



NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Welcome to a new year at Aldrich!

It brings me so much joy to welcome you to the new school year. We are thrilled to see so many familiar faces and excited to meet those of you experiencing Aldrich for the first time. Aldrich has served the larger Rochester community since 1944, leaving it near and dear to the hearts of thousands of families--a group which now includes you!

Our talented staff is passionate about quality early childhood education. The bulk of your child's learning will happen while they explore their environment in both the indoor and outdoor classrooms, where you will see teachers interacting with students in small groups and one-on-one, engaging their minds by asking open-ended questions, prompting metacognition, and challenging them to take appropriate risks.

For these teaching techniques to work optimally with the development of a preschooler, our teachers must be masters of facilitating these interactions through the medium of **PLAY**. If you ever wonder why children are doing a particular activity in the classroom, I encourage you to ask his or her teachers. The wealth and depth of our faculty's knowledge on child development is impressive, and you will be thrilled to hear about the intentional learning opportunities they are creating for your child in their classrooms.

We have all been surrounded by serious stressors the last 18 months or so, and your families' smiling faces have been a relief and joy to see. I look forward to seeing each of you more as the school year progresses; please let me know if there is ever any way I can assist your family. We are so happy you are here!

Your partner in education,
Jessica Richards, Director



PLAY is the highest form of research.
-Albert Einstein



*Check this section of each newsletter for fun facts about learning through play! #thealdrichway

Welcome Flags

Have you noticed all of the flags lining both of our entrances? We are very proud that these represent families at Aldrich from a variety of different countries! No matter the language, children's play is universal, and children can play alongside or with each other, even if they speak different native languages.

****If you don't see a flag representing your home country, please stop by the office and let us know.** We want your family to be part of this great Aldrich tradition! We'll be happy to order another flag, and we'll invite you to write "Welcome" in your native language.



Security at Aldrich

The doors at Aldrich are only open during drop off and pick up times. If you arrive at the school outside of normal drop-off and pick-up times, you will need to use the main entrance (Door M by the flagpole). This door has a buzzer system with an intercom to the office.

Safety First!

Children's safety is a primary concern of all Aldrich staff. We'd like to offer the following reminders:

In the parking lot:

- **Drive slowly – 5 miles per hour.** Children can dart out from cars so quickly.
- **Follow the directions of the one-way signs and arrows.**
- **Hold your child's hand** from the Aldrich door to your car door.
- Do not use cell phones while driving in the parking lot.
- Be considerate of other families and other cars.

When dropping off your child:

- **Please turn off your car.** For the safety of everyone in the parking lot, please do not leave your car running when dropping off and picking up children, even during the colder months.
- **Please bring all children into Aldrich with you.** If you regularly have a sleeping child in the car or too many kids to bring in with you, coordinate times with another Aldrich parent to watch your children in the parking lot while you come in.
- Upon entering and exiting the building, keep an eye out for any children who may be alone and near the doors. We don't want to accidentally let children outside unaccompanied by their parent or guardian. If you see a child leaving without an adult, please stop him or her. The child's parent will thank you!



Kay Battista Retirement Celebration

Aldrich School announced the retirement of beloved Aldrich teacher, Kay Battista in June 2021. Kay came to Aldrich in 1981 after completing her BA in Early Childhood and Special Education from St. Mary's University in Winona, MN, in conjunction with Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, WI. Kay has been Lead Teacher in the same classroom since the opening of our current location in the early 1990's, and she held numerous other positions at Aldrich over the course of her career, including Board Representative and Interim Director. Kay was honored by Child Magazine in 1995 as one of the nation's top ten preschool teachers.

Kay's inspiring 40 years of service in Aldrich classrooms do not adequately represent the true level of her contribution to the Aldrich legacy. Her expertise in child development, her desire for knowledge, and her passion for self-reflection and improvement has been an inspiration to many of her colleagues. She and her husband Bob have also contributed their time and resources generously to the school outside of her job description. On a more personal level, our staff know how her ability to listen and empathize with each of us as members of her "Aldrich family" is irreplaceable. We will be hosting a celebration of Kay's career at Aldrich on October 16th at 2pm.



