



NEWSLETTER

October 2022

Hello Aldrich Families,



Greetings, and happy fall!

There is a familiar crispness in the air that assures us it is indeed time for crunching leaves, warm drinks and cozy sweaters. Learning opportunities for young children abound in autumn, and being outside is vital to our children's health and development. We all know the benefits of being outside and understand the reduction in stress we feel when we make the time to enjoy the outdoors. It also increases a child's attention span – so let's maximize these fall days.

I want to thank each of your families for the immense role you've played in keeping our school healthy this first month back to school. We are grateful for the contentiousness you've shown as you've kept your children home who have symptoms, and for your open communication with us. Thank you for your cooperation in our efforts, and for your understanding. We are so happy to be your partner in these important early learning years!

For the good of children,

Annie Getchell, Director



Why Play?

"Play is often talked about as if it were serious relief from learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood."

-Fred Rogers

Aldrich Dates to Remember:

October and November will be busy months at Aldrich! Keep an eye on Cheryl's weekly email reminders to be in the loop on everything coming up.

- October 4-18: Aldrich Spiritwear Sales
- October 5 & 6: School Pictures
- October 11 & 12: Library Check Out
- October 12: Aldrich Family Event at Sekapp Orchard 4-7pm
- October 18 & 19: Library Books Due
- October 18: Aldrich Board Meeting, 6:30pm open to public
- October 20 & 21: Fall Break (No School)
- October 26 & 27: Fire Drills at Aldrich
- October 27: Countdown to Kick Off to Kindergarten (RPS Event)
- November 1-11: Scrip Gift Card Fundraiser
- November 7 & 8: Parent Teacher Conferences (No School)
- November 7-9: Scholastic Book Fair
- November 23-25: Thanksgiving Break (No School)



SAFETY REMINDER: It is listed in the Aldrich Parent Handbook that no child should be left unattended in a car. As the temperatures drop, it can be tempting to leave a comfortable or sleeping sibling behind while you run in "just for a minute." This decision does not come without serious risks to the child left alone. It is vital to choose safety over convenience, in accordance with the parental guidelines you agreed to when you enrolled at Aldrich. Children must always be supervised on Aldrich property.

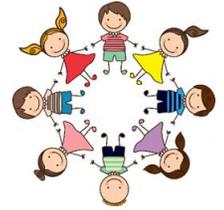
Halloween and Other Holidays



Halloween is quickly approaching, and we would like to pass along a few reminders regarding our holiday observance policies at Aldrich. Certain classrooms may have Halloween treats, stories, art, and songs. However, we do not wear costumes or masks as these can be frightening for some children.

In general, we do recognize holidays and participate in activities appropriate for the class. Preschoolers can experience overstimulation connected with holidays, so we try to keep school activities low key but meaningful. Whenever possible, we hope to incorporate the many different cultural celebrations of all our Aldrich families. We want to do this to affirm your family traditions and also provide an enriching experience for the class. Please consider visiting in person to share your family's traditions with your child's class, and plan with your child's teacher when you would be able to come. Anything that is special to your family is worth sharing and bolsters your child's self-esteem.

Looking for more time for your child at Aldrich?



If you are finding that you need a little extra time to run errands or attend appointments, check out these Extension options for children in the 3 & 4-year-old classes:

- **EARLY BIRD** allows an earlier start time for families who may need a more convenient drop off time. Children will be in Playroom 2 as early as 7:30am enjoying a relaxed atmosphere before their morning or full day session. Children are welcome to bring a small breakfast or a small snack will be served for those who don't pack their own. Daily drop in rate is \$20.
- **LUNCH BUNCH** extends the morning or afternoon session just over an hour. Pack a lunch for your child, and then morning children can be picked up by 12:45pm or afternoon children can be dropped off starting at 11:35am. Lunch Bunch will be held in Playroom 1. Daily drop in rate is \$13.
- **KIDS CLUB** extends the afternoon session by two hours so you can pick up your child by 5:30pm. Children will enjoy time in Playroom 2, and weather permitting, on the playgrounds as well. Art activities, group story-time, and snack are also included in this popular option. Daily drop in rate is \$16.

We encourage you to pick a day(s) for the year for Early Bird, Lunch Bunch & Kids Club, but some drop-in spots may be available as well. Enrollment forms for the enrichment classes are also on our website under "Programs→Extended Care". We hope that these classes will provide you with more options to find the right fit for your child and your family's needs.

TOP SECRET

Aldrich School Spiritwear Order Forms Coming (Very) Soon!

Visitor/ Volunteer Badges

If you are going to be volunteering or visiting at Aldrich, please stop by the front desk to sign in and put on a Visitor/Volunteer badge. This helps us keep track of who is in the building in case of emergency and also helps staff identify who has checked in the front office. A similar system is used in the Rochester Public Schools to help staff members identify volunteers and visitors. If you'd like more information on volunteer opportunities, talk with your child's teacher or visit the front office!



This year, all visitors/volunteers must check in at the office and present proof of COVID vaccination before heading to the classroom(s).

