



NEWSLETTER

March 2025

A Note from our Director

Hello Families,

Although we know this is only “false spring”, it’s been so wonderful to have warmth and sunshine these last couple of days! Spring can be a wet and muddy affair in our outdoor classrooms. Please continue to send your children in waterproof mittens and boots as well as snow pants, even when the weather warms up, to keep them dry as the snowy ground turns to mud. Before we know it, Rochester will be filled with green grass and blooming flowers. (I just know it!)

I am sure you are fully aware that the Aldrich staff places a great value on hands-on, experiential learning in both our indoor and outdoor classrooms. It may be one of the reasons you chose Aldrich, or maybe it is something you have learned to appreciate about the time your child spends with us at school. It is also deeply confirmed in brain science research.

“Brains develop due to an interplay between the genes a baby is born with and the experiences in life. The wiring of the brain of a young child is enormously impacted by the emotional environment it experiences frequently.”
(Braininsightonline.com, April 2015)

We do our very best to provide learning activities (both inside and outside) that are rich in content, fun in process and well supported by knowledgeable and caring teachers and staff. It is a joy for us to serve your children!

You partner in education,

Annie Getchell, Director



“Children learn through doing- play is how they explore their world, learn how to assess risk, try things out, and get to know themselves.”
-Bethe Almeras

Aldrich Dates to Remember

- March 7: No School at Aldrich: Staff Development Day
- March 10 & 11: Library Check Out Days
- March 17 & 18: Library Books Due
- March 17 & 18: Summer Camp 2025 Enrollment forms will be sent home with currently enrolled families!
- March 18: Board Meeting 6:30pm in Playroom 2, open to the public
- March 20: Summer Camp Enrollment begins at 8:30am
- March 31-April 4: No School, Spring Break
- April 24 & 25: No School at Aldrich, Parent-Teacher Conferences
- May 3: Big Playdate at Aldrich! (more details coming soon!)

Aldrich 2025-2026 Calendar NOW Available!

**The 2025-2026 Aldrich School Calendar is now available! You can check it out at: <https://aldrichschool.com/calendar> . Copies are also available in the Parent Info Center by the Front Office.

Summer Camp Information Coming Soon!

We are excited to announce that we will be offering 3 weeks of Summer Camp at Aldrich this summer! Summer Camps will run Monday through Thursday, 8:30-11:00am during the following weeks:

Week 1	June 9-12
Week 2	June 16-19
Week 3	June 23-26

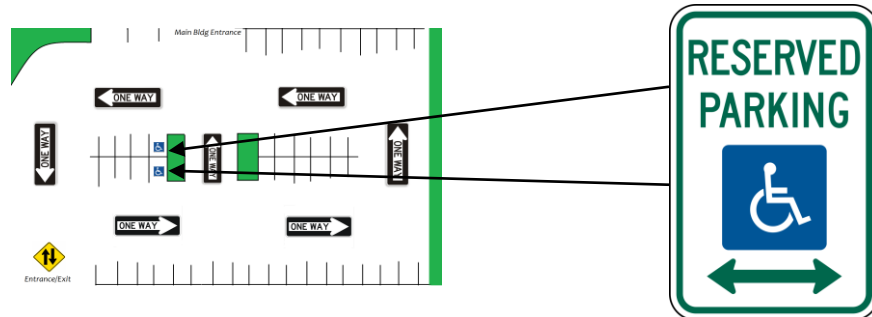


Here are some details about Summer Camp:

- Only children currently attending Aldrich for the 2024-2025 school year are eligible to attend.
- Summer Camp is \$135 per week.
- Summer Camp Enrollment forms will be sent home with families on Monday and Tuesday, March 17 & 18.
- Enrollment for Summer Camp will begin at 8:30am on Thursday, March 20. As with enrollment, we will process in-person enrollments first. If you are unable to be here to enroll in-person on March 20th, you may email or drop off your enrollment form to the office- those enrollments will be processed after we process in person enrollments.
- Since we are only able to offer 3 weeks of Summer Camp this year, we anticipate spots will fill very quickly.

Handicap Parking Spots

Did you know we have 2 Handicap Parking Stalls in our parking lot? The spots are located next to the trees near the center of our parking lot (see diagram below). Please leave those spots free for those who need them when dropping off or picking up.



Plastic Bags in Cubbies

Please do not leave plastic bags in your child's cubby. Due to the safety hazard they pose to children, MN State Licensing prohibits children from having access to plastic bags while in our care. Since children spend time at their cubbies while under the care of our Aldrich teachers, open plastic bags cannot be left in their cubbies.

If you are looking for a safer alternative to transport wet/muddy outdoor gear home, we highly recommend using a reusable shopping bag. If you still prefer to use a plastic bag for this purpose, please knot the bag and put it in a zippered pocket of your child's bag/backpack. If teachers send soiled items home, they will knot the bag after placing the items inside so it cannot post a safety risk to the child. Thank you for helping keep our school as safe as can be!



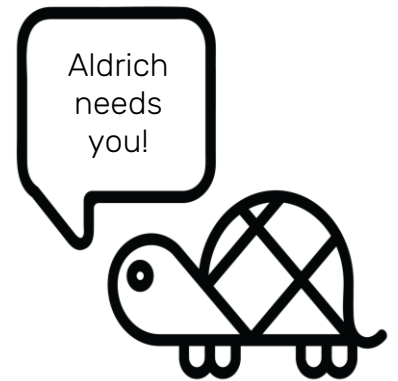
News from the Board

Did you know, Aldrich is overseen by a Board of Directors and as a non-profit, we need a Board of Directors to operate? In addition to routine matters of oversight relevant to Aldrich, the Board is hard at work planning events and thinking about our future!

At our most recent board meeting:

- We reviewed the results of our Family survey. (Thank you sincerely to all the families who contributed their thoughts and ideas!) If you missed the survey or have thoughts to share with the Board, please email us anytime at aldrichboardrochester@gmail.com
- We had a thorough discussion about investing in Solar energy at Aldrich and what that could mean for our school, our students, and our community.
- Coming soon, we'll be focused on planning our May 2025 Big Play Date!

Board Members Wanted! We will have board vacancies at the end of the 2024-2025 school year; we are hopeful that we will have new board members in place by the end of this school year to fill their vacancies. Members of the Aldrich Board of Directors assume the responsibility of attending monthly meetings (total of 9 meetings), serving on one of our four standing committees, and participating in fundraising and social activities sponsored by the board. Board terms are a three-year commitment with the intent that the first year you learn, the second you do, and the third you teach. Serving on the board is a very rewarding way to help Aldrich continue to serve the children in our community for years to come. Board members in good standing will receive a 15% discount on Aldrich tuition!



We are currently in need of persons with a finance, law, HR, or marketing background, but we welcome those with other backgrounds or experience as well. If you are interested in serving, would like more information, or would like to come to a board meeting, please feel free to contact our Board President, Monica Booe Chowdhury at aldrichboardrochester@gmail.com . In addition, Board Member Applications are available in the office.

Thank you for your consideration!

SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us on the Aldrich playground for ice cream, activities, bubbles and fun! The **Big Playdate** will be held on **Saturday, May 3rd from 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

We can't wait to see you there!