Tuition Payments Made Easier

Looking for the easiest way to pay your tuition? Here are our tuition payment options:

- **Automatic Credit Card or Bank Account** To take advantage of this option, print off the form found at this link (or request a form from the front office): <http://aldrichschool.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Tuition-Express-Parent-Authorization.pdf> and turn it in to the main office. Your tuition will then be automatically charged to your credit card or withdrawn from your bank account on the first of every month.
- **Bank Bill Pay System** If you haven't used bill pay before, contact your bank for details to get started. If you already use bill pay, add Aldrich as a new payee, put your child's name in the memo section, and make your payment. It's even easier if you set up a recurring payment. Tuition is due on the 1st of the month, and it takes about one week for your check to arrive, so please plan accordingly. Please remember that no tuition payment is due on May 1st, which means that if you are using automatic bill pay, your last payment is due on April 1st.
- **Personal Check** Avoid the line at the front office by dropping your check in the secured Payment Slot on the left side of the Information Center (near the front office). Alternatively, you can drop the check in the mail slot outside the main entrance, to the left of the front doors, after business hours.
- **Cash Payments** For security reasons, always bring cash payments to the front desk.

Payments are always due on the 1st of the month. A \$20 late fee will be assessed if payment is not received by the 8th of the month.

United Way Campaign



This fall, many businesses will be promoting their United Way campaigns, encouraging their employees to give back to support community needs. *Because Aldrich is a non-profit organization, did you know that you can designate your donations to go to Aldrich?* Simply write in Aldrich Memorial Nursery School as the recipient when you make your donation to United Way. We sincerely appreciate the financial support from the Rochester

community!

* MARK YOUR CALENDARS*

- September 21 Aldrich Board Meeting 7:30pm (open to all!)
- October 6 & 7 School Pictures (order forms coming soon!)
- October 16 Kay Battista Retirement Celebration at Aldrich!
- October 21 & 22 Fall Break- NO SCHOOL

For the complete calendar for the school year, visit our website:
<http://aldrichschool.com/calendarnewsletters/>

Teacher Biographies



LAUREN CUDDIE ~ I graduated high school in May 2021 and was a teacher's assistant during my senior year. I love watching children learn and grow. I've loved Aldrich ever since my mom started teaching here a few years ago! My hobbies include reading, gaming, piano and kayaking.

EMILIE DAILEY~ This is my sixth year teaching at Aldrich! I have a Bachelor's Degree in Communications and have worked in early childhood for 20 years. Both of my children attended Aldrich and are now in 10th and 7th grade. When I'm not working I love to play board games, read and spend time up north at our cabin.

ANGELA DEMARCO ~ This is my sixth year at Aldrich, and I am thrilled to be back in the classroom with the children. I am originally from Omaha, NE but have lived in Rochester for 17 years. I grew up on a hobby farm where my dad still lives, and it is my happy place :) I have three children: Ellie (15), Matthew (11) and James (almost 8). When I'm not driving them around to their activities, I can usually be found with a good book in my hand. I also love photography and cooking. I feel very blessed to be a part of Aldrich, and I can't wait to meet the students and families!

TERRI FARLOW ~ This is my 21st year teaching at Aldrich. I have been married to my husband Dennis for 42 years. We have 3 children. Our oldest daughter Courtney (40) is a special education teacher in Minneapolis and resides in Bloomington. Our daughter Paige (35) is also a special education teacher in Denver, CO where she lives with her husband Cory. Our son Devin (31) is a social worker in St. Paul where he lives with his wife Ashley and our 18 month old grandson, Harrison. Our family loves traveling and boating.

JILL FINNAN ~ I have worked at several other child care centers and early childhood programs before coming to Aldrich in 2017. I have volunteered in many different programs for children and have worked with a wide range of ages. For the last several years, I have homeschooled my two daughters. I enjoy reading, camping, hiking and spending time with my family.

NICOLE FORLITI ~ I am so excited to be back in school this year with you all. This will be my 11th year working at Aldrich School. My husband Andrew and I are proud parents to our two boys Connor and Easton. We have a dog name Macee, who loves being up north with us all summer. My joy in life is being with my family and teaching children. It's going to be a great year!

JULIE GARDNER- This will be my 3rd year at Aldrich and am excited to be working in Room 3 with Kris Sprick on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays. I have a 6 year old son who will be starting first grade this year. I love to spend time with my son, enjoy the outdoors and cook. Looking forward to the upcoming school year!

ANNIE GETCHELL- This year I will be an assistant in Room 1 on Monday/Wednesday/Friday mornings, and a Lead Teacher in Room 8 Monday-Friday afternoons. I have a Bachelors Degree from the College of St. Benedict where I graduated in 2006. This is my fourth year teaching at Aldrich, and I have 4 additional years of teaching experience and 4 years as an Assistant Director at a preschool program. I had the honor of serving on the Board of Directors here at Aldrich for 4 years, where I learned all about the Aldrich philosophy and fell in love with the Aldrich community. My husband, Aaron, and I have 4 boys – a fifth grader, twins that are in third grade, and a 5 year old that will be attending Aldrich again this year. I am so excited to continue my journey at Aldrich and am looking forward to another wonderful year!

MIRIAM HAACKE ~ This is my 7th year at Aldrich. I am a Rochester native and attended Aldrich as a child. I have a passion for music and enjoy sharing this in the classroom. You can also find me playing my original music around town. Aside from music and teaching, I love spending time outside and with my husband and two boys.

STEF HERBST~ I am looking forward to my third year at Aldrich as an Assistant Teacher in Room 3. I am a Registered Nurse with a background in pediatric nursing. When I'm not at work, I enjoy hanging out with my husband, Mike and our dog, Walter. I love cheering on the Wisconsin Badgers, reading books and trying out new restaurants!

MARY HERGES ~ This is my 15th year at Aldrich. I have called Rochester home for the last 40 plus years. My husband Rick and I have four grown children, Jake, Joe, Kori, and Kristen. We are proud grandparents to 8 little ones, ages 9 and under. I am a graduate of the University of Minnesota, and 11 years ago I also completed my RN degree. I have enjoyed teaching for many years. My interests include reading, biking, fun adventures, and my family. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and your wonderful children this year!



SUSIE JOHNSON ~ I am so excited to be starting my fifth year here at Aldrich! This year I will be the lead teacher in room 7 with Rachel Obranovich on Monday/Wednesday/Friday mornings and assisting with Nicole Forliti on Tuesday/Thursday mornings. In the afternoon I will be assisting Rachel Obranovich in Room 7 on Monday/Wednesday/Friday and Terri Farlow in Room 6 on Tuesday/Thursday. This is my 28th year of teaching. Prior to being at Aldrich, I taught four-year-olds in Rochester, and I taught kindergarten for 21 years in Wisconsin. My husband Eric is the principal at John Marshall High School. We have two sons. Sam (21) is a mechanic at Rochester Subaru and Ben (17) is a senior at Century High School. We also have two labs, Tilly and Ranger. I enjoy spending time with my family, walking our two dogs, exercising, and being outside.

ANN KAHN ~ I began working at Aldrich in April 2018 as the Building Assistant. This year I will be in Room 6 working as a Lead Teacher and Building Aide. I have my preschool CDA and worked at a local childcare center for 16 years before I started at Aldrich. I am married and have 2 boys.

MELISSA LAFOREST~ I have a degree in Elementary Education. Before I was able to find a teaching position, I married my high school sweetheart and we decided to start a family. We have three kids- a 2nd grader, a Kindergartener and a 3-year-old. I started an in-home daycare so I could be home with my children. With my youngest child getting older, I decided to consider a change in my career. While my older child was attending Aldrich, I spoke with Jessica about my dream of working at Aldrich- and was so excited when a teaching position became available for me! My family and I love being outdoors- hiking and biking especially! We are also Packer fans to the core.

JAZMIN MARQUIS - I am very excited to start my third year at Aldrich. I will be the assistant teacher in room 4 Monday through Friday. I hold a Computer Science degree, and after working for IBM during six years in Mexico City (my home country), I moved to Rochester to marry my husband Alex, who works for IBM in town. I decided to start a career in education and worked for the Rochester Public Schools District with first and second graders for two years as a paraprofessional, and completed a master's degree in Educational Leadership in 2009 from Concordia University, St. Paul. My husband and I have three children, Camila (12), Emily (10), and Alex (7), all of them Aldrich former students. We enjoy spending time together, going camping, swimming, sledding and traveling, watching a good show or a soccer game.

KAREN MULVIHILL-PETRI ~ I am excited to be starting my sixth year at Aldrich. I have a certificate in Early Childhood Education and have spent a majority of my career in the Early Childhood Education field. I live in NE Rochester with my husband, my four children and my 5 "bonus" children. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, playing board games, fishing and watching sports- especially Vikings football. I look forward to getting to know the children and families of Aldrich this year!

RACHEL OBRANOVICH- This will be my third year at Aldrich. My family and I have lived in Texas and Switzerland prior to making our home here in Rochester. In Switzerland, I worked in a community center offering art programs to toddlers, and completed advanced studies in instruction at the Zurich University of the Arts. I hold two Masters degrees in Art from the University of Dallas, and am All Level Certified in Art by the State Board of Education in Texas, where I taught at The Ursuline Academy of Dallas for seven years. I'm especially interested in painting and movement, and love to work with children of all ages.





BETH OESTERLIN ~ I am excited to be starting my 9th year as a teacher at Aldrich! I was born and raised in Rochester, and even attended Aldrich as a preschooler! When I am not spending time with children at Aldrich, I also work with children at Camp Victory. This year you can find me in Room 9.

