

NEWSLETTER

December 2016

A Note from our Director,

What a wonderful, extended fall season we have enjoyed – now I think we are ready for some of those beautiful white flakes! Aldrich children benefit from having so many cultures represented in our school family, and during this month of December at least eleven different traditions celebrate special holidays. Happy holidays to all!



During Parent/Teacher Conferences in late October many of you completed a short series of survey questions – thank you so much for your thoughtful responses. Your input, Aldrich Board member input and Director’s research will guide our offerings for upcoming 2017/18 school year.



- We will continue to offer a variety of half-day and full-day options.
- We will continue with afternoon enrichment classes but expect to add additional offerings.
- We will offer an additional morning section for two year olds.
- We will continue to study the concept of a class for young 5 year olds, which seemed to generate great interest for many parents, for a possible launch in 2018-2019.

A parent wondered why there had been so many changes in our teaching staff this spring, when seven teachers completed their time at Aldrich. As you know we are privileged to have a very experienced teaching staff at Aldrich, which is quite unusual in the Early Childhood world. Naturally, retirements will happen over time and several did this last spring. There were several teachers who needed to move due to a spouse’s relocation of work as well as a couple who just expressed the desire to have more time with their grandchildren. Five new teaching staff were hired over the summer, bringing considerable experience with them in teaching young children.

It is my hope that your children view their time at Aldrich as a time of loving to learn, but in their words – ‘playing’. The scientific evidence is clear that hands-on, experiential learning is how children are wired to learn. “Early childhood programs that implement a directed academic curriculum often replace essential, hands-on learning activities with skill-based performance and rote-learning tasks. In doing so, they risk the developmental growth necessary for children’s

future academic success.” (Brain Insights) I want to assure you that the Aldrich teachers are very intentional about the time and curriculum expectations we have for each child.

Rather than asking your child, “What did you do today?” try to use more directed questions based on what you do know about their day. Check out the white-boards outside each classroom for a window in to what happens each day. For example:

- What books did you teacher read to you today?
- Who did you play with today?
- Can we sing a song you learned today?
- What was in the sensory tub today?
- What was the most fun thing you did today?

Asking questions about their daily experience will prompt your child to mentally revisit those experiences which reinforces the impact and value of those experiences. Connecting the two environments of home and school will also have a positive effect on their cognitive development.

It’s a big job being a parent- sometimes even overwhelming - but always a source of great joy to see the children grow physically and making mental and social gains. Let’s continue to support each other and learn together as we partner for the good of our children. We are so glad to be serving the children with you.

Thank you again for your survey responses and please feel the complete freedom to ask any question or make any suggestions. Even at 60+ something, I still am deeply invested in learning something new every day, especially when it makes life better for our children.

For the good of our children,
Kevin Ewing, Director

**“Children are wired for hands-on, full-contact, self-selected interaction with the world-
we call this play”**



Looking to extend your child's time at Aldrich?

Openings available in our 3 and 4 year-old programs! Add on to your child's current days for more fun and learning at Aldrich!

Our openings for **3 year olds** (must have turned 3 by Sept. 1, 2016) include:

- **FULL Days:** Tuesday/Thursday
- **Mornings:** Tuesday/Thursday
- **Afternoons:** Monday/Wednesday/Friday **AND** Tuesday/Thursday

Thinking ahead to all-day Kindergarten next fall? Extending your child's day at Aldrich may help ease the transition! Our openings for **4/5 year olds** (must have turned 4 by Sept. 1, 2016) include:

- **FULL Days:** Monday/Wednesday/Friday (9:00am-3:30pm)
- **Mornings:** Monday/Wednesday/Friday **AND** Tuesday/Thursday
- **Afternoons:** Monday- Friday, Monday/Wednesday/Friday, **AND** Tuesday/Thursday



*We have a limited number of openings in Lunch Bunch & Kids Club on certain days as well. Stop by the office today for more information or contact us at 507.289.3097 or aldrich@aldrichnurseryschool.com.



OOHHH...AAHHH...IIICCCKKK

(Science Fun!)

Enrichment Class begins in January!

Through hands-on activities and by using real scientific instruments like test tubes, graduated cylinders, and Petri dishes, children will learn about the amazing (and often slimy!) world of science! This class allows children to observe, predict, collect, and record data in our "laboratory" classroom. Hold on to your test tubes and put on your goggles- it's going to be an explosive ride

This new five week enrichment class will be taught by Mrs. Forliti and Mrs. Plute. Children must be at least 3 years old by September 1, 2016 to participate in Enrichment classes. The Tuesday afternoon session begins on **January 10th** and the Wednesday afternoon session begins **January 11th**. Classes run from 1:00-3:30 and there may be options to extend the afternoon with either Lunch Bunch or Kids Club. Stop by the office to enroll; the fee for this 5 week class is \$81. Enrichment classes are a great way for your children to continue to learn and grow while at Aldrich!



Registration for 2017-2018

Registration for next year is just a month away! **Present and past Aldrich families including children of Aldrich alumni may begin to register on January 3rd with priority given through January 16th.** Registration packets will be handed out to all current parents on January 3rd and 4th. In order to register for next year, families will need to turn in a completed enrollment form along with a registration fee (\$55 for one child; \$60 for two or more) 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 some of the new offerings for next school year!

Registration for families new to Aldrich will begin on January 17th! Please encourage your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to visit Aldrich for a tour! We will have group tours available on Thursday, January 12th from 6:30-7:30pm and Saturday, January 14th from 10:00-11:00am. 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.aldrichnurseryschool.com. Current families are our best source of advertising, so thank you for spreading the word about us!

Program offerings for 2017-2018:

For 2 years olds (2 by September 1, 2017)

- **2 day and 3 day Mornings** (can be combined for **5 Mornings**)
- **2 day and 3 day Afternoons** (Children who turn 3 by 12/1/17 can enroll in afternoon programming when they turn 3.)

For 3 year olds (3 by September 1, 2017)

- **2 day and 3 day Mornings or Afternoons** (can be combined for **5 Mornings** or **5 Afternoons**)
- **2 day FULL Days** (9:00am- 3:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays)

For 4/5 year olds (4 or 5 by September 1, 2017)

- **2 day and 3 day Mornings or Afternoons**
- **5 Mornings or 5 Afternoons**
- **2 FULL Days and 3 FULL Days** (9:00am-3:30pm, can be combined for **5 FULL Days**)

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

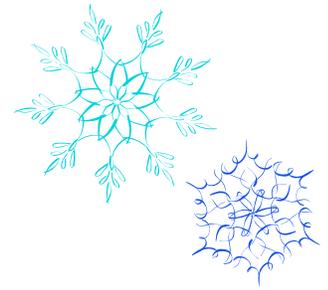
- **Early Bird**(7:30-9:00am)
- **Lunch Bunch**(11:35am-12:45pm)
- **Kids Club**(3:30-5:30pm).

Parents can choose which day(s) each week they'd like their child to attend these extensions throughout the school year.

****Extension sessions** will only be offered if we meet the minimum enrollment requirements.

By offering more options, we hope that parents will be able to build a schedule that best fits each family's needs.

With all-day kindergarten for all Rochester Public School students, we want to provide you with more options to get children ready for this transition. Stop at the front office with any questions!



Winter Reminders

Illness:

- If your child has a fever, he/she should remain home for at least 24 hours after his/her temperature has returned to normal.
- Your child should be kept home for at least 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.
- Your child should be able to participate fully in school, including outdoor play. Otherwise, please keep them home until they are well and able to fully participate.

Clothing:

- Winter weather has arrived! Please make sure your child has a hat, mittens, snow pants, boots and a warm jacket.
- Remember to put an extra pair of shoes in your child's cubby to wear inside.
- Label all pieces of removable clothing and footwear.

Thank you to our Generous Donors!



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Safety in the Parking Lot

Thank you for ensuring that children are safe as you enter our parking lot; I know- 5 mph seems like just creeping along, it is. As you know children can break from a secure hand-hold and dart out between cars. Cars seem even taller now than in recent years, making it even more difficult to see our precious little ones. Please remember to also exit the parking lot at 5mph as well. Thanks muc



News from the Board

Aldrich Dates to Remember



- Dec. 5-9: Toy Drive
- Dec. 6: Meeting to form Aldrich PTA, Forager at 6:30pm
- Dec. 13 & 14: Last Days of Little Adventures Enrichment
- Dec. 15 & 16: Pizza Lunch Bunch
- Dec. 23- Jan. 2: No School: Winter Break
- Jan. 4: Priority Registration begins for 2017/2018 School Year!
- Jan. 16: No School: MLK Day/Staff Development
- Jan. 17: Registration opens to public!

Toy Drive

Aldrich is once again partnering with the Salvation Army in our annual toy drive. If you wish to donate, please place new, unwrapped toys in the collection bins located at each end of the building between **Monday, December 5th and Friday, December 9th**. This toy drive helps bring toys to children in need in our area during this holiday season and is a wonderful way to instill a spirit of giving in your child!

