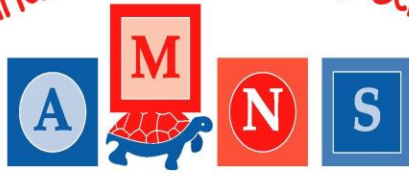


Aldrich Memorial Nursery School



For The Good Of Children

# NEWSLETTER

September 2016

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## Welcome to our 72<sup>nd</sup> Fall at Aldrich!

We welcome all returning and all families new to Aldrich!

The first week of our soft start-up went very well, I trust your children are as excited as we are for another great year!

Aldrich partners with Rochester Public Schools, Families First and others to serve children from 30+ countries, with all abilities and backgrounds. This diversity provides a rich and beautiful learning experience for our children. Thank you for allowing us to partner with you in the early learning experiences of your children.



Children are pre-wired to learn. It is our number one goal that your child experiences learning in a joyful manner. Their discoveries through play with new friends, making their choices and by the careful nurturing and guidance of experienced teachers will build success upon success.

My other number one goal is your child's safety. Please observe our expectation of 5 mph in our parking lot, little ones dart and our vehicles are large. Please drive with extreme caution. Your next challenge is keeping a little hand in yours, again, very important for the children's safety. Thank you for the extra effort that takes.

We are all here – 'For the Good of Children'.

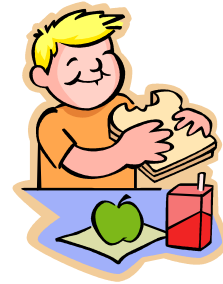
I'm looking forward to another great year together as we partner together for the children. Please let me know if I can support your family in any way.

Kevin Ewing, Director

## Looking for more time for your child at Aldrich?

If you are finding that you need a little extra time to run errands or perhaps your child would be interested in another class at Aldrich, check out these options for children in the 3 & 4 year old classes:

- **LUNCH BUNCH** extends the morning or afternoon session by about an hour and a half. Pack a lunch for your child, and then morning children can be picked up by 12:45 or afternoon children can be dropped off starting at 11:35. Many children love to stay and socialize with friends over lunch!
- **KIDS CLUB** extends the afternoon session by two hours so you can pick up your child by 5:30. Children will enjoy time in both playrooms, and weather permitting, on the playgrounds as well. Art activities, group story-time, and snack are also included in this popular option.
- **ENRICHMENT CLASSES** include options such as **Music Explorers**, **Sport Adventures**, **Little Adventures**, **Science Fun** and **Cooking Monsters**. Music Explorers is a year-long class that's a 30 minute extension from morning classes; the other classes are 5-week units that are available on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons. Try out some new themes in the afternoons this year!



If you are interested in enrolling, please stop by the office for more information or reference the fliers given out at orientation. We encourage you to pick a day(s) for the year for Lunch Bunch & Kids Club, but some drop-in spots may be available as well. Enrollment forms for the enrichment classes are also on our website under the "Aldrich Families-Forms" tab. We hope that these classes will provide you with more options to find the right fit for your child and your family's needs.



## Sport Adventures

### Enrichment Class starts soon!

Our **first 5 week Enrichment Class** of the school year begins October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>! Sport Adventures provides great exercise in a structured format that introduces a wide variety of sports. It is about helping kids discover the champion within themselves! Join us as we focus on a variety of sports throughout the 5 weeks and always emphasize teamwork and fair play. Sport Adventures will include sports like football, basketball, baseball, soccer, and tennis to teach the fundamentals of throwing, catching, running, and hitting. This program will introduce children to the basics of our world's most popular sports while building coordination, balance, and confidence!

Classes will begin on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and will run for 5 weeks from 1:00-3:30pm. (There may be options to extend the afternoon with either Lunch Bunch or Kids Club). Children must be at least 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2016 to participate in enrichment classes. The cost of this fun enrichment opportunity is \$81. Stop at the office by Friday, Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> to sign up!

## Security at Aldrich

Aldrich has an intercom system at our main entrance similar to what is used in Rochester elementary schools. Visitors who come to school outside of the normal drop-off and pick-up times need to use the west entrance by the flagpole (door 16) which has a buzzer system with an intercom to the main office. All other doors will continue to be locked except at drop-off and pick-up times. We are continually evaluating our security procedures, and we are pleased that our security is very similar to the system at the Rochester elementary schools.