JOLENE OLSON ~ I'm excited to start my 12th year at Aldrich! I am a lead teacher in Room 1 every morning. My husband, Brian and I have been married for 22 years and have 3 children. Brandon is 20 and lives in Austin, MN managing the Culvers there. Ashley is 18 and is starting her first year at NDSU studying architecture. Zachary is 18 and a junior at Century High School. I enjoy reading, going for walks, and spending time with my family.

LOGAN PETZOLD~ I'm excited to be beginning teaching at Aldrich! I have been coaching swimming in Rochester for the last 12 years and am happy to embark on the journey of preschool teaching! I have a BA degree from Hamline University and a MS in school aged counseling from UW River Falls. I live in Rochester with my husband Andy, my two daughters Ivy and Cora, two cats and the new addition: a pug puppy named Olive.

NANCY PLUTE ~ I am thrilled to be back at Aldrich as a substitute teacher and classroom materials donation coordinator after 15 years of teaching at Aldrich! My husband Michael is retired from IBM as a software engineer. We have 2 adult children. Allison lives in Colorado Springs and is married to her husband Rob. Kellie lives in Eagan with her husband Trent and they have 2 children. We are delighted to be grandparents to 10 year old Nora and 4 year old Maverick- we love spending time with them! I am looking forward to a great year at the #1 preschool in Rochester!

KATE RAUCH ~ I'm beginning my sixth year at Aldrich School in the two year old room. My husband, Joshua works at the Mayo Clinic. And our daughter, Josie, an Aldrich alumni and now fourth grader, reminds me frequently that wishes she "could just go back to school at Aldrich." I am so looking forward to spending time with your little loves in the upcoming school year! It's sure to bring amazing changes, growth and fun.

JULIANN ROGGOW~ My name is Juliann. I am a retired early childhood special education teacher who continues to enjoy being with children and learning through play! I love music, reading, walking, taking care of my grandchildren, spending time with family and traveling. I am honored to be a part of the Aldrich family!

RACHEL SKINNER ~ This will be my 16th year at Aldrich. My family moved to Rochester in 1999 from Michigan. I have 2 grown daughters, my younger daughter is an Aldrich alumni. My older daughter and her husband have a 1 ½ year old son. My husband works at Mayo Clinic. We enjoy traveling and hiking.

KRIS SPRICK~ I am so blessed to teach at Aldrich! I have a Montessori (3-6) degree, a Special Education (ABS) degree and am currently pursuing my Masters in Education. I am a mom to Cale (27) and his wife Jordyn, Annie (23), Lauren (18) and Piper (6). My husband, Michael, and I live in Mazeppa.

NICCI WATSON ~ I am thrilled to begin another exciting year at Aldrich. I have been blessed to be a part of the Aldrich community as either a parent or staff member for over 18 years. My husband, Jim, and I have five children. Together we enjoy attending the kids' sporting events, hiking, traveling, and photography. I look forward to learning & exploring with your children this year!

Administration & Support Staff Biographies

JESSICA RICHARDS, DIRECTOR ~ When my family moved from Texas to Minnesota in 2014, Aldrich was one of the first places in Rochester that felt like home. I began my time at Aldrich when my oldest started in Room 1. I joined the staff 2015 and assumed the role of Director two years later. I have two sons, who are 7 and 9. They attend school near our home in Winona, where we love to ride our bikes downtown or snuggle up with a good movie. I look forward to partnering with your family this year!



CARRIE MANGUSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR~ I am looking forward to another great year as the Assistant Director at Aldrich! I was born and raised in Rochester. I have a degree in Elementary Education. After teaching one year, I worked as an Assistant Director for nearly 10 years at two local early childhood learning center and then was fortunate to be a stay at home mom for 5 years. In fall 2014 I was lucky enough to join the Aldrich family and started working as an Office Assistant at Aldrich. My husband, Ryan works for the Rochester Police Department and we have three awesome children: Morgan (18), Paige (16) and Noah (11). We keep busy cheering on our kids in all their activities, love family movie nights and love to travel. I am looking forward to partnering with you in your child's early childhood education!

CHERYL PAYNE, OFFICE COORDINATOR ~ Hi! I am super excited to be the starting my 7th year as office coordinator at Aldrich. I just love seeing preschoolers' happy faces every day! Both of my children are Aldrich alumni and I was a member of the Board of Directors when my daughter attended. She is now in the 11th grade and my son is in 6TH grade this fall. I am married to Mike who is a software engineer at IBM, and we have lived here since 1999. I am active in Girl Scouting and ask me about my chickens!

LARRY SCILLEY, HANDYMAN ~ Larry has been the handyman at Aldrich since 1998. His wife, Gwen, taught at Aldrich for over 35 years, retiring in 2011. Larry is very quick to get things checked off of his "to do" list here at Aldrich, and we are grateful for his willingness to help us in so many different ways!