weather. They include: local news websites and television channels (KTTC, KAAL, KIMT), the Aldrich website at www.aldrichschool.com or the Aldrich Facebook Page. Always use your own judgment about driving and the weather situation. If you are not comfortable driving, feel free to stay home.

Illness:

- If your child has a fever, he/she should remain home for at least 24 hours after his/her temperature has returned to normal without fever reducing medication.
- Parents are required to notify 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.
- Your child should be kept home for at least 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.
- Your child should be able to participate fully in school, including outdoor play. Otherwise, please keep them home until they are well and able to fully participate.

Clothing:

- Please make sure your child has a hat, **mittens**, **snow pants**, **boots** and a **warm coat**.
- It is encouraged to have an extra set of clothes in their backpack for whatever spills or accidents could occur at school. (Now is a great time to exchange the shorts for long pants!)
- Remember to put an extra pair of shoes in your child's cubby to wear inside.
- Label all pieces of removable clothing and footwear.



Parking Lot Safety

The colder Minnesota weather may tempt parents to leave cars running while dropping off or picking up Aldrich students. For safety reasons, please remember to:



****Turn off your car*** while you drop off and pick up your Aldrich student.

****Bring in ALL children to Aldrich*** while you are away from your car. Leaving a child unattended in a vehicle is a reportable offense.

****Hold your child's hand*** while you are entering and exiting Aldrich to prevent children from running into traffic in the parking lot.

We appreciate your cooperation for the safety of all of our Aldrich students and their families.

Lunch Bunch Families: Beginning in November, milk will be available for all children that attend Lunch Bunch!

Families are welcome to continue to send a beverage of their choice if they prefer.



Library for Children & Adults

We invite you to visit our library, read together with your child, and borrow a book for yourself as well! Reading aloud helps children...



- Acquire early language and communication skills.
- Develop positive associations with books and reading.
- Learn that words represent sounds and concepts.
- Understand cause and effect, exercise logic, as well as think in abstract terms.
- Increase their attention span - a crucial skill for kindergarten and beyond.
- Build a stronger foundation for school success.

Many classrooms make monthly visits to the library to check out books, but also please feel free to borrow at other times during the month or stop in and read together when you get to school early. If you choose to check out a book, kindly remember to return your books about a week after they come home so they will be available for someone else to borrow.

News from the Board

SNOW much to read: Scholastic Book Fair Coming Soon!

The Aldrich Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon! It will be held in Playroom 1 Monday, November 4th through Friday, November 8th!



Book fair hours during the week will be:

- **Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday:** During pick-up and drop-off times (8:45-9:30am, 11:00-11:45am, 12:45-1:30pm, 3:15-4:00pm)
- **Thursday:** 8:30am to 5pm (Stop in and shop before or after your child's conference!)
- **Friday:** 8:30am to 4pm (Stop in and shop before or after your child's conference!)

Books, posters, games, and other gift items will be available to purchase. This is a fantastic opportunity to stock up on your favorite books or shop for holiday gifts! It is also a wonderful opportunity to purchase books that build our classroom libraries that your children enjoy at Aldrich! Every single purchase helps Aldrich earn free books to grow our library. Please take a moment and stop in.

NEW OPPORTUNITY THIS YEAR: On Wednesday, November 6th, families will have the opportunity to order a meal ahead from **Infuzn** to be picked up when they stop in and shop at the Book Fair. A portion of your meal purchase will be given back to Aldrich!

**Orders can be placed online at: squareup.com/store/e-restaurant

Online orders can be picked up in Playroom 1 on Wednesday, November 6th from 3:30-4:00pm.

Volunteers are needed to help staff the book fair! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Stacey Tovar at sltovar8896@gmail.com

Grand's Event at Aldrich Book Fair!

We will be hosting a special morning of shopping at our Scholastic Book Fair! Bring a grandparent or special loved one to the book fair. Check out our selection of books while enjoying some doughnuts and coffee/juice.

When: **Thursday November 7th**
Time: **9-11am**

Is your grandparent or special loved one not able to attend, but would still like to purchase some fun books? New this year is the **e-wallet program!** This option allows money to be loaded for a child to use when they shop at the book fair. Check out:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/parent-how-it-works.html> for more information!



ALDRICH GIVES BACK

Channel One Food Drive

From **November 4-15**, Channel One food drive collection barrels will be located near the main entry and room 9. Please think of others while you are grocery shopping and help us meet our goal of 300 pounds of food! Any type of non-perishable items are welcomed and appreciated. Please no glass items. Thank you for your support!

Your donations will make a huge difference in the lives of others.

Here are some examples of the most requested items:

- Meats, Fish and Protein – canned tuna, ham or chicken, beef stew, chili, peanut butter, canned/dried beans, nuts, chickpeas
- Fruits and Vegetables – 100% fruit juice, canned fruits and vegetables, instant potatoes, fruit preserves
- Complete Meals – pasta & sauce, boxed meals, hearty soups
- Grains – cereal, rice, oatmeal, quinoa
- Hygiene products – shampoo, deodorant, soap, diapers, toilet paper, feminine hygiene, toothpaste
- Cooking Basics – flour, sugar, and cooking oil
- Special Dietary Needs – gluten-free, low sugar, or low sodium items



Kindergarten Readiness Presentation by RPS at Aldrich!



Are you interested in learning more about Kindergarten in the Rochester Public Schools?! Join us on **Thursday, November 21st** from 6:30-7:30pm. Kim LaCroix, an RPS Kindergarten teacher at Churchill Elementary will share the view of a kindergarten day and what families can do to help prepare their little ones as they progress on their educational journey...to kindergarten!

Childcare will be provided for Aldrich families. However, others may join the evening!

Let Aldrich help with holiday gift card shopping!

Buying a gift? Stopping for gas & groceries? Out to dinner? Use SCRIP cards and SUPPORT ALDRICH!

Our scrip gift card order fundraiser will run November 14- 26, with gift card delivery the first week of December! When you order gift cards through the Scrip program, Aldrich earns a percentage at no cost to you. For example, if you spend \$25 for a Gap card, it is worth \$25 to you, but Aldrich gets 14% of the card's value.

Order forms with a large variety of gift card choices will be sent out to all families very soon! Cards will be delivered the first week of December, making them perfect holiday gifts! Thanks for remembering Aldrich for your holiday shopping!

