

NEWSLETTER

December 2023



A Note from our Director

As 2023 comes to an end and we look toward a new calendar year, it's time to start thinking about our plans for the 2024-2025 school year as well. For Aldrich families, this will mean either re-registering for an Aldrich program or registering for Kindergarten! We are honored to be one of your resources as you make these important choices, and I'd like to offer some starting-point guidance based on the questions we receive most often.

First, if your child will be returning to Aldrich, remember that registration is required for every child, every year. This means this January you will need to complete and turn in enrollment paperwork for your child if they will be returning in September. The registration packet you receive in your child's cubby in early January will be pre-filled with your contact information on file, so it should take less time than your first registration. If your Aldrich child or alumni has a younger sibling you will be enrolling for the first time, congratulations! It's so exciting for younger siblings to finally get to share in the Aldrich experience. You can ask for another pre-filled enrollment packet at the front desk, and you will turn in one separate packet per child. You may start turning in these completed packets at **8:30a.m. Friday, January 5th.**

Second, begin thinking now about whether you would like to enroll your child in a half- or full-day program next year, and whether they will attend 2, 3, or 5 days per week. This is a decision that will very much depend on the needs of your family and your child(ren.) There are good reasons to choose each program over another depending on the circumstances, and Carrie or I would be happy to talk with you about which program will best fit with your child's needs.

Finally, if your child is old enough to attend kindergarten next year, learn about the registration process for your preferred school now. If you are unsure whether your child is ready for kindergarten next year, please involve your child's teacher in that conversation. Their expertise in child development and observations of your child in an academic setting can be an invaluable resource as you make that decision. Thank you again for allowing us to partner with you as you invest in a strong foundation for your child's education.

For the good of children,
Annie Getchell, Director

"Children are wired for hands-on, full-contact, self-selected interaction with the world--we call this play."

Thank You to Our Generous Donors!

Thank you to all the families that have donated to Aldrich this past year! As a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on the generosity of our donors to keep our programs at Aldrich strong.



AbiMansour Family
Aldrich Room 2 Teachers
Anonymous
Krista Attewell
Bob & Kay Battista
BB's Pizzeria
Joe & Penny Biachi
Thomas & Ashley Bianchi
Jared Bird
Emily Blake
Bowlocity
Mavis E. Bowman
Revocable Trust
Brakke Family
Cassandra Braun
Corey & Samantha Buenger
Patrick Burkhartzmeyer
Beth Carey
Chuun Family
Doug & Jill Colgazier
Danette DeMann
Angela DeMarco
Mack & Megan Eleid
Dennis & Terri Farlow
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Duane & Debra Sauke
Sekapp Orchard & Farms
Shepelev Family
Angela Smith
Bethany Smith
Eric Snyder
Philip & Kimberly Spencer
Stanfield Family
Michael & Nancy Stuart
United Way
Carolyn Warner
Wymer Family
Young Family

We are beyond grateful.

Aldrich Dates to Remember

Now- Dec. 15	Toys for Tots Toy Drive
Dec. 22- Jan. 2	No School: Winter Break
Jan. 3 & 4	Re-Enrollment information for 2024-2025 School Year sent home to currently enrolled families
Jan. 5	Priority Enrollment for 2023-2024 School Year begins for Aldrich families, 8:30a
Jan. 11	Open House for Prospective Families at Aldrich 6-7:30pm
Jan. 15	No School: MLK Day
Jan. 16	Registration opens to public



Overdue Library Books



All classrooms visit the Helmholtz library at Aldrich once a month to check out a book to take home. Please remember to return your book within about a week, so that it can be checked out by another child at Aldrich!

We have a high number of books that are overdue. If you cannot find the book that your child checked, we ask that you consider paying for a replacement copy of the book to keep our library going strong.

Winter Weather Closure Reminders

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

- When the Rochester Public Schools (RPS) and/or Rochester Public Preschools are closed because of weather conditions, Aldrich is also closed.
- If RPS has a 2 hour late start or RPS morning preschool is canceled, Aldrich morning sessions will be canceled. This includes the Early Bird program. School will open at 11:35am for Lunch Bunch and for Full day students.
- If RPS closes early or RPS afternoon preschool is canceled, afternoon sessions and Kids Club at Aldrich will be canceled.
- If RPS Preschool Age Child Care (PACC) is closed, Kids Club at Aldrich will be canceled as well.
- 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.



Registration for 2024-2025 School Year!



Registration for next school year is just a month away! [Present and past Aldrich families \(including children of Aldrich alumni\) may begin to register on January 5th with priority given through January 12th.](#) Registration packets will be handed out to all current families on January 3rd and 4th. In order to register for next year, families will need to turn in a completed enrollment form along with a registration fee (\$100 per family) and an Immunization Record (new students only). Some classes fill up quickly, so be sure to return your paperwork and fee early to secure your first choice. All children of present and past families, returning and new, will need to re-register. See below for the offerings for next school year!

