

NEWSLETTER

December 2024



A Note from our Director

As 2024 comes to an end and we look toward a new calendar year, it's time to start thinking about our plans for the 2025-2026 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 **8:00am on Wednesday, January 8th.**

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 and businesses 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.



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We are beyond grateful.

As a non-profit organization Aldrich is entirely dependent on the tuition fees gathered from student enrollment. Such a financial model covers the operational expenses of the school but allows for little additional investment in facilities expansion and improvements, tuition assistance programs, enhanced training for staff, recruitment and retention incentives of staff, and curriculum enhancements. Every dollar raised will be used in projects that make our classrooms brighter, our teachers stronger, our curriculum greater, and give your children the best preschool environment possible. If you would like to invest in the future of Aldrich and continue the mission of developing the love of learning and the power of play, you can do so here (with a one-time donation, or recurring donation):

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/MLW450BY1YB9C/checkout/XJEX52ESUUPBMTJGPV4NYMGG>

Aldrich Dates to Remember

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|-----------------|--|
| Now- Dec. 18 | Toys for Tots Toy Drive |
| Dec. 9 | Aldrich Slice Night at BB's Pizzeria 5-8pm |
| Dec. 23- Jan. 3 | No School: Winter Break |
| Jan. 6 & 7 | Re-Enrollment information for 2025-2026 School Year sent home to currently enrolled families |
| Jan. 8 | Priority Enrollment for 2025-2026 School Year begins for Aldrich families, 8:00a |
| Jan. 14 | Open House for Prospective Families at Aldrich 5:30-7:00pm |
| Jan. 20 | No School: MLK Day |
| Jan. 21 | 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 11:05am 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, KTTC TV, 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.



Winter Weather Outdoor Gear



"There's no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing." The cold winter weather has arrived at Aldrich and getting outside to play every single day is very important! Time in the outdoors is valuable for so many reasons, but can be most enjoyable when children (and adults) have clothing that will keep them comfortable and safe in the elements.

Do you have outdoor clothing that your family has outgrown? Aldrich is always accepting new and used outdoor clothing in sizes 3T to 6 to ensure everyone has the appropriate outdoor clothing to play in our incredible outdoor classrooms!

Registration for 2025-2026 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 8th with priority given through January 17th.](#) Registration packets will be handed out to all current families on January 6th and 7th. 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.

[Registration for families new to Aldrich will begin on January 21st](#) Please encourage your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to visit Aldrich for a tour! We will have group tours available on Tuesday, January 14th from 5:30-7:00pm. 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 2025-2026:](#)

For 2 years olds (2 by September 1, 2025)

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

For 3 year olds (3 by September 1, 2025)

- 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, 2025)

- 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

NEW for 2025-2026 School Year: Spanish Enrichment Class!

Come learn Spanish with us! ¡Aprende español con nosotros! We will play, sing, and have fun while discovering one of the most spoken languages in the world!

- Classes will be held on Tuesday afternoons from 12:30-3:00pm.
- Children must be 4 years old by January 1, 2026 to attend.
- Children enrolled in morning classes can add Lunch Bunch and Spanish Enrichment to extend their day.
- Children enrolled in Full Day classes are able to attend Spanish Enrichment.
- There will be no rest/nap time available in Spanish Enrichment Class.

Our Spanish Enrichment Class will be taught by Jazmín Marquis. Mrs. Marquis is the Assistant Teacher in Room 4 weekday mornings and is excited to bring her native language to Aldrich! She holds a Computer Science degree from Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in México, her home country. After working for six years at IBM in Mexico City, she moved to Rochester in 2006, and started a career in education. She worked for the RPS for two years as a paraprofessional, while completing a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University, St. Paul. She joined Aldrich in 2019.



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 Wednesday, December 18th. All age groups are appreciated, but please don't forget about the older children/teens!

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!



ALDRICH PIZZA NIGHT

Monday, December 9
5-8 PM
BB's Pizzeria

3456 E Circle Dr NE
Rochester, MN 55902



For every slice of pizza sold, BB's will donate a portion back to Aldrich!

To-go pizzas earn a donation, too!

RaiseRight (formerly Scrip) Gift Card Sales

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.

