

Aldrich Memorial Nursery School
855 Essex Parkway NW
Rochester, MN 55901-3422
507-289-3097

Visit us on the web at:
www.aldrichnurseryschool.com
or email us at:
aldrich@aldrichnurseryschool.com

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Greetings to our “Friends of Aldrich!”

Because of your past history with Aldrich Memorial Nursery School, you are now considered one of our “Friends of Aldrich.” This is our second periodic newsletter, which we are sending to keep you informed of current happenings at our school, as well as updates and future plans. We would also like to extend an invitation to you to visit our school, our web site, or to drop us a line.

Thank You to the Rochester Area Foundation

The basic aim of Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Rochester (IHN) is to provide safe, clean shelter for families in immediate need for housing who cannot find affordable shelter, and to provide three nutritious meals a day for them in hospitable settings. Each week the guests of IHN are sheltered in a host church that provides space for guests to eat, sleep and relax. Dozens of volunteers prepare the space, provide and serve food, provide hospitality to the guests, and help transport them.

In addition to the basic physical needs of food, shelter and clothing, children have other needs – safety and security, a sense of belonging, and self-esteem. When parents of a young child are struggling or unable to meet the basic human needs, they may not have the time, energy or resources to provide an environment with stimulating, educational materials and activities. The long-term benefits of high quality early childhood education for children from low income families are widely recognized, and have been linked to higher test scores, better progress through school, fewer grade failures, fewer placements into special education programs, and higher graduation rates. Clearly, early childhood programs benefit not only individual children and families, but whole communities as well.

Aldrich, together with IHN, applied for and received funding from the **Rochester Area Foundation Grant** to provide enrollment fees and tuition for up to six children from the IHN network in the Rochester area. These children will be enrolled in Aldrich classes for the 2003-04 school year. The funds are for one school year, to help get this worthwhile program started. Donations to help fund this program in the future would be greatly appreciated.

Remembering Evelyn Beyer Director 1947—1952

Evelyn Beyer became Director of Preschool Activities for the Rochester Child Health Project in 1945. The Child Health Project, a community-wide program administered by the Mayo Clinic with the cooperation of the City Health Dept. and the public schools, and under the direction of Dr. C. Anderson



Aldrich, operated to provide total health care for Rochester's children as well as conduct research on child development. The Demonstration Nursery School program was an integral part of the Health Project and the forerunner of Aldrich Memorial Nursery School. As the director, Miss Beyer's responsibilities included organizing and supervising the nursery school sites, working cooperatively with the public schools and Mayo Clinic Pediatric Section, and "interpreting the nursery school age to parents in particular and the community in general." The nursery schools were located in the old Central School, Folwell and Holmes Schools, a house called Little Grey, and in the former Howe Hotel. She wrote for professional journals in the fields of medicine, education and child development concerning the nursery school program. Evelyn Beyer summed up the importance of education for young children: "The nursery school is a good life for children. We try to give them a program that combines fun and interest and at the same time help their normal development. They learn here one of life's great lessons-how to give and take and live successfully with others...Play for a young child is his work-his education, as well as his fun."

Evelyn Beyer has contributed much to the early childhood education profession. Her education included study at the Bank Street College. She founded the nursery school at Sarah Lawrence College. Her career after leaving Rochester comprised of teaching child study at Smith and Sarah Lawrence colleges as well as writing for professional journals, authoring a textbook for early childhood teachers and books for children. Miss Beyer is retired and resides in Maine.

Submitted by Sarah Keller

Aldrich Wish List:

New Desktop Computer

Volunteer Help with Networking Assistant Director's Computer

New Color All in One Printer/Scanner for front office

Adobe PageMaker 7.0

New Digital Camera

Disposable Cameras ongoing during the school year

Locking Letter Size File Cabinets

Microwave Cart for Conference Room

Loveseats for Classrooms and Library

U. S. Flag

Storage for Dramatic Play

New Baby Dolls

Puppets

Brio Trains, Track and Accessories

Little Tykes Washer & Dryer

10 Foot Step Ladder

Outdoor Heavy Duty Extension Cords

The Helmholz Library

Dr. Henry F. Helmholz, who was the chairman of Pediatrics at Mayo Clinic in the early 1940's, proposed that Dr. C. Anderson Aldrich develop a community wide program called the Child Health Project. This became the forerunner of Aldrich Memorial Nursery School. Aldrich now has the Helmholz Library, a check-out library, named in honor of Dr. Helmholz. This library includes children's books and books on tape, as well as books for parents. The Helmholz Library is open to all Aldrich families; parents and children are encouraged to check out books together.