## Safety First!

Children's safety is a primary concern of all Aldrich staff. We'd like to offer the following reminders:

In the parking lot:

- **Drive slowly – 5 miles per hour.** Children can dart out from cars so quickly.
- **Follow the directions of the one-way signs and arrows.**
- **Hold your child's hand** from the Aldrich door to your car door.
- Do not use cell phones while driving in the parking lot.
- Be considerate of other families and other cars.



When dropping off your child:

- **Please turn off your car.** For the safety of everyone in the parking lot, please do not leave your car running when dropping off and picking up children, even during the colder months.
- **Please bring all children into Aldrich with you.**
- If you regularly have a sleeping child in the car or too many kids to bring in with you, coordinate times with another Aldrich parent to watch your kids while you come in.
- Upon entering and exiting the building, keep an eye out for any children who may be alone and near the doors. We don't want to accidentally let children outside unaccompanied by their parent or guardian. If you see a child slip through the door, please stop him or her. The child's parent will thank you!

## Parent/Teacher Conferences



Remember to check with your child's teachers about parent/teacher conferences. There is **NO SCHOOL ON THURS., OCTOBER 27<sup>th</sup> and FRI., OCTOBER 28<sup>th</sup>**, which are all-school conference days. Most conferences will be held this day, but conferences will also be available on other days.

Conference time is your chance to discuss your child with the teachers. Don't pass it by! Remember that you are there to participate; be ready to share some insight about your child and his/her adjustments to school. The teachers will share more detailed information with you about their classroom and will be asking what you hope your child will experience while at Aldrich. Conferences typically last 10-15 minutes, and it is important to use the time well. We look forward to setting aside time to talk with parents about each special child here at Aldrich!

### **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES:**

When parents and teachers work together to try and provide the best environment for learning, the child stands to benefit the most. The following are some tips on how to make the most of those precious minutes:

- **Be Prepared; Ask Questions.** Come with a list of questions or topics that you want to cover.
- **Consult your child.** Ask if there is anything he or she particularly likes or dislikes about school.
- **Share information.** Parents and teachers should work as a team. You know more about your child than anyone else, and your teacher will be grateful for the added insight.

## Welcome Flags

Have you noticed all of the flags lining both of our entrances? We are very proud that we have families at Aldrich from a variety of different countries! No matter the language, children's play is universal, and children can play alongside or with each other, even if they speak different native languages.



If you don't see a flag representing your home country, please stop by the office and let us know. We want your child to be part of this great Aldrich tradition! We'll be happy to order another flag, and we'll invite you to write "Welcome" in your native language.



## Bill Pay & Mail Slots: Tuition Payments Made Easier



Looking for an easier way to pay your tuition? Consider using your bank's online bill pay system. If you haven't used bill pay before, contact your bank for details to get started. If you already use bill pay, add Aldrich as a new payee, put your child's name in the memo section, and make your payment. It's even easier if you set up a recurring payment. **TUITION IS DUE ON THE 1<sup>st</sup> OF EACH MONTH**, and it takes about one week for your check to arrive, so please plan accordingly. Please remember that no tuition payment is due on May 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are using automatic bill pay, your last payment is due on April 1<sup>st</sup>. A \$20 late fee will be assessed if payment is not received by the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month.

PLEASE NOTE: We have two other convenient ways to drop off checks at school. We have a slot on the left side of our Information Center (located by the front office) where you can place tuition. We also have a mail slot outside of our building, to the left of the front doors, for checks dropped off after business hours. For security reasons, always bring cash payments to the front desk. Thank you!

## United Way Campaign

This fall, many businesses will be promoting their United Way campaigns, encouraging their employees to give back to support community needs. **Because Aldrich is a non-profit organization, did you know that you can designate your donations to go to Aldrich?** Simply write in Aldrich Memorial Nursery School as the recipient when you make your donation to United Way. We sincerely appreciate the financial support from the Rochester community!

**\* News from the Board \***

## School Pictures!

Graham Photography will be at Aldrich on **October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>** to take school pictures. More information will be coming soon!



**\* MARK YOUR CALENDARS \***

- **October 4 & 5** = Sport Adventure Enrichment Class Begins!
- **October 6 & 7** = School Pictures
- **October 20 & 21** = MEA Break- **NO SCHOOL**
- **October 27 & 28** = Fall Conferences – **NO SCHOOL**

*For the complete calendar for the school year, look on our website, [www.aldrichnurseryschool.com](http://www.aldrichnurseryschool.com), under the 'Aldrich Families' tab.*



## Teacher Biographies

**MARY ALEXANDER** ~ I have lived in Rochester most of my life. My husband and I enjoy all the changes our city has to offer. We enjoy walking and the outdoors, plus all the many adventures of the Minnesota seasons. Two of my favorite authors are Mem Fox and Dr. Seuss. I am so glad to be part of the dedicated Aldrich staff.

