



NEWSLETTER

April 2024

A Note from our Director

Welcome Back!

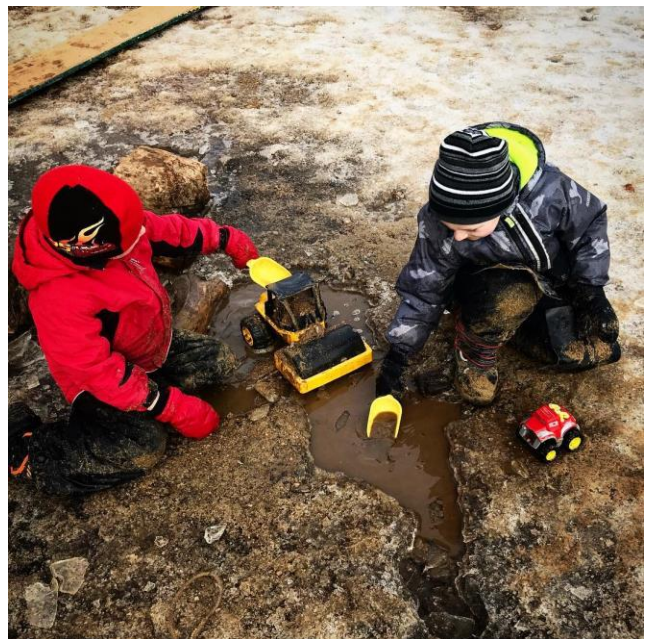
I hope your family enjoyed a nice break and everyone is ready for the final seven weeks of preschool. This time will fly by, and your family will have the opportunity to celebrate the arrival of spring at Aldrich with the Big Playdate on May 4th!

For many of our families, Aldrich is the first opportunity for children to have ownership of a space that is separate from their parents and caregivers. Events like the Big Playdate offer an opportunity for your child to host you in their school. They are the experts, and you will see their confidence and pride shine through when you embrace their ability to take the lead.

The last few weeks have been especially muddy in our outdoor classrooms. We know this creates added work for families to haul and repeatedly wash outdoor gear. The rewards for your children are unmatched opportunities for sensory input and growth, and reminders of the lessons children learn when we go outside every day:

“Encouraging a child to go outside in all weather builds resilience, but more importantly it saves them from merely tolerating the ‘bad’ days in favor of a handful of ‘good’ ones – a life of endless expectations and conditions where happiness hinges on sunshine.”

-Nicolette Sowder



This and many other Aldrich experiences are seeds which we hope will grow to influence children long after they’ve moved beyond their preschool years.

Your Partner in Education, Annie Getchell

Aldrich Dates to Remember

- April 10: Tornado Drill
- April 11: Last Day to order Big Playdate T-Shirt!
- April 16: Aldrich Board Meeting 6:30pm, open to the public
- April 17 & 18: Library Check Out
- April 18: Fire Drill
- April 25 & 26: No School: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- May 1: ALL Library Books Due
- May 4 : Big Playdate at Aldrich! 9:30-11:30am
- May 22: Last Day for M/W/F children
- May 23: Last Day for T/Th and M-F children



A HUGE Thank you to those that donated to Aldrich through the **United Way Campaign**:

Michael & Brenda Kalmbach * Joshua Murphy * Krista Attewell

If you would like to give through the United Way Campaign, visit this link for more information: [United Way Instructions](#)
(or visit [aldrichschool.com](#) > Contact > Giving > How to Give)

Spring Conferences

Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences are just around the corner. Teachers will have their conference sign ups posted soon. While conferences are not required, we encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to check in on your child's progress at Aldrich this year.

We are excited to announce that childcare during parent-teacher conferences will be returning! This will allow fewer distractions while conferencing with your child's teachers. Childcare will be offered Thursday and Friday, April 25 and 26 from 9am to 2pm in Playroom 2. Due to Licensing restrictions, **childcare is only being offered for students currently enrolled at Aldrich- sorry, no siblings!**



Teacher Meals During Conferences

The office staff are coordinating meals for the Aldrich teachers to enjoy during the busy Spring Parent-Teacher Conference days on Thursday and Friday, April 25th and 26th. This is a great way to say thank you and show our appreciation! Visit the following link to help:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D48AEA628A0FB6-48519138-conference>

Limited Edition Big Playdate T-Shirts on sale NOW!



