



NEWSLETTER

November 2022

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 can be 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. 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 bestseller 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,

Annie Getchell

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

-Erika Christakis



Aldrich Dates to Remember

- November 1 – 11: RaiseRight Gift Card Fundraiser
- November 7 & 8: Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School)
- November 7-9: Scholastic Book Fair at Aldrich
- November 9 & 10: Library Check Out
- November 15: Aldrich Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- November 16 & 17: Library Book Due Dates
- November 16 & 17: Picture Retakes (11:15am-12:00pm & 12:40pm-1:25pm)
- November 23-25: Thanksgiving Break (No School)
- Dec. 22-Jan. 2: 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.

Reusable Water Bottles at Aldrich

Unfortunately, MN Licensing guidelines don't allow children to bring in reusable water bottles from home to use during their time at Aldrich. Instead, Aldrich will provide children with disposable cups to drink water throughout their session and snack time. The ONLY exception for this rule is in the full day programming, where reusable water bottles are only allowed for children as part of a child's lunch brought from home, and can only be used at lunch time, at the lunch table. The reusable water bottles must be labeled with the child's first and last name.



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. 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.

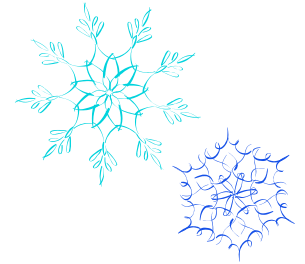
***Bring in ALL children to Aldrich** while you are away from your car. Leaving a child unattended in a vehicle is a reportable offense.

***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.

Winter Reminders



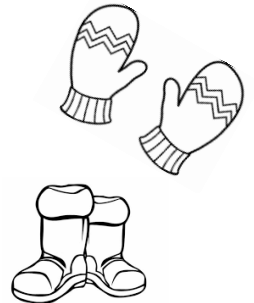
Winter weather will be here any minute! Below is some helpful information and reminders as we brace for another MN winter.

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 for Full Day students.
- If Rochester Public Schools dismiss early, Aldrich will close in the afternoon.
- 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.

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.



Teacher Meals During Conferences

The office staff are coordinating meals for the Aldrich teachers to enjoy during the Parent-Teacher Conference days on Monday and Tuesday, November 7 & 8. This is a great way to say thank you and show our appreciation during these busy conference days! Visit the following link to help:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d48aea628a0fb6-teacher>

News from the Board

RaiseRight (formerly Scrip) Gift Card Sales Coming Soon!

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

What is RaiseRight? Families order gift cards to over 750 stores across the United States. When you order gift cards through the RaiseRight program, Aldrich earns a percentage at no cost to you. For example, if you spend \$25 for a Gap gift card, it is worth \$25 to you, but Aldrich gets 14% of the card's value.



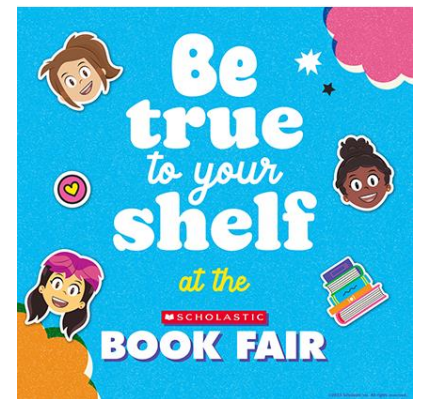
Our RaiseRight gift card order fundraiser will run November 1-11, with gift card delivery November 17 & 18 (in time for Black Friday shopping)! **Or NEW THIS YEAR: You can choose to have gift cards ship directly to your home!**

Start making your list now of who you will be buying gift cards for this holiday season. Being able to buy all the gift cards in one place is a time saver for you and an easy way to support Aldrich without spending additional money out of your pocket. Thanks for remembering Aldrich for your holiday shopping!

Place your orders online at: www.raiseright.com, and use enrollment code: 524F6BB421771
Orders must be placed online by Friday, November 11.

It's Almost Time for the Aldrich Scholastic Book Fair!

Our **Scholastic Book Fair** will run **November 7th-9th!** Aldrich School loves our book fair. We love to encourage a love of reading in all of our special friends and the book fair is a great way to get kids excited about books **WHILE** raising funds to help us bring new and updated materials to our very own library! Read on for more information about the fair and how to sign up to volunteer! The Fair will connect your kids to notable books and inspiring characters—helping them become lifelong readers. We're thrilled to offer an **IN-SCHOOL** book fair this year as well as an **ONLINE** option. The fair will conveniently run during conferences offering you a chance to shop before or after you meet with your child's teacher.



In-Person Fair Dates:

- Monday & Tuesday, November 7 & 8: 8:30am to 4:00pm
- Wednesday, November 9 during drop off and pick up times (8:30-9:30am, 11:00am-12:00pm, 12:30-1:30pm, 3:00-4:00pm)

Online Shopping Fair Dates: Monday, November 7th - Sunday, November 20th |

Sign-Up to Volunteer! Parent volunteers determine the success of our fair and we need your help!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e44abab2ca3fbc16-book>

Set up an e-wallet for your student! This is a wonderful way for grandparents and other loved ones to contribute to the funds available to your child for the book fair. Easy to set up eWallet funds are immediately available at both the in-school and online book fairs. Visit our bookfair homepage to get started! >>>

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/aldrichschool>