



NEWSLETTER

November 2024

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, weather permitting.

As a reminder: for our three and four-year-old classes, if the temperature is 0 degrees or below, or if the wind chill is negative 10 degrees or below, the children will remain indoors. For the two-year-old classes, if the temperature is 10 degrees or below, or if the wind chill is 0 degrees or below, the children will remain indoors. On days we need to stay inside, teachers are able to bring their classes to one of our indoor playrooms, where the children can still run around and get plenty of large muscle activity!

As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions, comments or concerns that you would like to discuss. Stop by the office, call the office or email me directly at annie@aldrichschool.com. In addition to myself, you can reach out to our Assistant Director, Carrie Manguson at carrie@aldrichschool.com. We are here to partner with you in your child’s education!

Kind Regards,

Annie Getchell

Aldrich Dates to Remember

- November 5: Election Day! Be sure to cast your vote!
- November 5 & 6: Picture Retakes (11:00am-11:30am & 12:20pm-12:40pm)
- November 6 – 8: Scholastic Book Fair at Aldrich
- November 7 & 8: Parent-Teacher Conferences (No School)
- November 12 & 13: Library Check Out
- November 19: Aldrich Adventure: Bookmobile & Park Playdate 3-5:30pm
- November 19: Aldrich Board Meeting, 6:30pm
- November 20: Fire Drill, 2:30pm
- Nov. 25– Dec. 6: RaiseRight Gift Card Fundraiser
- November 27-29: Thanksgiving Break (No School)
- Dec. 2-18: Toys for Tots Toy Drive at Aldrich
- Dec. 23-Jan. 3: 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

Reusable water bottles from home are **not** allowed at Aldrich. 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. **PLEASE DO NOT KEEP A WATERBOTTLE IN YOUR CHILD'S BACKPACK IN THEIR CUBBY.**



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:

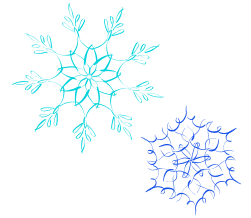
***Turn off your car** while you drop off and pick up your Aldrich student. Aldrich has an anti-idling policy: all vehicles must turn off their engines within the Aldrich parking lot as soon as possible to protect children from inhaling harmful car exhaust.

***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

We have already had a sneak peek at winter weather! Below is some helpful information and reminders as we brace for another MN winter.

Closures:

- 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 11:05am 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.

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 including socks 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 Thursday and Friday, 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/9040D48AEA628A0FB6-52372459-teacher>

News from the Board

Thank you to everyone who was able to come celebrate Aldrich's 80th Birthday!!

We were thrilled to see so many current students, alumni, families, former teachers, Directors and staff at the event! What a blessing it is to celebrate the history of Aldrich School, its legacy, and the impact the school has made in the Rochester community. Many things have changed over 80 years, but the importance of PLAY and the support from those in and around the school has remained constant!

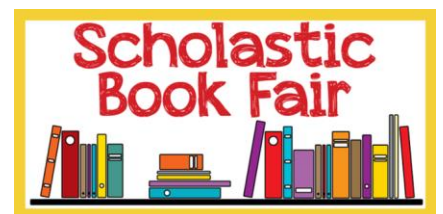


As we settle into the new school year, the Board is hard at work planning more events, making building improvements, preparing for the future of the school, and applying for grants! The Board enjoyed welcoming seven new members at the beginning of the school year and one more member was voted in at our last meeting. It's so fun to have new voices, ideas, and energy brought to the Board! If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, reach out to aldrichboardrochester@gmail.com.



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

The Scholastic Book Fair is back! The Book Fair connects kids to notable books and inspiring characters—helping them to become lifelong readers. We're thrilled to offer an **IN-SCHOOL** Book Fair as well as an **ONLINE** option that will support Aldrich's classroom libraries.



Visit the Book Fair at Aldrich in Playroom 1:

- **Wednesday, November 6th & Thursday, November 7th from 8:30 am – 3:30pm**
- **Friday, November 8th from 8:30am-2:00pm.**

If you can't make it to the Fair, consider shopping online by scanning the QR code to the right. The online Book Fair will be open from November 5th - November 18th. All orders over \$25 qualify for free shipping, and **25%** of every online purchase will also benefit our school!



As always, we appreciate our wonderful volunteers that make this event so successful each year! Please consider volunteering! Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/ALDRICHBOOKFAIR>

We can't wait to see you all at the fair! For any questions, please email aldrichboardrochester@gmail.com.

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. Funds raised will be directed towards our Facilities Upgrade Fund!



Our RaiseRight gift card order fundraiser will run November 25- December 6, with gift card delivery December 11 & 12 (plenty of time for holiday gift giving)! **You can also 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. Online orders can be paid for online using a credit card, or you can drop off a check for your order in the office to avoid the processing fee. Paper order forms will also be available. All orders must be placed by Friday, December 6.