**KAY BATTISTA** ~This is my 36th year at Aldrich. My husband Bob works at IBM, and we have two sons (both Aldrich alumni). Mark lives in Urbandale, IA and teaches 5th grade in the Des Moines school system. Brian lives in St. Louis Park with his wife Erica and works at Whole Foods. I enjoy hanging out with family and friends, reading, traveling, and working in my yard.

**BETH CURTIN**- This will be my first official year at Aldrich as a staff member. I was previously a sub at Aldrich and an employee in the Rochester Public School district working with Early Childhood Special Education students. I am also part of the team that conducts the Early Childhood Screenings for the district. I have three children, Oliviya (13), Karise (8), and Elijah (5). I was born and raised in Rochester and I am happy that my family is able to make Rochester our home. My better half, Rob works for Wells Fargo in Minneapolis and is also a part time professor at St. Mary's University of MN. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Argosy University and a Master's Degree in Human Resources from St. Mary's University of MN. In my free time I enjoy working in my yard, golfing, biking, and playing with my kids. I am really excited to be at Aldrich this year and seeing the growth in the children!

**EMILIE DAILEY** ~ I am excited to be teaching in Room 3 this year! This is my 5th year teaching at Aldrich. My husband works at Mayo Clinic. My kids, both Aldrich alumni, are in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. I enjoy reading, watching movies, spending time up north at our cabin, and watching the Minnesota Vikings.

**TERRI FARLOW** ~ This is my 17<sup>th</sup> year teaching at Aldrich. Prior to Aldrich, I was employed by the Rochester Public Schools Early Childhood Special Education Program. I have been married to my husband Dennis for 37 years. Our oldest daughter Courtney (35) is a special education teacher in Minneapolis. Our daughter Paige (30) lives in Denver, CO where she also teaches special education for at-risk youth. Our son Devin (26) resides in St. Paul, MN where he is a social worker. Our family enjoys traveling and boating.

**NICOLE FORLITI** ~ I am excited to start my 6<sup>th</sup> year teaching at Aldrich. I have a license in Early Childhood Education and can't wait to learn and explore with my students. My husband, Andrew, and I are proud parents of our son Connor. Connor will be starting preschool this year in Room 1. Our family enjoys going on walks with our dog Macee, cabin trips, and snowmobiling in the winter. This is going to be a wonderful year!

**JOANN FRISCH** ~ This is my 14<sup>th</sup> year at Aldrich. My husband, Mike, is the executive director of the Cronin Home. I have two children that live up in the Cities. Aaron is 24 years old is an automotive technician. Alexandra is 19 years old and is a sophomore at St. Mary's in Winona studying Psychology. I was a stay at home mom until both my children started school full-time. Before my children were born, I worked at a preschool/daycare in Wausau, Wisconsin. I also have many years of experience working in home daycare. I received my certification in Wausau, Wisconsin. Besides teaching, I have two labradoodles that keep me very busy. I also enjoy running, working out, shopping, and fun adventures!

**HEATHER GJERVIK** ~ I am excited to begin my 1st year at Aldrich. My husband Todd and I have been married for 17 year and have 2 children. Noah is 12 and starting 7th grade at Kellogg Middle School. He plays traveling soccer and hockey. Ava is 10 and going into 5th grade at Hoover Elementary. She is in competitive gymnastics and spends many hours training in the gym. I enjoy running, walking my dogs and attending my children's sporting events. I'm so excited to get to know the families and children here at Aldrich!



**MIRIAM HALLEEN** ~ I am excited to start the school year as assistant teacher in rooms 1B and 7. Growing up in Rochester, I attended Aldrich and have very fond memories! Aside from working with children, I am also very passionate about music. I write and perform songs around town, and this year will be teaching the music enrichment class at Aldrich! I've always loved fall and this one will be even more special, as I'm getting married in November.

**CONNIE HEINTZ** ~ I am eager to begin my 20<sup>th</sup> year teaching at Aldrich. My husband Don and I live on a farm in rural Elgin. Part of our farm land has been planted in native flowers and grasses. Each summer we enjoy seeing the prairie bloom and watching the many forms of wildlife that make this habitat their home. Besides teaching the wonderful children in Room 7, I also enjoy reading, hiking, and exploring nature.