In addition to checking out books with their families, children look forward to "Library Day" each month! On this day the children wear their special library nametags. Parent volunteers bring 5 or 6 children at a time to the Helmholz Library to choose a book to take home for a week.

Thank you to the family of Gladys Baker for donating several books in her memory to the Helmholz Library. Thank you to the family of Pat Edwards, a former Aldrich teacher and Board member, for honoring Pat upon her retirement by donating books in her name. Each year a book is given in honor of each outgoing Board member. And, finally, thank you to the parents who donated books in honor of their children's teachers. A book is truly a gift that lasts!

Greetings from the Front Office

Linda Fontanella is probably the first person you see when you enter the main doors of Aldrich in the mornings. Linda started working in the front office in September 2002. Parents, children, staff and visitors are enjoying her friendly, helpful personality. Linda will begin job sharing the office position in August. We are excited to have Shelli Pearson join the staff in the afternoons, as Linda will work mornings.

Beth McCreadie continues as a part-time office worker. This is her 7th year with us, and we don't know what we would do without her!

Endowment Fund

Every year since 1954, Aldrich has offered financial assistance to families of children who otherwise would be unable to afford preschool. The need for financial assistance increases each year. Last year 27 families were served, representing \$13,000 in aid. Funds for the Financial Assistance program are generated from fundraisers, individual donations and grants – all of which vary in amount from year to year.

The Aldrich Board of Directors would like to explore the possibility of establishing an endowment fund, to be used for financial assistance. This would lend more stability to the financial aid funds available annually, as well as continuing to ensure adequate funds for future generations of children.

We are seeking individuals who have some experience in establishing or managing an endowment fund. If you would be willing to attend a meeting in September to explore this issue further, please contact Sue Myaya 507-288-3862, Joye Goblirsch 507-292-1811 or the Aldrich office 507-289-3097.

Aldrich Board of Directors 2003-2004

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New in the Office

Aldrich continually strives to keep up with the times. One of the committees of the Board of Directors is a Technology Committee, which keeps an eye on our technology needs. The past school year brought many new items to the offices, including:

- Microsoft XP Professional (3 copies)
- EZ Care for Windows
- Client Bookkeeping Solutions
- Networked Savin Copier / Printer
- IBM ThinkPad Computer
- IBM Desktop Computer
- Computer Backup System
- Fax Machine
- Library Software Program
- Anti-Virus Software
- Three computer in the front office were wired for Internet

A virtual tour is in the making and the web site is continually being updated.

Where do we go from here? . . . We need a new computer for the Assistant Director's office and to have that computer networked with the front office computers. This computer also needs to be set up for Internet access. Computer security measures are also being improved.

Science Inservice

Aldrich teachers are continually striving to improve and add to the experiences they offer in the classroom. Joanne Burke presented a H.U.G.S. (Help Uncover Good Scientists) workshop to the Aldrich staff. In addition to instructing teachers about science, the training also included ideas on how to incorporate science into many areas of learning, such as literacy, problem solving, critical thinking, concrete thinking, and fostering self-esteem. Funding for this service, and for the purchase of a H.U.G.S. science kit, was provided by a Service Development Grant through Child Care Resource and Referral.

Rochester

What a Great Community!

Aldrich has received many grants and donations this past school year. Following is a list of some of the many things we've received:

IBM and United Way - IBM computer for the front office.

IBM - ThinkPad laptop computer.

Microsoft - Microsoft Office computer software.

Community Development Block Grant - cash award to go toward Financial Assistance for the 2003-04 school year.

Thrivent/AAL-LB - monetary donation to be used for playground improvement.

Community Charities of Minnesota (special thanks to Recreation Lanes) - monetary donation.

Estate of Evelyn Wiley (friend of Aldrich) - monetary donation.

