



## Welcome to our 73<sup>rd</sup> Fall at Aldrich!

It brings me so much joy to welcome you to the new school year. We are thrilled to see so many familiar faces and excited to meet those of you experiencing Aldrich for the first time. Aldrich has served the larger Rochester community for nearly 75 years, leaving it near and dear to the hearts of thousands of families--a group which now includes you!

Our talented staff is passionate about quality early childhood education, and you will see many common threads of best practice running through each classroom. For example, while each room has a short teacher-led group time, the bulk of your child's learning will happen while they explore their environment in both the indoor and outdoor classrooms. There you will see teachers interacting with students in small groups and one-on-one, engaging their minds by asking open-ended questions, prompting metacognition, and challenging them to take appropriate risks.

For these teaching techniques to work optimally with the development of a preschooler, our teachers must be masters of facilitating these interactions through the medium of **PLAY**. If you ever wonder why children are doing a particular activity in the classroom, I encourage you to ask his or her teachers. The wealth and depth of our faculty's knowledge on child development is impressive, and you will be thrilled to hear about the intentional learning opportunities they are creating for your child in their classrooms.

I look forward to seeing each of you as the school year progresses; please let me know if there is ever any way I can assist your family. We are so happy you are here!

Your partner in education,  
Jessica Paolini, Director



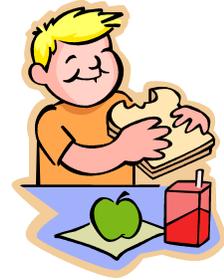
**PLAY** is the highest form of research.  
-Albert Einstein



## 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:

- **EARLY BIRD** is offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings only and allows an earlier start time for families who may need a more convenient drop off time. Children will be in Playroom 2 as early as 7:30am enjoying a relaxed atmosphere before their morning or full day session. Children are welcome to bring a small breakfast or a small snack will be served for those who don't pack their own.
- **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. Unfortunately enrollment is limited right now due to high demand, only limited drop in space may be available.
- **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 **Sports Adventures**, **World Chefs**, **Creative Builders**, **Strike a Pose!** and **Nature is Neat**. These classes meet Tues/Wed afternoons from 1:00-3:30 for four weeks. **Spanish** and **Music Explorers** are year-long classes that are a 30 minute extension from morning classes. 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 Early Bird, 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.

## Enrichment Class starts soon!

Our **first 4 week Enrichment Class** of the school year begins October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<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, while emphasizing teamwork and fair play. We 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> and will run for 4 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, 2017 to participate in enrichment classes. The cost of this fun enrichment opportunity is \$75. Stop at the office by Friday, Sept. 29<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!

## 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!

### **\* MARK YOUR CALENDARS\***

- **October 3 & 4** = Sport Adventure Enrichment Class Begins!
- **October 5 & 6** = School Picture Day
- **October 19 & 20** = MEA Break- **NO SCHOOL**
- **November 2 & 3** = 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. I am so glad to be part of the dedicated Aldrich staff.

**KAY BATTISTA** ~ This is my 37th 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 being with family and friends, reading, traveling, and working in my yard. This summer we were blessed with the birth of our first grandchild, Edward.

**KRYSTAL COON** ~ I began with Aldrich as a substitute teacher in 2017 and this will be my first year as an Aide in classroom 1A. I earned a Bachelor Degree in Social Work with a minor in Human Relations from St. Cloud University. I have had the opportunity to spend the past five years as a full time mother and is excited and enthusiastic to contribute to the educational growth and success for children!

**BETH CURTIN**- This will be my 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (14), Karise (9), and Elijah (6). 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! Seeing the growth in the children is wonderful!

**TERRI FARLOW** ~ This is my 18<sup>th</sup> year teaching at Aldrich. I have been married to my husband Dennis for 38 years. We have 3 children. Our oldest daughter Courtney (36) is a special education teacher in St. Paul. Our daughter Paige (31) is a special education teacher in Denver, CO where she lives with her fiancé Cory. Our son Devin (27) is a social worker in St. Paul. Our family enjoys boating and traveling.

