



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. These weeks will fly by quickly, interspersed with Parent/ Teacher Conferences, Spring Carnival and rich, learning days for the children. You will find more information on those special events inside this newsletter.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are important times for you to have a dedicated time to visit with your child's teacher about the progress they have made this year. Pick-up and drop-off times are sometimes micro-conferences, but April 20 & 21 will be a much more specific look at gains made across multiple domains.

Preparing for the conferences takes significant time and thought on the part of your child's teachers. I know they labor over the conference form to give you the very best information. We continue to adjust the reporting tool each year to make it comprehensive and understandable. Please let a director know what you think of the tool and please thank your child's teacher for investing so deeply in your child's early learning experiences.

Together, for the Good of our Children,

Kevin Ewing

Aldrich Dates to Remember

- **April 13&14:** **Pizza Lunch Bunch**
- **April 20&21:** **No School- Conferences**
- **May 1:** **All Library Books due**
- **May 6:** **Aldrich Carnival: 10:00-2:00**
- **May 18&19:** **Pizza Lunch Bunch**
- **May 24:** **Last Day for M/W/F children**
- **May 25:** **Last Day for T/Th children and M-F children**





Summer Fun at Aldrich!

Summer camp information was distributed in your child's cubby the week of March 1st. Plan a week with some current Aldrich friends, or bring some neighborhood friends to these one week classes! In June through mid-July, we offer six separate weeks of morning classes for two different age groups.

4 & 5 year old classes:

- Monday through Friday from 9:00-11:30 a.m. (\$75 per week)
- Children should have attended the Aldrich 3 or 4 year old program in 2016-2017 and turned 3 by Sept. 1, 2016
- OR Children must be 4 by June 1, 2017 and have previous group experience

3 year old classes:

- Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00-11:30 a.m. (\$50 per week)
- Children should have attended the Aldrich 2 year old program in 2016-2017, including 2 year olds in afternoon classes
- OR Children must be 3 by June 1, 2017 and have previous group experience

Each week is a different theme! This year's themes are:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>3 Year Olds</u>	<u>4 & 5 Year Olds</u>
1	Art Explosions	June 6-8	June 5-9
2	Down on the Farm	June 13-15	June 12-16
3	Our Great Galaxy	June 20-22	June 19-23
4	Backyard Bugs & Exploration	June 27-29	June 26-30
5	Music Merriment	July 11-13	July 10-14
6	Ocean Commotion	July 18-20	July 17-21

To enroll, complete an enrollment form and return it to the office with the full tuition payment for each registered week. Some weeks have already filled, so return your forms as soon as possible to get your first choice of dates. We look forward to continuing the fun at Aldrich this summer!

Helmholz Library

Please feel free to continue checking out library books with your child through the month of April. After May 1st, 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 library books will be due back no later than Monday, May 1st.

There are still some library books that need to be returned. If you have received an overdue book notice, please try to locate the book at home. If you can't find the book, please consider making a financial donation to Aldrich to cover the cost of replacing the book. Thank you.



CARNIVAL

Join us for
The Aldrich Carnival!
Saturday, May 6th from 10:00 – 2:00

This year's annual carnival will be a fun family event you won't want to miss! The carnival is Aldrich's largest fundraiser dating back to 1952 and is coordinated by our Board of Directors. Proceeds support our financial aid program which awarded over \$7,500 in tuition assistance last year, in addition to supporting our general operating fund to help keep tuition prices affordable. The carnival is a great way for us to come together as a school and a community.

This year we are planning some exciting Discovery Rooms! This year's room themes include*:

- The Construction Zone
- Lights, Camera, Action
- The Aldrich Garden
- Dr. Seuss
- Firefighters
- Music Room

*Room themes are subject to change.

Other indoor activities for children will include story time and face painting. Outside, we will have inflatables to play on, as well as a fire truck for kids and adults to explore. We will even be bringing back last year's popular dunk tank, so come see who will be in it to send splashing into the water! New this year- Prairie Walls Climbing wall will be here! Families will be able to enjoy lunch together at the carnival and may also participate in our raffle and silent auction. Our Parent Involvement Group will have concessions available for purchase as well, including shave ice, popcorn, candy and some beverages.

