



NEWSLETTER

April 2026

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 2nd!

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

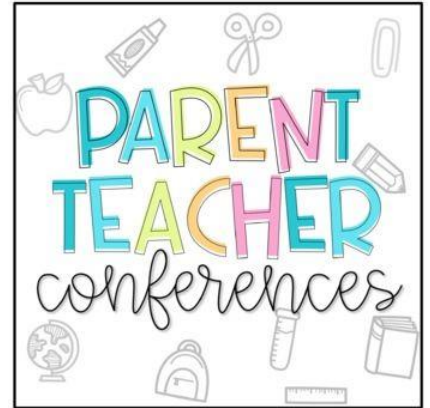
- April 8: Tornado Drill
- April 8 & 9: Library Check Out
- April 14: Aldrich Dinner Club at Nupa, 4-7pm
- April 16: Fire Drill
- April 21: Aldrich Board Meeting 6:30pm, open to the public
- April 23 & 24: No School: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- May 2: **Big Playdate at Aldrich! 9:30-11:30am**
- May 19: Last Day of Extensions (EB, half day LB and KC)
- May 20: Last Day of School M/W/F Sessions
- May 21: Last Day for T/Th and M-F Sessions



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.

Childcare will be offered during Conference Days, April 23 and 24 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 23rd and 24th. This is a great way to say thank you and show our appreciation! Visit the following link to help:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D48AEA628A0FB6-63104644-2026>



Limited Edition Big Playdate Tie-Dye T-Shirts on sale NOW!

Looking for another opportunity to show your Aldrich spirit?!
2026 Limited Edition Big Playdate Tie-Dye Shirts are now available to order!

All proceeds from the sales of these fun tie-dye shirts will benefit our Annual Big Playdate Fundraising Drive to support our Aldrich Financial Assistance Fund and Facility Upgrade Fund.

Shirts are \$20 each, available in sizes 2T through Adults

Shirts are only available for purchase online at:

<https://letsplay26.itemorder.com>

Orders must be placed by **Monday, April 13** and will be delivered in time for the Big Playdate.



SCAN ME





Summer Camp 2026

As anticipated, our Summer Camp sessions filled in record time again this year! We are honored that so many families want their children to spend time with us this summer!

We understand that many of our families are feeling frustrated about not getting a reserved spot for 2026 Summer Camp. Many families have asked why there are so few spots for Summer Camp. The short answer is: our teacher's availability determines how many sessions we can offer. We begin planning for Summer Camp in January. Since our teachers' contracts run September through May, our first step in the process is to survey our teachers regarding their availability and interest in teaching Summer Camp. It is important to us that our Summer Camps offer the same great quality and consistency as we offer through the school year. This means we do not hire new teachers solely for summer camp.

We are in the process of developing a new system for registering for summer camps to account for families that are unable to be here to register in person when registration begins. While our current system hasn't presented an issue in years past, we are recognizing more frustration with the current system in recent years. Our plan moving forward is to announce Summer Camps in the March newsletter- which would either include dates, themes and number of spots per week or not being able to offer any summer camp at all.

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.

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 working on modernizing our software and technology, Development is reaching out to community partners, our Marketing subcommittee is working on updating the Aldrich brand and building a new website 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

THE BIG PLAYDATE!



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

Our fundraising campaign kicks off on **Monday, April 20th** and our goal is to raise **\$10,000** by **Saturday, May 2nd**. This fundraiser supports **Aldrich's Scholarship Program** and helps to **fund necessary upgrades to our facility** and its resources. Our fundraising drive will end with The Big Playdate celebration on the Aldrich playground on May 2nd. Keep a lookout on our social media for more information regarding all the fun that is to come at the Big Playdate!

- Donations can be made by scanning the QR code to the right or visiting: <https://www.4giving.com/donation/5ED8>



- If you know of or work for a business that would like to provide a sponsorship, please reach out to the Board of Directors at aldrichboardrochester@gmail.com !

**YOU'RE
INVITED!**

On **Saturday, May 2nd** from **9:30-11:30am**, we invite our **Aldrich School community to The Big Playdate!**
Please invite friends, families and neighbors to join in the fun too!
There will be ice cream, bubbles, teacher-led activities, a big dance party, and fun outdoor **PLAY!**

A huge thank you to **Sorellina's** for hosting the Aldrich Dinner Club during the month of February, and to everyone who attended.

Because of your support, we raised \$800 for our Facility Upgrades fund!

DINNER CLUB



LionsKidSight

Free Vision Screenings at Aldrich School! We are pleased to announce that the local Rochester Lions Club will provide free vision screenings to children at Aldrich School. These screenings will be available from 9am-11am at Aldrich during our Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences on April 23rd and 24th. Look for more information in your child's cubby in the coming weeks!

Coming Soon

DINNER CLUB



NUPA

MEDITERRANEAN GRILL



Mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 14th 4-7pm for Aldrich Night at Nupa (Crossroads Location).
50% will be donated back to Aldrich!