**JILL FINNAN** ~ My name is Jill Finnan. Although this is my first year at Aldrich, I have worked at several other child care centers and early childhood programs, including subbing at Aldrich last year. I have volunteered in many different programs for children and have worked with a wide range of ages. For the last several years, I have homeschooled my two daughters. I enjoy reading, camping, hiking and spending time with my family.

**NICOLE FORLITI** ~ I am excited to start my 7<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. 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 15<sup>th</sup> year at Aldrich. My husband, Mike, is the executive director of the Cronin Home. I have two children. Aaron is 25 years old is an automotive technician in California. Alexandra is 19 years old and is a junior at St. Mary's in Winona majoring in Biology and 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 2<sup>nd</sup> year at Aldrich. My husband Todd and I have been married for 18 years and have 2 children. Noah is 12 and starting 8th grade at Kellogg Middle School. He plays traveling soccer and hockey. Ava is 11 and going into 6th grade at Kellogg Middle School. 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 start my 2<sup>nd</sup> year in Room Six!

### **ALLISON GROSS**

I am thrilled to be starting my second year at Aldrich! I moved to Rochester from the Cities two years ago, where I taught in Early Childhood Education for many years. I have a degree in Elementary Education from St. Mary's University. I feel blessed to be teaching in Room 7 again. I am excited to marry my fiancé, David in April 2017; my name will soon be Mrs. Gross.

**MIRIAM HAACKE** ~ I am excited to start the school year as assistant teacher in rooms 4 and 7. This is my third year at Aldrich. 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!

**CONNIE HEINTZ** ~ I am eager to begin my 21<sup>st</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 11<sup>th</sup> year at Aldrich. I have called Rochester home for the last 38 years. My husband Rick and I have four grown children, Jake, Joe, Kori, and Kristen. We are proud grandparents to 8 little ones, ages 5 and under. I am a graduate of the University of Minnesota, and eight 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!

**HEATHER JOHNSON** ~ I graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education from Southwest Minnesota State University. I started at Aldrich as a substitute in 2016, but am currently working as a float throughout classrooms. I look forward to working with your child this year!

**SUSIE JOHNSON** ~ I am so excited to be starting my second year here at Aldrich! This year I will be working with Kay Battista as an Assistant in Room 2 (M-F Mornings). I will be working with Linda Wilkins as the Lead Teacher in Room 5 (M,W,F afternoons). This is my 24<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. Prior to being at Aldrich, I taught four-year-olds in Rochester and I taught kindergarten for 21 years in Wisconsin. My husband Eric is the principal at Kellogg Middle School. We have two sons. Sam (17) is a senior at Century High School and Ben (13) is an eighth 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** ~ This is my second year at Aldrich, and am so excited for this school year. I've been in Rochester for 13 years, but am originally from Nebraska. My children keep me very busy: Ellie (11), Matthew (7), and James (almost 4). 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 am so excited for my second year as a 'Teachers Assistant'! I will also be working in Lunch Bunch on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and in Music Enrichment on Thursdays. I will also help in the 'Strike A Pose' Enrichment class in February. My family has been a part of Aldrich for over 7 years; my daughters Natalie (11) and Aubrey (9) 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 5<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 Thursdays and Fridays.

**JOLENE OLSON** ~ I am excited to start my 8<sup>th</sup> year at Aldrich as the Lead Teacher every morning in Room 1A. My husband, Brian, and I have been married for 18 years and have 3 children. Brandon is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Century High School and loves sports. Ashley is in 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Century High School and loves to babysit and play volleyball. Zachary is in 7<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 14<sup>th</sup> year teaching at Aldrich. I will be in Room 5 all day on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I am from Denver, CO and 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 as a Water Shed Project Manager. She is getting married in June of 2018. Kellie works for Capella University in Minnesota as a Marketing Manager. She and her husband are expecting their second child in September! My husband and I are delighted to be grandparents to Nora who is 6 years old, and starting 1st grade. We also have a 10 year old cocker mix dog named Lilly. I love taking care of children, doing “nanny” work, interior decorating, consignment shopping and antiquing in the area.

