

Newsletter

January 2025



Happy New Year, Aldrich families! I hope you and your family enjoyed a wonderful break.

January is a busy and exciting month for Aldrich as we start enrolling for the next school year. Remember that if you are planning on returning to Aldrich next year, you must complete the reenrollment process. The first day to reenroll is January 8th. We typically enroll about 100 families the first day, so popular classes fill quickly.

On January 21st, we open registration for all families new to Aldrich. Please invite your friends to consider what Aldrich has to offer and encourage them to register as early as possible.

As always, we are grateful to be your partner in education.

-Annie Getchell, Director

Aldrich Dates to Remember

- Jan. 6 & 7:** Enrollment Packets for 2025-2026 School Year sent home with currently enrolled families
- Jan. 8:** Priority Enrollment for Aldrich families begins at 8:00am!
- Jan. 14:** Open House at Aldrich for Prospective Families 5:30-7:00pm
- Jan. 14 & 15:** Library Check Out
- Jan. 17:** Last Day of Priority Enrollment
- Jan. 20:** NO SCHOOL: MLK Day
- Jan. 21:** Open Enrollment begins for families new to Aldrich
- Jan. 21:** Aldrich Board Meeting 6:30pm, open to public
- Jan. 22:** Fire Drill AM
- Jan. 24:** Aldrich Adventure: Planetarium 6-7pm
- Jan. 30 & 31:** Pajama Days at Aldrich!
- Feb. 3 & 4:** All School Enrichment: Zumba! (Sponsored by the Aldrich Board!)
- Feb. 17:** NO SCHOOL: President's Day

Early Childhood Screening Reminder

If your child is at least 3 years old, please call 507-328-4004 to make a **FREE** appointment for a comprehensive developmental screening at the Northrop Building, 201 8th St. NW. The screening staff will check your child's vision, hearing, growth, immunization status, and developmental skills. Please take advantage of this opportunity provided by Rochester Public Schools! The screening gives you information about your child and community resources, and is not a "readiness test" for kindergarten. **Rochester Public schools do require this screening prior to entrance into kindergarten.**



Registration for 2025-2026

If you would like your student to attend next school year you **do need to re-enroll.**



Registration for next school year begins on Wednesday, January 8th for current and past Aldrich families (including children of Aldrich alumni!) with priority given through January 17th. Registration packets will be handed out to all current families on January 6 & 7. 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 register. See below for the program offerings for next school year!

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. Encourage new families to contact the office at [507.289.3097](tel:507.289.3097) to schedule a tour or visit our website for more information at www.aldrichschool.com. 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 (can be combined for 5 FULL DAYS)

For 4/5 year olds (4 or 5 by September 1, 2025)

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

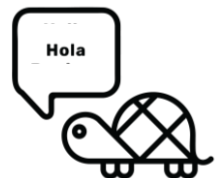
Extension Opportunities for 3, 4 and 5 year olds:**

- Early Bird (7:30-8:30am)
- Lunch Bunch (11:05am-12:15pm)
- Kids Club (3:00-5:00pm)

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.



Outdoor Play at Aldrich

Because outdoor play is an integral part of our curriculum, we try to play outside every day. The amount of time outside will vary on the weather. Unfortunately, the weather is sometimes just too cold for us to safely play outdoors. We follow these guidelines to determine if we will play outside at Aldrich:

- For 3-5 year old classrooms, if the air temp is 0 degrees or colder or if the wind chill is -10 degrees or colder, the children will remain indoors.
- For 2 year olds classrooms, if the air temp is 10 degrees or colder or if the wind chill is 0 degrees or colder, the children will remain indoors.

The temperature is checked shortly before the children would normally go outside using the KTTC Website or the KTTC Weather App. We refer to the actual temperature and "Feels Like" temperature to make decisions. The graphic to the right is what the KTTC Weather App looks like. The temperature on the app will vary by location, be sure yours is set to "55901."



Please help the teachers by ALWAYS dressing your child appropriately for outside play. Warm winter coat, snow pants, winter boots, hat and waterproof mittens make the cold days more fun to play in!

Pajama Days are Coming!



Children are invited to wear their pajamas to school on **Thursday, January 30th** and/or **Friday, January 31st**. Special breakfast snacks will be served, bedtime stories read and even the teachers will be wearing their pajamas! If your children are uncomfortable wearing their pajamas to school they may wear their regular clothes. However, you might just bring their pajamas along in case they change their minds when they see their friends and teachers in pajamas!

Fruit/ Cheese Snack Donations for Classroom

If families would like to donate a healthy snack to the classroom, we ask that you bring in fruits (fresh or packaged) or cheese. Aldrich provides the whole grain component that meets the requirements for MN Licensing with allergen considerations, but we love to supplement this with fruits and cheese! We have limited fridge space for the perishable food items, so having families donate a small amount of fruits or cheese for classroom use is very appreciated! Fruit should NOT be washed or cut at home- we have to do that here for safety reasons. All foods donated to the classroom should be unopened and in its original packaging. Fruits go a long way in the classroom- see your child's teacher for an idea of quantity needed.



News from the Board



A heartfelt **thank you** to all the families that donated toys to our **Toys for Tots Toy Drive!** Your generosity particularly overwhelmed the team picking up toy donations. They asked multiple times what our secret was, and it's no secret-- Aldrich just has a beautiful community of generous families. We hope this experience opened the door to wonderful conversations with your children about the spirit of giving.

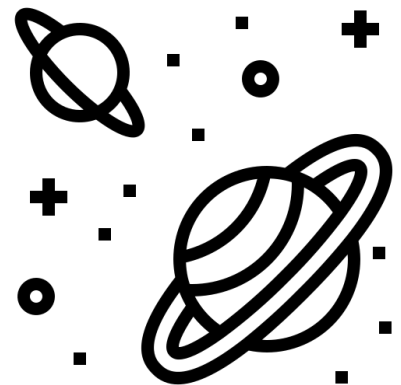


Thank you to all who supported Aldrich at the BB's Pizza Night in December!

Aldrich earned \$250 from this event that will be used towards facility upgrades!

Aldrich Adventure at the Planetarium!

Three...two...one...BLAST OFF to the Planetarium for our next Aldrich Adventure! Join us on January 24th from 6-7pm for a toddler/family-friendly space program at the Planetarium at Mayo High School. Seating is limited, so keep an eye out after the holidays for ticketing details via email. The event will be free to attend, but donations are welcome.



**AND
THE
SURVEY
SAYS...**

Family Survey Coming Soon

The Aldrich Board of Directors is looking for your feedback! Please keep an eye out for a family survey from the Board that will be sent out later this month. As always, if you have something you would like to address with the Board, reach out to aldrichboardrochester@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!