**MARY HERGES** ~ This is my 10<sup>th</sup> year at Aldrich. I have called Rochester home for the last 37 years. My husband Rick and I have four grown children, Jake, Joe, Kori, and Kristen. We are proud grandparents to 6 little ones, ages 4 and under. I am a graduate of the University of Minnesota, and seven years ago I also completed my RN degree. I have enjoyed teaching for many years. My interests include reading, exercising, playing cards, and my children. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and your wonderful children this year!

**SUSIE JOHNSON** ~ I am so excited to be working here at Aldrich! This is my first year, and I will be working in Room 2 with Kay Battista. Last year I taught four-year-olds, and prior to that I taught kindergarten for 21 years! We just moved here last summer from Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Both my husband Eric and I are from Minnesota. We wanted to be closer to family! My husband Eric is the principal at Kellogg Middle School. We have two sons. Sam (16) is a junior at Century High School and Ben (12) is a seventh grader at Kellogg. We have two labs, Tilly and Ranger. I enjoy spending time with my family, walking our two dogs, exercising, and being outside.

**ANGELA LEISE** ~ I am new to Aldrich this year, and am so excited for this school year. I've been in Rochester for 12 years, but am originally from Nebraska. My children keep me very busy: Ellie (10), Matthew (6), and James (almost 3). When I'm not driving them around to their activities, I can usually be found with a good book in my hand. I look forward to getting to know everyone at Aldrich this year, especially the kiddos in Room 1!



**MARISA MARTIN** ~ I have previously been the aide in Room 1. I am so excited to move into the position of 'Teachers Assistant' this year. I will also be working in Lunch Bunch on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and in Music Enrichment on Thursdays. My family has been a part of Aldrich for over 7 years; my daughters Natalie (10) and Aubrey (8) both attended Aldrich while I served on the Board of Directors. I enjoy being creative when I get time to play! Fall is my favorite season of the year. My family enjoys walks with our dog, Henry, while looking for different colored leaves.



**KAREN MULVIHILL** ~ I am excited to continue my adventure at Aldrich in the 2-year-old classroom. My four children and I reside in Eyota. I have spent a majority of my career in the Early Childhood Education field. I have a certificate in Early Childhood Education and plan on pursuing my Bachelor's Degree in the same field. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with friends and family, fishing, camping, and watching Vikings football. I look forward to getting to know the children and families of Aldrich this year!

**BETH OESTERLIN** ~ I am excited to be starting my 4<sup>th</sup> year as a teacher at Aldrich! I was born and raised in Rochester, and even attended Aldrich as a preschooler! When I am not spending time with children at Aldrich, I also work with children at Camp Victory. This year you can find me in Room 6, as well as Kids Club on Fridays.

**JOLENE OLSON** ~ I am excited to start my 7<sup>th</sup> year at Aldrich as the Lead Teacher every morning in Room 1A. My husband, Brian, and I have been married for 17 years and have three children. Brandon is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Century High School and loves sports. Ashley is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Kellogg Middle School and loves to babysit and play volleyball. Zachary is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Kellogg Middle School and loves playing lacrosse. I enjoy reading, going for walks, and spending time with my family.

**NANCY PLUTE** ~ I am thrilled to be starting my 13<sup>th</sup> year teaching at Aldrich. This year I will be in Room 5 in the mornings. I will also be helping with Lunch Bunch on Wednesdays and Fridays and Enrichments. I am from Denver, Colorado, and I graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Child Development and Family Relationships. My husband, Michael, was a software engineer and is retired from IBM. We have two daughters. Allison works for Colorado Springs Utilities and is a Water Shed Project Manager. Kellie works for Capella University in Minnesota as a Marketing Manager. My husband and I are delighted to be grandparents to Nora who is 5 years old, and starting Kindergarten in Eagan! We also have a 9 year old cocker mix dog named Lilly. I love taking care of children doing "nanny" work, interior decorating, primitives and poking around antique, Good Will and consignment shopping in Rochester and LaCrosse.

**KATE RAUCH** ~ This will be my first school year at Aldrich, and I couldn't be more excited to start in Room 1B! I've enjoyed the opportunities to volunteer my time with little ones over the last 20 years. I work part-time at Caribou in the mornings, while my husband Joshua works evenings at the Mayo Clinic. This schedule allows us both to stay at home with our puppy, Gilly, and our daughter, Josie, who is in her second and last year at Aldrich. I'm happiest when I'm hanging with my loves, crafting, baking or watching NE Patriots football. I look forward to spending time with your little loves this year!



### **ALLISON SCHUSTER**

I am thrilled to be starting my first year at Aldrich! I moved to Rochester from the Cities about a year ago, where I taught in Early Childhood Education for many years. I have a degree in Elementary Education, and feel blessed to be teaching in Room 7. I am excited to marry my fiancé, David in April 2017; my name will soon be Mrs. Gross. When I'm not teaching or wedding planning, I enjoy cooking, spending time outdoors, staying active and playing with my cat, Crosby.

### **NICK TAYLOR**

Nick started as an Aldrich parent when his oldest enrolled in 2014. This year, he has joined our teaching staff as a new classroom aide in Room 1B. We are thrilled to have him here!

**NICCI WATSON** ~ I am thrilled to begin another exciting year at Aldrich working with both 3 and 4 year old classes. I have been blessed to be a part of the Aldrich community as either a parent or staff member for over 11 years. My husband, Jim, and I have five children, Conner (16), Jacob (14), Gregory (12), Nicholas (10) and Mary (8). Together we enjoy attending the kids' sporting events, hiking, traveling, and photography. I look forward to learning & exploring with your children this year!

**LINDA WILKINS** ~ I am happy to be back at Aldrich for my 18<sup>th</sup> year! I have three grown children; two in Minnesota and one that just moved to Texas. I also have one WONDERFUL grand-daughter that just started first grade. I have a degree in Elementary Education and am looking forward to a fun-filled year in Room 5. When I am home, I enjoy working in my big yard and flower gardens, as well as reading as many books as I can!



## Administration & Support Staff Biographies

**KEVIN EWING, DIRECTOR** ~ October will mark the beginning of my 4<sup>th</sup> year at Aldrich. The majority of my work life has been serving children and families in early learning/child development. Parenting and Teaching is heart work. My energy for our partnership comes from seeing children loving to learn. My sweetheart, Janet, teaches children who are fourth graders. I have been blessed with 5 amazing adult children and a 7 year-old grandson who is loving life. Please find me at Aldrich and introduce yourself... looking forward to serving the children with you!



**JESSICA PAOLINI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR** ~ I started at Aldrich in May of 2015, and all summer long I have been looking forward to September's promise of a building full of eager teachers and children. My husband, Michael, and I moved our family from Texas to Minnesota in the summer of 2014 for his job at Mayo Clinic. We have two sons, Reid (2) and Mick (4). Mick is a student in Room 6 this year. In the brief time I'm not either at work or chasing my two boys, I enjoy "unplugging" with yoga, running, or a good movie. I look forward to partnering with your family this year!

**CHERYL PAYNE, OFFICE COORDINATOR** ~ Hi! I am super excited to be the starting my second year as office coordinator at Aldrich. I just love seeing preschoolers' happy faces every day! Both of my children are Aldrich alumni and I was a member of the Board of Directors when my daughter attended in 2009-2011. She is now in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and my son is in first grade this fall. I am married to Mike who is a software engineer at IBM and we have lived here since 1999.

**CARRIE MANGUSON, OFFICE ASSISTANT** ~ I am looking forward to another fun year assisting in the office at Aldrich! I was born and raised in Rochester. My husband, Ryan works for the Rochester Police Department and we have three awesome children: Morgan (13), Paige (11) and Noah (6). We keep busy cheering on our kids in all their activities and love family movie nights.

**SUE NEUMANN, OFFICE ASSISTANT** - I joined Aldrich in 2011 and work every-other Friday as an Office Assistant. Rochester has been my home now for 23+ years. My time with my family is most precious to me: Husband = Greg / Children = Jesse (22), JP (17), and Kaycee (16). And I mustn't forget my two adorable dogs: Chipper (13) and Buddy (6). Most of my free time is spent attending sporting events and cheering on any Rochester or Minnesota teams. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, walking, baking, scrapbooking, and camping. May you find your time with the Aldrich family as rewarding as I do... here's to a great year!

**LARRY SCILLEY, HANDYMAN** ~ Larry has been the handyman at Aldrich since 1998. His wife, Gwen, taught at Aldrich for over 35 years, retiring in 2011. Larry is very quick to get things checked off of his "to do" list here at Aldrich, and we are grateful for his willingness to help us in so many different ways!