Helmholz Library

The Helmholz Memorial Library at Aldrich is located directly across from the front office! There are comfy spots to sit and enjoy a book or two with your child before or after their class session. Research has shown that reading with and out loud to children can improve their future educational success. Reading together also allows for a special bonding time.

Children must be supervised in the library. Directions for book check out are posted on the top center shelf, and books can be checked out and borrowed for up to 1 week. Kindly return your book on time so that our librarian can check in books for the next borrowing session.

Beginning in **October**, children will have an opportunity during their class time to check out a book on the 2nd Tuesday or Wednesday of every month from the library at Aldrich. This is a great opportunity for students to pick out a book from school to read at home!



Parent/Teacher Conferences

There is **NO SCHOOL** on **MONDAY & TUESDAY, NOV. 7 & 8** which are all-school conference days. Most conferences will be held this day, but conferences may also be available on other days. More information will be coming soon from your child's teacher(s). **We will not be offering childcare for children during conferences.** We are excited to offer different options for conferences, including in-person or meeting over Zoom.



Conference time is your chance to discuss your child with the teachers. Don't pass it by! Remember that you are there to participate; be ready to share some insight about your child and his/her adjustments to school. The teachers will share more detailed information with you about their classroom and will be asking what you hope your child will experience while at Aldrich. Conferences typically last 10-15 minutes, and it is important to use the time well. We look forward to setting aside time to talk with parents about each special child here at Aldrich!

PREPARING FOR PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES:

When parents and teachers work together to try and provide the best environment for learning, the child stands to benefit the most. The following are some tips on how to make the most of those precious minutes:

- ***Be Prepared; Ask Questions.*** Come with a list of questions or topics that you want to cover.
- ***Consult your child.*** Ask if there is anything he or she particularly likes or dislikes about school.
- ***Share information.*** Parents and teachers should work as a team. You know more about your child than anyone else, and your teacher will be grateful for the added insight.

United Way Campaign

This fall, many businesses will be promoting their United Way campaigns, encouraging their employees to give back to support community needs. *Did you know that because Aldrich is a non-profit organization, you can designate your United Way donations to go to Aldrich?* Simply write in Aldrich School as the recipient when you make your donation to United Way. *For Mayo Clinic employees,* find more specific directions about how to designate Aldrich for your United Way donations by visiting <https://aldrichschool.com/giving/>

We appreciate the financial support from the Rochester community!



**United Way
of Olmsted County**

News from the Board



Aldrich Event at Sekapp Orchard

Looking for some fall family fun and meeting some other Aldrich families?! Sekapp Orchard is hosting Aldrich families on Wednesday, October 12th from 4-7pm! Pick up pumpkins, apples, mums and more. Present the flyer from your child's cubby and a portion of sales will be donated back to Aldrich to support our Scholarship Fund.

Sekapp is located at: 3415 Collegeview Road East, Rochester, MN 55904

Volunteer Spotlight:

School Picture Day Volunteers Needed: We are looking for volunteers to help with School Picture Days at Aldrich on Wednesday and Thursday, October 5 & 6. Please visit this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44ABAB2CA3FBC16-picture>

We want to be sure to connect Aldrich Families with Volunteer Opportunities at Aldrich! If you didn't have the chance to fill out the Green **Volunteer Opportunities Sheet** at the beginning of the school year, please complete this Google form to let us know what you are interested in helping with: <https://forms.gle/LivsvfLEmEN8ccLC6>



Scrip Gift Card Sales Coming Soon!

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

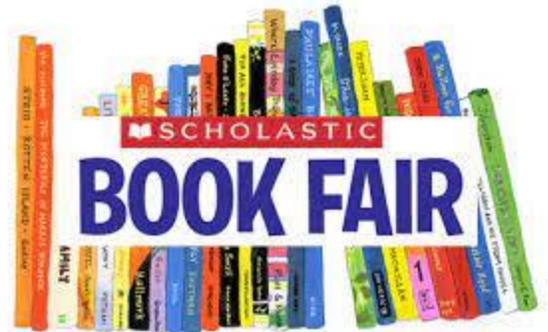
What is Scrip? Families order gift cards to over 750 stores across the United States. When you order gift cards through the Scrip program, Aldrich earns a percentage at no cost to you. For example, if you spend \$25 for a Gap gift card, it is worth \$25 to you, but Aldrich gets 14% of the card's value.

Our scrip gift card order fundraiser will run November 1-11, with gift card delivery November 17 & 18 (in time for Black Friday shopping)!

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 raises funds for Aldrich. Ordering information will be coming with the November newsletter. Thanks for remembering Aldrich for your holiday shopping!

Scholastic Book Fair Coming Soon!

It's the BOOKFAIR! Remember those Scholastic fliers you received as a kid and how excited you felt to pick out a brand-new book? Now think of that feeling but with preschool energy! We are gearing up for the Aldrich Book Fair on November 7th - 9th and need support from the Aldrich community to make it happen. The annual Scholastic Book Fair is the main way we are able to fund and purchase new materials for our beloved library.



If you'd like to commit an hour or two to help us staff our bookfair, please visit this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44ABAB2CA3FBC16-book> or email aldrichschoolvolunteers@gmail.com. Thank you!