[Registration for families new to Aldrich will begin on January 16th](#) Please encourage your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to visit Aldrich for a tour! We will have group tours available on Thursday, January 11th from 6-7:30pm. Otherwise, visitors are always welcome to schedule a tour during the school day to visit while classes are in session. Current families are our best source of advertising, so thank you for spreading the word about us!

[Program offerings for 2024-2025:](#)

For 2 years olds (2 by September 1, 2024)

- 2 day and 3 day Mornings (can be combined for 5 Mornings)

For 3 year olds (3 by September 1, 2024)

- 2 day and 3 day Mornings or Afternoons (can be combined for 5 Mornings or 5 Afternoons)
- 2 FULL Days and 3 FULL Days

For 4/5 year olds (4 or 5 by September 1, 2024)

- 2 day and 3 day Mornings or Afternoons
- 5 Mornings or 5 Afternoons
- 2 FULL Days and 3 FULL Days (can be combined for 5 FULL Days)

Extension Opportunities for 3, 4 and 5 year olds:**

- Early Bird
- Lunch Bunch
- Kids Club

As many of you are aware, Rochester Public Schools has approved bell time changes for the 2024-25 school year. Aldrich will continue to coordinate session times with RPS bell times. We have a standing partnership with RPS, and we feel it will be more convenient for families and staff to navigate start and end times.

Aldrich Sessions	
AM (2 year olds)	8:45 – 10:45 am
AM (3-5 year olds)	8:30 – 11:00 am
PM (3-5 year olds)	12:30 – 3:00 pm
Full day (3-5 year olds)	8:30 am – 3:00 pm
Extensions (3-5 year olds)	
Early Board	7:30 – 8:30 am
Lunch Bunch	11:05 am – 12:15 pm
Kids Club	3:00 – 5:00 pm

On November 27th, the RPS Superintendent shared a 10-point "Attendance Option Redesign Proposal" that will be voted on February 1, 2024 in order for the bell times to become possible. If this proposal does not pass and the bell times cannot change for the 24-25 school year, Aldrich will revert back to our current session times. Unfortunately, we cannot make our final decision until RPS finalizes their times.

News from the Board

Aldrich Gives Back: Toy Drive at Aldrich!

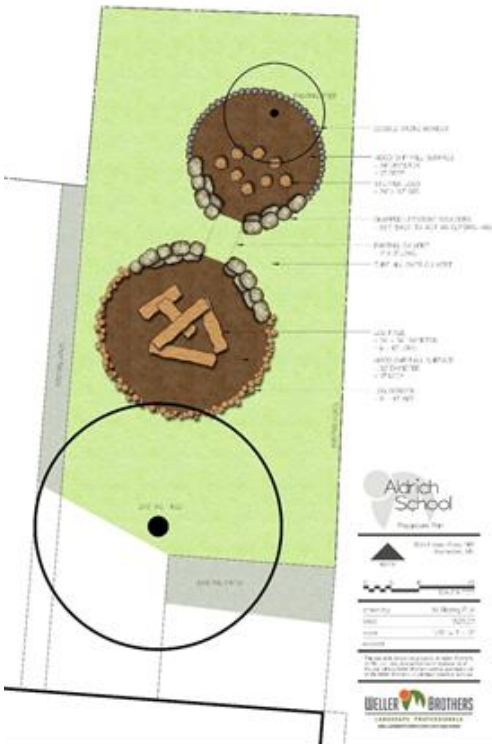


Aldrich is once again partnering with the U.S Marine Corps Toys for Tots for our Annual Toy Drive.

If you wish to donate, please place **new, unwrapped** toys in the collection bins located at each end of the building between now and Friday, December 15th. All age groups are appreciated, but please don't forget about the older children. Some pre-teen/teen gift ideas include sporting equipment/bags/balls, books, backpacks, cosmetics, purses, watches, wallets, bath gift sets, board games, hand-held electronics, curling irons, hair straighteners and hair dryers.

This toy drive helps bring toys to less fortunate children in our area during this holiday season and is a wonderful way to instill a spirit of giving in your child!

UPDATE: Outdoor Classroom Upgrade Giving Campaign



A HUGE THANK YOU to all who have already donated to support our Outdoor Classroom Upgrade project! Since the kick-off of our Giving Campaign in November, we have raised over \$3800! These funds were donated by families and teachers of Aldrich, along with various fundraising events such as: Aldrich Night at Sekapp Orchard, proceeds from our Scholastic Book Fair and Aldrich Spiritwear Sales. We are grateful for your continued support of this project.

We say goodbye to our fall "Giving Tree" located by the main office and will soon be replaced by winter "Giving Tree" with more ways to give to this project this holiday season! Also, be on the lookout for "real life" images of what the project will look like to the children that will get to spend countless hours playing in this new outdoor space!

We still need to raise over \$9000 to make this project a reality for the children of Aldrich. To donate to this project, you can give cash or check at the office or through the 4giving website at:

<https://www.4giving.com/donation/91A5> or by scanning here:

