



NEWSLETTER

September 2022

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 their 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 two and a half years 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,
Annie Getchell, 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 our hallways? 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. In the morning, doors will open at 8:45am. 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.** Aldrich has an anti-idling policy: all vehicles must turn off their engines within the Aldrich parking lot as soon as possible to protect children from inhaling harmful car exhaust.
- **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!



Help Keep Aldrich Healthy (from our COVID Preparedness Plan)

Parents play a vital role in keeping our program open and healthy, please be honest and forthcoming with any symptoms your child is experiencing. Parents will be responsible to complete a daily health check of their child(ren) prior to arrival to ensure they are healthy. Children should only attend Aldrich if they are healthy and able to participate in all portions of the regularly scheduled day, including outdoor play. If children or staff exhibit any of the symptoms below, they should stay home and may return to Aldrich with a negative test(s) or evaluation from a medical professional:

- Fever or feeling feverish/having chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Vomiting/nausea
- Diarrhea

It is important to report **any** symptoms your child is experiencing to the Aldrich office within 24 hours so that we can share next steps with you in a timely manner regarding testing and isolation. If you don't report symptoms to Aldrich within 24 hours and your child later tests positive for COVID, we will use your child's test date to determine the isolation period.

Testing Options: Aldrich will accept lab confirmed tests OR serial home tests (2 negative tests over a 48-hour period, depending on the test instructions.) Home test results must be submitted with a photo of the test including child's name and date the test was taken.

Children or staff who have COVID symptoms cannot attend while awaiting screening test results.

**If you receive a positive COVID test for your child, please notify the Aldrich office immediately (including during the weekend or evening) by emailing aldrich@aldrichschool.com. This is vital so we can keep families notified if their child was a close contact while at Aldrich.

COVID Testing and Test Kits

Aldrich is eligible to receive a limited supply of free COVID test kits from the Minnesota Department of Health to have available for enrolled families. We will keep you posted when they arrive! Here are resources for getting free test kits and COVID testing information:

- <https://mn.gov/covid19/get-tested/at-home/>
- <https://www.covid.gov/tests>
- <https://www.medicare.gov/covid-19-tests-participating-pharmacies>
- <https://www.olmstedcounty.gov/covid/testing>

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 20** Aldrich Board Meeting 6:30pm (open to all!)
- **October 5 & 6** School Pictures (order forms coming soon!)
- **October 20 & 21** Fall Break- NO SCHOOL

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

From the Board of Directors

The Aldrich School Board had a great kick-off to the school year at our Annual Board Orientation and Retreat. We're enthusiastic about our upcoming school year and are so grateful to the staff and teachers for all that they have done to welcome back children to Aldrich School. We're also thankful to all those who helped spruce up our outdoor classrooms on Saturday, August 27th! The playgrounds are looking fresh and ready for kids to do the important work of play (and getting messy)!

I would like to invite you to participate in all of the great events and opportunities the Aldrich Board of Directors is planning this year. From book fairs, help with the library, loving on our staff and teachers, to The Big Playdate in the spring (psst! Save the Date for Saturday, May 13th), we'd love help from the Aldrich School community. If you are interested in learning about ways to volunteer around the school and with the board, please send an email to aldrichschoolvolunteers@gmail.com.

Volunteer Spotlight

Remember the feeling of receiving the book fair flyer when you were in elementary school? It was so fun to flip through and then attend the fair surrounded by all those great books! Aldrich is planning for the fall **Scholastic Bookfair** that takes place during fall conferences the first week of November. We're specifically looking for people who would be interested in organizing the details and staffing it while families attend their conferences. This is a FUN opportunity, and you'll have help all along the way from individuals who have organized book fairs before. If you are interested, please email: aldrichschoolvolunteers@gmail.com

If you have any questions during the school year, or simply want to say hi, please email me at any time: beckymontpetit@gmail.com

Meet our TEACHERS

Teacher Biographies

KYLEIGH ANDERSON~ I am excited to officially be part of the Aldrich Family! I finished my 2-year degree in Early Childhood Care and Education at RCTC in the Spring. I came to Aldrich as part of my schooling at RCTC and then took on a long-term substitute position here at the end of the school year. This year I will be an Assistant Teacher in 2 classrooms. I am from Rochester and am a dog mom. I am looking forward to a great school year!

EMILIE DAILEY~ This is my seventh-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 11th and 8th grade. When I'm not working I love to play board games, read and spend time up north at our cabin.

SAM DAILEY~ This is my first year working at Aldrich. I am currently a junior in high school. I like to go on walks, play Dungeons and Dragons and play video games. I am looking forward to encouraging imagination and storytelling with the children I work with.

ANGELA DEMARCO~ This is my seventh 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 18 years. I grew up on a hobby farm where my dad still lives, and it is my happy place :) My favorite people are my husband, Shawn, and my 3 children: Ellie (16), Matthew (12) and James (almost 9). 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 22nd year teaching at Aldrich. I have been married to my husband Dennis for 43 years. We have 3 children. Our daughter Courtney (41) is a special education teacher in St. Paul, where she also resides. Paige (36) is also a special education teacher in Denver, CO where she lives with her husband Cory. Our son Devin (32) is a social worker in St. Paul where he lives with his wife Ashley and our 2 ½ year old grandson, Harrison and 10-month-old granddaughter, Mila. 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 several years, I homeschooled my two daughters. I enjoy reading, camping, hiking and spending time with my family.

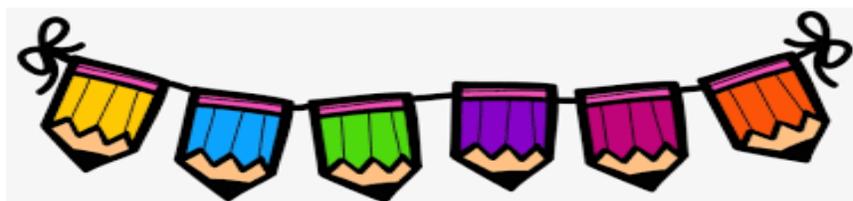
NICOLE FORLITI~ I am so excited to be back in school this year with you all. This will be my 12th year working at Aldrich School. My husband Andrew and I are proud parents to our two boys Connor and Easton. We have a dog name Macee, who loves being up north with us all summer. My joy in life is being outside with my family and teaching children to explore the world. It's going to be a great year!

MIRIAM HAACKE~ This is my 8th 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 three kids.

BAILEY HANSEN~ I joined Aldrich in the Spring of 2022 with previous childcare experience and a background in art and design. I have a degree in Graphic Design and am working toward a second degree in Early Childhood Education.

STEF HERBST~ I am looking forward to my fourth 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 16th 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 10 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 7th year here at Aldrich! This year I will be the Lead Teacher in Room 9. This is my 29th year of teaching. Prior to working at Aldrich, I taught four-year-olds in Rochester, and I taught kindergarten for 21 years in Wisconsin. My husband Eric works in the Rochester Public School District as the Director of Leadership Development. We have two sons. Sam (22) is a mechanic at Audi in LaCrosse, WI and Ben (18) is a Freshman at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT. We also have a yellow lab named Ranger. I enjoy spending time with my family, walking Ranger, 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 am excited to start my second year at Aldrich. 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 3rd grader, a 1st grader and a 4-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 (in 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 (13), Emily (11), and Alex (8), 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 eighth year at Aldrich. I have a certificate in Early Childhood Care and Education and am currently pursuing my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education with Licensure through Southwest Minnesota State University. The majority of my career has been in the Early Childhood 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!

CAITLIN NEWBERG~ I am excited to be the Assistant Teacher in Room 3 this year! I moved back to Rochester summer of 2021 and love that I have found Aldrich! I enjoy doing activities with my 2 huskies and husband, including going on walks and roads trips to the family cabin. In my spare time, I love doing arts and crafts, playing video games and spending time with my 5 siblings, who all live in town.



RACHEL OBRANOVICH~ This will be my fourth 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.

JOLENE OLSON~ I'm excited to start my 13th year at Aldrich! I am a lead teacher in Room 1 every morning. My husband, Brian and I have been married for 23 years and have 3 children. Brandon is 21 and lives in Austin, MN managing the Culvers there. Ashley is 19 and is attending NDSU studying architecture. Zachary is 17 and a senior at Century High School. I enjoy reading, going for walks, and spending time with my family.

LOGAN PETZOLD~ I began teaching at Aldrich in 2021. I received my BA from Hamline University and an MS in School Age Counseling from UW-River Falls. I also enjoy coaching swimming for the Rochester Swim Club. I live in Rochester with my husband, my two daughters, two cats and a pug puppy.

NICOLE POST~ I recently graduated from RCTC in Early Childhood Education. My family includes my mom Connie, my dad Peter and 2 siblings. I have a dog named Olive that loves playing hide and see with me! I am a Disney fan- my favorite Disney movie is Encanto. I love seeing all the cultures represented. I am an Aldrich Alumni- I went to Aldrich back in 1995, when I was 3 years old!

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 11-year-old Nora and 5-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 seventh 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 fifth 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 17th 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 son and daughter. My husband works at Mayo Clinic. We enjoy traveling and hiking.



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!

JENN WIENS~ I am the Lead Teacher in Room 3. I started at Aldrich in January of 2022 and am looking forward to starting my first full year here! I have my AAS in Early Childhood Education. I live in Pine Island with my husband and 2 boys- ages 4 and 1- and our 2 dogs.

Administration & Support Staff Biographies

ANNIE GETCHELL, DIRECTOR ~ I am honored to serve as the Director of Aldrich School and am excited for a great year! I have been a teacher at Aldrich for 4 years, served on the Board of Directors for 4 years, and all 4 of my boys are Aldrich Alumni. I was also an Assistant Director for 5 years at another local childcare facility. My husband, Aaron, works for Mayo Clinic and we have 4 hockey-obsessed boys: Joe (11), Will (9), Charlie (9) and Finn (6). Aldrich is very near and dear to my heart, and I am thrilled to be able to continue to provide children and their families with the best experience possible!

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 centers and then was fortunate to be a stay at home mom for 5 years. In fall 2014 I joined the Aldrich family and started working as an Office Assistant. My husband, Ryan works for the Rochester Police Department and we have three awesome children: Morgan (19), Paige (17) and Noah (12). We keep busy cheering on our kids in all their activities and we 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 8th year as office coordinator at Aldrich School. 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. My two children are in 12th grade and 7th grade this fall. I am married to Mike who is a software engineer at IBM, and we have lived here since 1999. I give back to our community through Girl Scouting and love to talk about my pet 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!