What is the BIG PLAYDATE? It is our culminating event held on May 4th to celebrate the funds raised to support the Aldrich Scholarship Fund and (new this year) building our Facility Upgrade fund! This money will be used to promote our philosophy of doing all we can for the Good of the Children...all children. The funds will help make Aldrich more accessible and continue the ongoing work of upgrading resources for all our children.



Shirts are only available for purchase online at: <https://aldrich2024.itemorder.com/>

Orders must be placed by Thursday, April 11 and will be delivered in time for the Big Playdate!

Shirts are \$20 each, available in sizes 2T through Adults

All proceeds from the sale of the shirts will benefit the Aldrich Scholarship Fund and the Facility Upgrade Fund!

Aldrich Turtle Shoe Charms on sale NOW!



Our Aldrich Turtle is now available on a Shoe Charm! Show your Aldrich spirit with this cute addition to your shoes.

Don't have croc shoes? Don't worry- we have adaptors so these fun charms can be worn on lace up shoes as well!



Shoe Charms are \$5 each and available for purchase at the Front Office. Adaptors are \$1 and also available for purchase at the office. **All proceeds will benefit the Aldrich Scholarship Fund and Facility Upgrade Fund.**

Tornado Drills Resume

Severe Weather drills will begin again in April. They are an important skill to practice at Aldrich so students and staff know what to do in the event of a severe weather event at Aldrich. They are also required by MN Licensing and Accreditation.



Did you know that Aldrich has a custom storm shelter located in the center of the building? In the event of a Tornado Warning, students and staff take shelter in the middle of the main hallway and office staff pull our custom hallway doors across to help keep us safe. We would remain in the shelter until the Tornado Warning expires. When we complete these drills during severe weather months (April through September) we gather in our shelter, make a turtle using our bodies and count to 10. If a Tornado Watch is issued for our area, students and staff would move into their classroom and stay there until the watch expires.

Helmholz Library at Aldrich

Please feel free to continue checking out library books with your child through the month of April. After May 1st, parents and children are welcome to sit in the library and read books together, but library checkout will be finished for the school year.

All books should be returned to Aldrich by May 1st. If you lost a book your child checked out, please consider making a donation to Aldrich to replace the book.



From the Board

Outdoor Classroom Upgrade Update!



We are THRILLED to announce that we have successfully met our fundraising goal for our Outdoor Classroom Upgrade! We couldn't have done it without the incredible support from our families and our community.

On behalf of everyone at Aldrich School, we extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to each and every one of you who contributed to our fundraiser. We look forward to watching our Aldrich students enjoy the upgraded natural play space for years to come!



Construction for the Outdoor Classroom Upgrade will be completed by Weller Brothers Landscaping. They will start work as soon as the ground is ready and the weather is favorable. It will be a fun project for the children to watch take shape! We hope we will be able to officially open the new space at our Big Playdate event on May 4th!



Big Playdate!

It's that time of year again, **The Big Playdate** is coming up on **Saturday, May 4th 9:30-11:30am!** Join us to celebrate all that makes Aldrich a magical place. There will be music, bubbles, activities, crafts and of course, ice cream! We also anticipate having a photographer there to document the day.



Leading up to The Big Playdate, we are asking for your help in raising funds to support the Aldrich Scholarship Fund and Facility Upgrades. Our fundraising campaign kicks off on Monday, April 22nd, and our goal is to raise \$7,000 by May 4th when our drive will end with The Big Playdate. Last year we exceeded our goal which allowed several children to attend Aldrich or continue their early education with us.

Help us to replenish this fund and promote our philosophy of doing all we can for the **Good of the Children...all children.**

If you would like to help us reach our goal, please contribute to our 4giving fundraising page found at <https://www.4giving.com/E868>

