



# NEWSLETTER

May 2026

## A Note from our Director

It's hard to believe we are in the final two weeks of the school year! This time will fly by, and is always a bittersweet time for teachers, families, and the children.

I'd like to take a moment to address those families who will be leaving Aldrich for their children to attend Kindergarten next year. Thank you for investing in your child's early education, and for allowing each of us to play a role in all your lives. We have loved watching your child grow, gaining independence and confidence that will serve them well on the road ahead. We hope you will look back on this time of their lives with fondness and with pride that you allowed them to learn in an environment that fostered imagination and joy.

Gratefully,

Annie Getchell



## Aldrich Dates to Remember

- Now: ALL Library Books Due back to Aldrich!
- May 19: Full Board Meeting, 6:30pm at Aldrich
- May 20 & 21\*: NO Extension Sessions Held (EB, LB-half day, KC) \*Children enrolled in Wednesday Spanish and Thursday Outdoor Adventures will have Lunch Bunch in Room 6
- May 20: LAST DAY of School for children that attend M/W/F
- May 21: LAST DAY of School for children that attend T/Th & M-F
  
- Sept. 8 & 9 Meet the Teacher Days for 2026-2027 School Year

# Air Quality Index Monitoring

Rest assured, we monitor Air Quality Alerts at Aldrich! As a licensed facility, we are required to monitor outdoor air quality levels and adjust our time outside if needed. We always monitor symptoms in children and adjust plans as needed. We use [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) to get our Index levels.

Orange (Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups) 101-150	Classrooms will monitor students for symptoms and adjust time accordingly. Time outdoors may be shortened.
Red (Unhealthy) 151-200	All classes stay inside.
Purple (Very Unhealthy for All) 201-300	



\*If you are concerned about your child being outdoors when the AQI level is below the 100, please consider keeping your child at home for the session or bring them in later, after the classroom has moved their activities indoors.



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

Michael & Brenda Kalmbach \* Joshua Murphy

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



## Water Testing at Aldrich

As a licensed child care center in the State of Minnesota, Aldrich is required to test our drinking water sources for lead. Our most recent lead testing was in 2025 and are happy to report that lead was **not** detected in any of the 26 drinking water taps in our school! If you would like to review the full report, please contact the Aldrich office.

We will conduct follow-up testing every 5 years. The next time we will test for lead is 2030.

## 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 NOW.**

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



## Looking Ahead...

**Summer Camp 2026:** We are looking forward to seeing those who are attending Summer Camp sessions in June! Some reminders for Summer Camp:

- On the first day of camp, please enter through the main doors and you will be directed to your child's classroom.
- Please have your child prepared to play outside, as many outdoor activities have been planned,
- **Protect your child from sunburn by applying sunscreen, wearing a hat, and covering shoulders. Please apply sunscreen and bug repellent at home before you come to school.**
- Water bottles are not allowed at Aldrich. Children will have access to water indoors and outdoors during the whole session.
- Dress your child in play clothes with appropriate shoes for running and climbing.
- In a labeled bag, please send a change of clothes. Also send along a jacket for cooler weather. Please label all items.

**Summer Office Hours:** The Aldrich office will be open most weeks this summer from Monday through Thursday, 8:00am to 11:30am. We will be closed May 25-29, June 29-July 3 and July 27-31.

**School Year 2026-2027:** For those that will be attending Aldrich this fall, be on the lookout for an e-mail in June! This communication will contain the school calendar, payment information and forms needed for your child. Please keep the office updated on any address, email address or phone number changes over the course of the summer, so you can be sure you are receiving all communication from us. In August you will receive a mailing from us.

## **From the Board**

### **Aldrich Summer Playdates**

Is your little one going to miss running around in the sun with all their friends? Meet up with other Aldrich families this summer for playground fun and some community at parks around Rochester! We are rotating the days of the week so more families can come play in the sun. Each playdate is open to all ages and siblings, but planned for the preschool age. Come and go throughout the time as you need and consider bringing your own snacks, sunscreen and water.



Note the rain location for each month; we will also meet there if the air quality index exceeds 100. The Aldrich Family Engagement Committee hopes to see you and your littles there this summer!