American Legion - donated the flagpole and flag.

Rochester Fire Department - set up the flagpole in front of the school, and raised the flag.

Lyle Gardner (member of the American Legion) - donated the eagle on top of the flag pole, plus books and videos.

Johnson Printing - many donations of art paper and envelopes.

Moon's Hobby Shop - donations and discounts for party supplies and favors.

Hy-Vee, Target, ShopKo and Sam's Club -gift cards.

Gen Lutzke (former Aldrich Director) - monetary donation to be used toward financial assistance.

Aldrich Families, for donations of: playhouses for playground, picnic table for the playground, money to be used toward financial assistance, books, games, 470 pounds of food for Channel One, and money for our "Cents for a Sign" campaign, which will go toward replacing the Aldrich sign in front of the school.

Many, many items for the spring carnival.

Thanks to all who give for helping us provide the best program that we can for the good of children.



Aldrich In the Community

Wow! Aldrich is an active member of the Rochester community. Look at all the ways we were involved during the 2002-03 school year:

- One Realife resident adopted a class and came regularly to the classroom.
- Classes visited Realife.
- Aldrich had an activity booth at Family Fun Night.
- Aldrich had a setup where the children could play games at Chateau Theatres on Saturday mornings before the free movie.
- For the Hiawatha Homes Festival of Trees, Aldrich donated a decorated Christmas tree to be sold by silent bidding.
- Aldrich staff was given an opportunity to participate in the United Way campaign.
- Preschoolers decorated placemats for Madonna Towers.
- Donations were collected and given to:
 - Salvation Army – “Toy and Joy”
 - Dorothy Day House
 - Channel One – 470 pounds of food
- Teachers’ Sorority, ADK met at Aldrich with a presentation and tours.
- Two clients of PossAbilities regularly spent time in a specific class.
- 8 Lourdes High School students and 6 Century High School students volunteered regularly over a semester’s time.
- 2 St. Francis middle school students volunteered one morning.
- An RCTC student spent a semester in a class studying gender for a sociology project.
- Pediatric residents from Mayo Clinic visited on a regular basis.
- A Chatfield High School class spent the morning at Aldrich.
- A student from the University of Northern Iowa did her student teaching at Aldrich.

Director’s Garden

In honor of Dorey Johnson’s 10th year as Director of Aldrich, the Board of Directors presented her with a Directors’ Garden, honoring past, present, and future Aldrich directors. The garden’s design and location are still under consideration; the garden will be adjacent to the school building and will contain perennials and flowering trees as well as annuals for all to enjoy. Congratulations to Dorey, and please contact Joye Goblirsch at 292-1811 if you would like to donate time and/or materials for the garden.

Aldrich 60th Anniversary

I’m sure you knew that Aldrich has been a part of Rochester for many years, but did you know that next year – 2004 – we will be celebrating our **60th** anniversary? As you can imagine, the Board of Directors is already busy planning activities and celebrations.

A committee has been formed to explore some ideas for celebrating this milestone. For instance, we are planning an entry in the Rochesterfest Parade in June, 2004. We’d love to have alumni in the parade! (And kids love to be in parades!) If you would like to join the committee or participate in the parade, please contact Melissa Amundsen at 289-3899.

Financial Assistance Program

During the 2002-2003 school year, almost \$13,000 in tuition assistance was awarded to 27 Aldrich students with financial needs. Funds for the Financial Assistance program were generated from:

- + Several Aldrich fund raisers throughout the year, most notably the annual Carnival (previously known as the Country Fair).
- + A grant received from the City of Rochester Community Development Block Grant Program.
- + Numerous private donations.

Aldrich's deeply rooted philosophy of making pre-school education available to all children, regardless of economic level, can be traced back to the school's earliest history. Our commitment to Financial Assistance remains as strong as ever. **THANK YOU** to everyone who has helped contribute to the Financial Assistance program, whether it be through cash donations, items given by families and local businesses to be used in our Carnival's raffle, or time spent volunteering at the fund raisers. Every contribution is greatly appreciated!

All-School Parties

Aldrich hosted two all-school parties this past school year. The Fall Party was held in October. Children participated in special fall-art crafts, storytime, games, and snacks. The Valentine Party was held in February. