



# NEWSLETTER

April 2025

## **A Note from our Director**

Welcome Back!

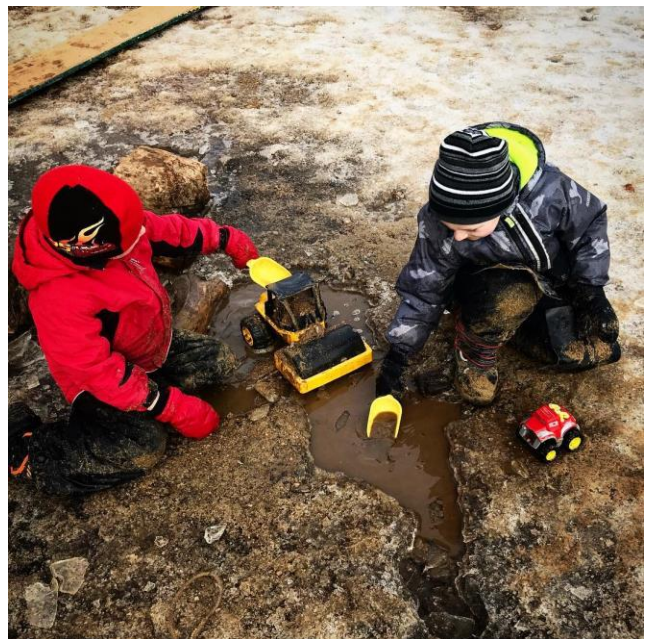
I hope your family enjoyed a nice break and everyone is ready for the final seven weeks of preschool. This time will fly by, and your family will have the opportunity to celebrate the arrival of spring at Aldrich with the Big Playdate on May 3<sup>rd</sup>!

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 at 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 9: Tornado Drill
- April 15: Aldrich Board Meeting 6:30pm, open to the public
- April 15 & 16: Library Check Out
- April 17: Fire Drill
- April 24 & 25: No School: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- May 1: ALL Library Books Due
- May 3: Big Playdate at Aldrich! 9:30-11:30am
- May 20: Last Day of Extensions (EB, half day LB and KC)
- May 21: Last Day of School M/W/F Sessions
- May 22: Last Day for T/Th and M-F Sessions



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

Michael & Brenda Kalmbach \* Joshua Murphy \* Krista Attewell

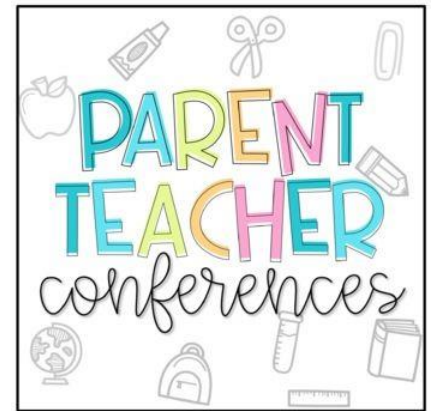
If you would like to give through the United Way Campaign, visit this link for more information: [United Way Instructions](#)  
(or visit [aldrichschool.com](#) > Contact > Giving > How to Give)



## 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 24 and 25 from 8:30am to 1:30pm 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 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. This is a great way to say thank you and show our appreciation! Visit the following link to help:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D48AEA628A0FB6-55879198-conference>

## Limited Edition “80 Years of Friendship” T-Shirts on sale NOW!



What is the BIG PLAYDATE? It is our culminating event held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate the funds raised to support the Aldrich Scholarship Fund and 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. This year’s shirt celebrates 80 years of friendship as we celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup> school year!

Shirts are only available for purchase online at:

<https://aldrich2025.itemorder.com/>

**Orders must be placed by Thursday, April 10** 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!**

## 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>.**

If you lost a book your child checked out, please consider making a donation to Aldrich to replace the book.



# From the Board

**What does our Board of Directors do?** This month we have already been looking toward planning our year-end and summer events. Our mighty committees each have their own big projects. Personnel is working on Staff Appreciation, Family Engagement has plans for summer meet-ups, Finance is still working on the solar project, Development is reaching out to community partners, and as a whole we are collaborating to prepare the Big Playdate! We hope to see you at our many events! If you ever have questions or comments, please don't hesitate to share them with us at [aldrichboardrochester@gmail.com](mailto:aldrichboardrochester@gmail.com)



# THE BIG PLAYDATE!



Big Playdate 2025  
Aldrich School

Aldrich's annual fundraiser, **The Big Playdate**, will be here before we know it!

Our fundraising campaign kicks off on **Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>** and our goal is to raise **\$8,080** (in honor of Aldrich's 80th school year!) by **Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Our fundraising drive will end with The Big Playdate celebration on the Aldrich playground on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. This fundraiser supports Aldrich's Scholarship Program and helps to fund necessary upgrades to our facility and its resources.

Donations can be made by scanning the QR code to the right or visiting:

<https://www.4giving.com/donation/CEBA>



On **Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 9:30-11:30am, we invite our Aldrich School community to bring friends (both old and new) to **The Big Playdate**, celebrating 80 years of friendship! There will be ice cream, bubbles, teacher-led activities, a big dance party, and fun outdoor PLAY!

We can't wait to see you there!