**A copy of the Summer Playdate calendar is included on the last page of this month's newsletter,** but keep an eye on your child's cubby this week for your own copy! Calendars include locations by date including backup locations for poor weather. Hope to see you and your littles there!

## Big Playdate Success!

The final numbers are in! You have donated a total of \$12,896 to the Aldrich Fundraising Drive this year! As a small non-profit, we rely on support from Aldrich Families and the Rochester Community to help us continue our mission - creating a unique environment where all children can thrive.

This year, you have united to generously support the Aldrich Scholarship Program, assisting many new and returning families next year, and Facility Upgrades projects, that include a bike shed and parking lot updates. Your donations helped us replenish these funds and continue giving our children the best resources we can!

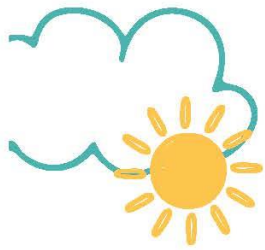
It warms our hearts to see everyone come together to celebrate all that makes Aldrich special. Thank you for your kindness to little learners, kind friends, and curious explorers of our world.



## **THANK YOU for an incredible year Aldrich families!**

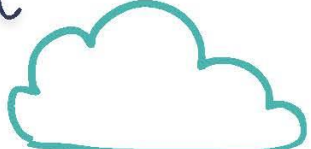
This school year our Family Engagement committee loved creating events to gather families, our Development committee directed their efforts at securing grants for our school, our Finance committee worked on modernizing our financial software, and our Personnel committee focused on making sure our staff had the support they needed. While the school year is ending, our Marketing subcommittee is still hard at work on updating the Aldrich brand and a new website. Be sure to keep your eyes on our website this summer!

If you ever have questions, comments, or would like to apply to join the Aldrich Board of Directors, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [aldrichboardrochester@gmail.com](mailto:aldrichboardrochester@gmail.com)



our third summer! 

# yes to summer **PLAYDATES**



**may** In Case of Rain: Apache Mall Play Circle

Sat	30	Scenic Oaks Park // 5123 Scenic Oak Dr SW
-----	----	---

**Come Play in the Sun.  
10:00 - 12:00 PM**

Meet up with other Aldrich families this summer for playground fun and some community at parks around Rochester! We are rotating the days of the week so more families can come play in the sun.

*Each playdate is open to all ages and siblings, but planned for the preschool age. Come and go throughout the time as you need and consider bringing your own snacks, sunscreen and water.*

*Note the rain location for each month; we will also meet there if the air quality index exceeds 100. The Aldrich Family Engagement Committee hopes to see you and your littles there this summer!*

**june** In Case of Rain: Quarry Hill Nature Center

Tues	2	Essex Park // 5455 W River Rd NW
Wed	10	Silver Lake Park // 770 W Silver Lake Dr NE
Thurs	18	Foster-Arend Park+ // 4051 E River Rd NE
Sat	27	Hart Farm Park // 2061 Gemini Dr SW

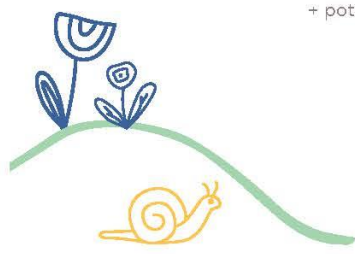
**july** In Case of Rain: The Garden Skatepark\* // \$6.50/person // 3820 Broadway Ave N

Tues	7	Kutzky Playground // 211 13th Ave NW
Wed	15	Younge Park // 2571 Fox Valley Dr SW
Thurs	23	Lincolnshire Splash Pad+ & Playground // 5276 Members Pkwy NW

**august** In Case of Rain: Rochester Public Library - Kid's Section // 101 2nd St SE

Sat	1	Century Hills Park // 3135 21st St NE
Tues	4	Roy Sutherland Playground // 800 Soldiers Field Dr SW
Wed	12	Parkwood Hills Park // 2232 Parkwood Hills Dr NE
Thurs	20	Cascade Lake Park+ // 88 23rd Ave SW
Sat	29	Aldrich School Playground Freshen Session // 9am - Noon

+ potential water play in addition to playground \* cost to play, please research in advance.



**Aldrich School**  
EST. 1944