The carnival is a fun and successful event each year because of many volunteers like you! There are a lot of opportunities to help on and before May 6th. On carnival day, shifts are about two hours long, so there is still time for you to enjoy the carnival with your family. **If you would like to help with this event, please sign up online through the following link, <http://signup.com/go/dm95Cm>, or fill out the form in this newsletter and return it to the box across from the office by Friday, April 21st.**

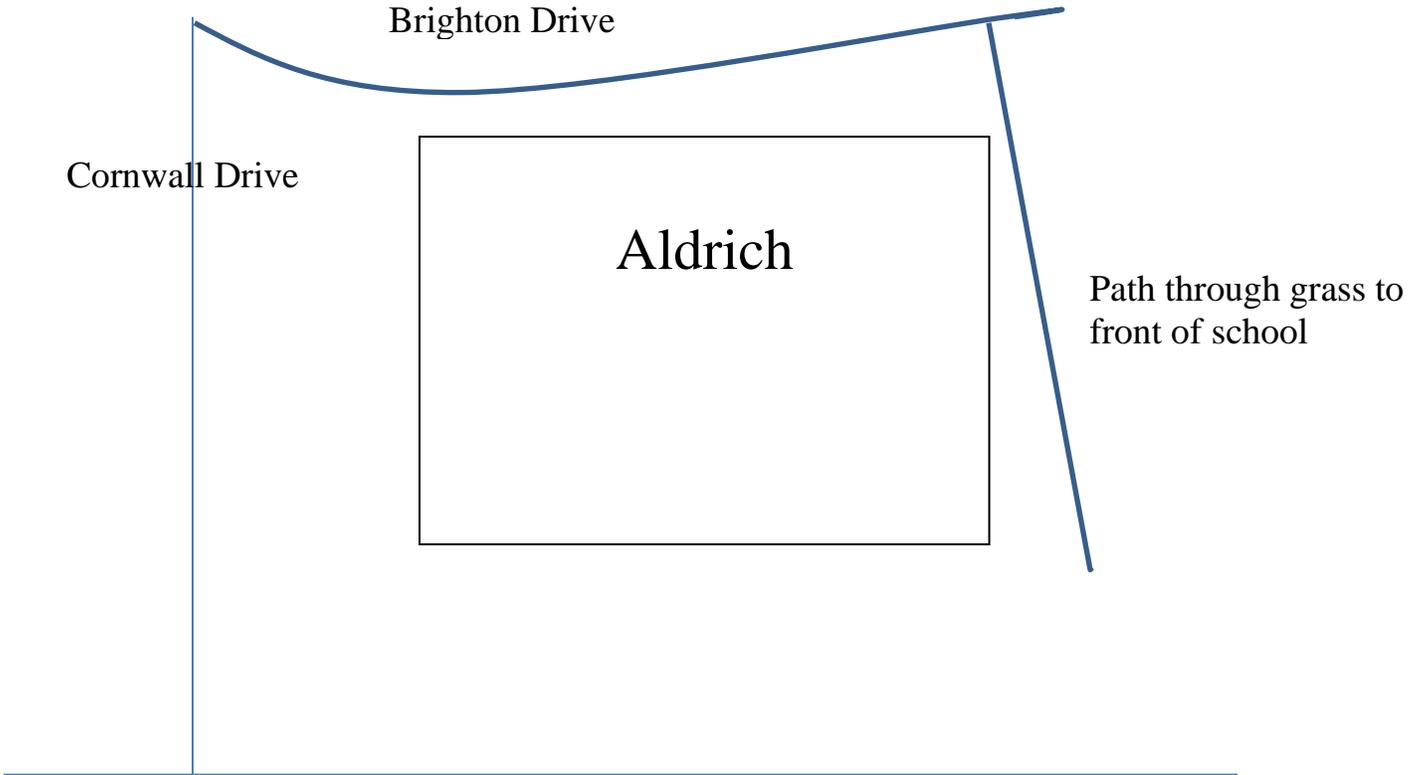
We encourage you to purchase advance tickets to avoid long lines on the day of the carnival. **Included in this newsletter is a ticket order form. Please return it to the box across from the office by Friday, April 28th, and your tickets will be placed in your child's cubby the week of the carnival.**

If you have any questions, please contact our carnival chair: Elizabeth Ahern at ahern55901@gmail.com or 507.254.0611. We look forward to seeing many Aldrich friends and families at our annual carnival!