**KATE RAUCH** ~ This will be my 2<sup>nd</sup> school year at Aldrich, and I couldn't be happier to be in Room 1B again! My daughter Josie attended the last two years at Aldrich and is off to Kindergarten this year. My husband Joshua works mostly evenings at the Mayo Clinic and we've got a goofy pup named Gilly. I'm happiest when I'm hanging with my two J's, crafting, baking or watching NE Patriots football. I am so looking forward to spending time with your little loves this year!

**ERIN ROCK** ~ After growing up in Rochester, I went to UW-Madison to receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature and Language. After studying in Prague for my certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language, I set off to teach and see the world. I have since taught young learners in China, South Korea, Egypt, Cambodia, and Qatar. My family and I recently moved back to Rochester after spending 6 years in Doha. I am delighted to be at Aldrich along with my 3 year old daughter Cleo!

**CRISTIN STUART** ~ This is my first year at AMNS, and am thrilled to be a part of the Aldrich community. I graduated from Boston College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, and have worked with children in numerous capacities. I am looking forward to furthering my experience in both the classroom and continuing education.

**NICCI WATSON** ~ I am thrilled to begin another exciting year at Aldrich. I have been blessed to be a part of the Aldrich community as either a parent or staff member for over 13 years. My husband, Jim, and I have five children, Connor (17), Jacob (15), Gregory (13), Nicholas (11) and Mary (9). 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 19<sup>th</sup> year! I have three grown children; two in Minnesota and one that lives in Texas. I also have one WONDERFUL grand-daughter that just started second 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

**JESSICA PAOLINI, DIRECTOR** ~ I began my time at Aldrich as a parent in Room 1, joined the staff as Assistant Director in May of 2015, and this summer assumed the role of Director when Kevin Ewing retired. All summer long I have been looking forward to September's promise of a building full of eager teachers and children. My family moved from Texas to Minnesota in 2014. I have two sons, Reid (3) and Mick (5). Mick is a Kindergartener at Churchill this year, and Reid is a student in Room 3. In the brief time I'm not either at work or chasing my two boys, I enjoy "unplugging" with yoga, or a good movie. I look forward to partnering with your family this year!



**CARRIE MANGUSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**~ I am looking forward to taking on the new role as Assistant Director at Aldrich! I was born and raised in Rochester. I have a degree in Elementary Education. After teaching one year in a Kindergarten/School Age Room in a local child care center, I worked as an Assistant Director for nearly 10 years at two local early childhood learning centers. When my youngest son Noah was born in 2010 I made the decision to stay home with my children. My son started at Aldrich in the two year old room. In fall 2014 I was lucky enough to join the Aldrich family and started working as an Office Assistant at Aldrich. My husband, Ryan works for the Rochester Police Department and we have three awesome children: Morgan (14), Paige (12) and Noah (7). We keep busy cheering on our kids in all their activities, love family movie nights and love to travel. I am looking forward to partnering with you in your child's early childhood education!

**CHERYL PAYNE, OFFICE COORDINATOR** ~ Hi! I am super excited to be the starting my third 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade and my son is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade this fall. I am married to Mike who is a software engineer at IBM and we have lived here since 1999.

**SUE NEUMANN, OFFICE ASSISTANT** – I joined this amazing Aldrich family in 2011 and work every-other Friday as an Office Assistant. Rochester has been my home now for 24+ years. My time with my family is most precious to me: Husband = Greg / Children = Jesse (23), JP (18), and Kaycee (17). Our two dogs, Chipper (14) and Buddy (7) keep us entertained since they love to play fetch and go for walks. If I'm not out walking my dogs, you can probably find me baking, scrapbooking, camping, or spending time with my dear friends and family. 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!