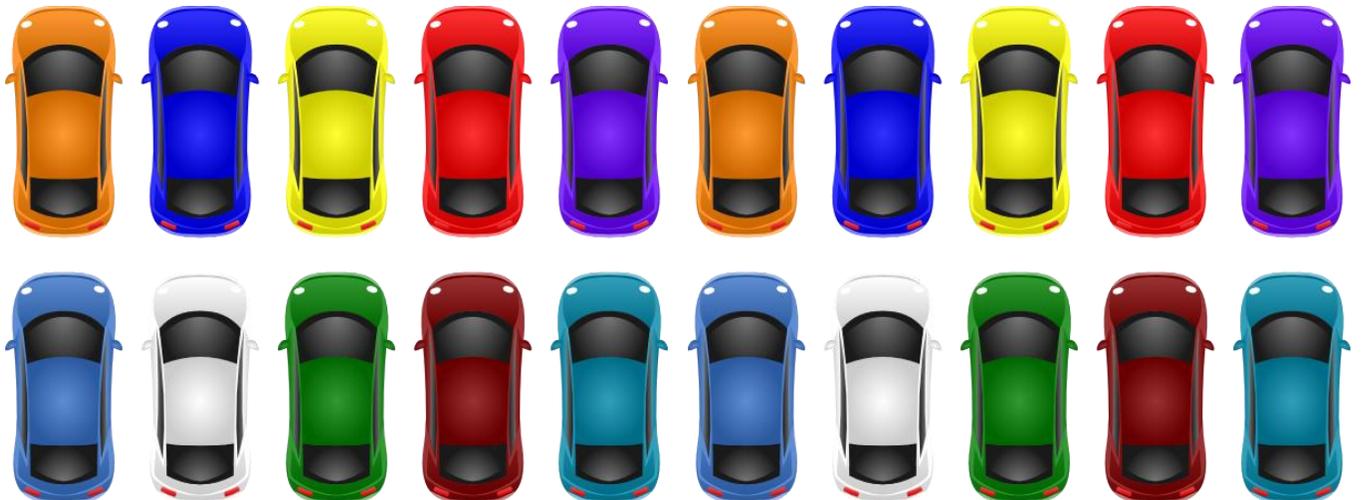


Parking Map

If the parking lot across from the school is full, there are residential streets directly behind the school that can be used for parking. There is a path through the grass that can be used to reach the front of the school. See the map below.

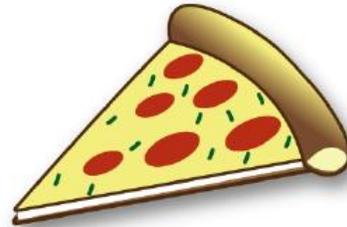
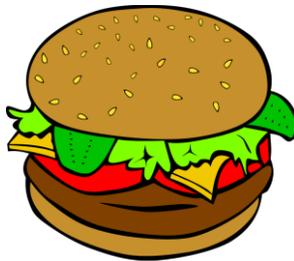
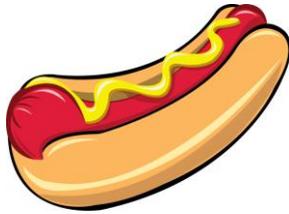


Essex Parkway



Carnival Lunch

Lunch will be available in Playroom 2 during the carnival from 10:30 - 1:00. **HyVee will be catering this years carnival! Hot dogs, hamburgers, pizza and beverages will be available for purchase the day of the carnival.**



Wish List



With less than a month to go, we still need your help! We are asking for donations of the following items:

- Individual or business donations for the raffle & silent auction
- Themed items for the silent auction baskets for each room
- Cash donations to help offset costs

Silent Auction

As part of the carnival, we will be having a silent auction of different themed baskets! Baskets were set out for families to fill. Now is the time to return your basket. We are getting some very creative themes baskets returned. Some of the basket themes are below, but you must come and bid to see the full array.

Lularoe Basket

Noonday Collection

Thirty-One Gift Basket

Usborne Basket

Tupperware Basket

Chocolaterie Stam Basket



In the past, we've had some very memorable baskets!

Thank you in advance for your donations to this year's silent auction!

Raffle



In the past, the raffle has been a great success thanks to everyone who donated items and bought tickets. Last year, Aldrich sold about 1,200 tickets for our carnival raffle!

This year, we will have 15-20 individual raffle boxes for some very popular and valuable prizes! See the list below for highlights of the prizes available on either our raffle or silent auction!

We are still accepting donations for this year's raffle and silent auction! If you would like to donate a new item, please take it to the front office and complete a donation form. In the past, personal or business donations included wonderful product baskets, gift certificates, and cash donations which were used to purchase additional prizes.

Thank you to the many families and businesses that have already donated an item or cash for our raffle and silent auction this year! We appreciate your support!



Prizes

Check out some of the exciting prizes that will be available to win at the raffle and silent auction!

- Kindle Fire
- 4 passes to Children's Museum in Lacrosse
- Family Movie Night from Paragon Theaters
- Haircut Package from Fantastic Sams
- Winemakers tour from Four Daughters Winery (Spring Valley)
- Apollo in-home winetasting
- Several gift cards from local businesses

Ticket Order Form



The Aldrich Carnival Saturday, May 6th from 10 - 2

Come join the fun! Our annual carnival is packed with great games, activities, concessions and lunch for kids and adults to enjoy...all for a great cause! Order tickets in advance to avoid waiting in long lines or purchase tickets the day of the event. For advanced ticket sales, complete the form below, attach payment, and drop your order in the box across from the front office at Aldrich by **Friday, April 28th**. Your tickets will be placed in your child's cubby the week before the carnival. **The carnival is held rain or shine. Tickets are non-refundable.**

Ticket Information

Wristbands are \$14 and give you access to all of the activity rooms, outdoor inflatables, face painting and more. Children under 2 are free, children 2 and older will need a wristband to participate in activities. For a chance to dunk a teacher or Aldrich's very own Director, we will collect \$1.00 at the tank for 3 chances.

Food Information

Lunch will be served from 10:30 - 1:00. Lunch will be catered by HyVee- hamburgers, hotdogs, pizza and beverages will be available for purchase on the day of the carnival!

Cut here and return lower portion with payment

STUDENT'S NAME: _____ Classroom: _____ AM or PM (circle one)

PARENT'S NAME: _____ MWF T/TH M-F (circle one)

TICKET ORDERS:				
Raffle Ticket	\$1.00	x _____	=	\$ _____
Unlimited Wristband	\$14.00	x _____	=	\$ _____
TOTAL ORDER:				\$ _____

Make checks payable to AMNS. Please return by Friday, April 28th.

OFFICE USE ONLY: CASH or CHECK # _____ RAFFLE TICKET # _____



Volunteer Form



The Aldrich Carnival Saturday, May 6th from 10 - 2

Please sign up to help at The Aldrich Carnival! This fundraiser is the biggest event of the year for Aldrich, and we need the help and support of all parents. If you are willing to work at an activity for approximately 2 hours or provide other help, please fill out the information below and return it to the box across from the office by **Friday, April 21st**. OR, try signing up online.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to go to our invitation page on Signup: <http://signup.com/go/dm95Cm>
2. Sign up! Choose your spots. Signup will send you an automated confirmation and reminders
3. Enter your email address and confirm.

Note: If you prefer not to use your email address, please fill out the information below and we can sign you up manually.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Student's Name: _____

Student's Room: _____ AM PM Days: MWF T/TH M-F

Please check all that apply:

- I can work a carnival shift.
 - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 - 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
 - 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. (clean up)
- I can donate an item for the raffle.
- I can help distribute posters around town.
- I can donate an item for the silent auction.
- I can donate \$20 for a child to attend the carnival.

Please return your pledge of time and/or items to the box across from the front office by **Friday, April 21st**. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Kalmbach, volunteer coordinator, at Brenda.kalmbach@yahoo.com. Thank you for your support!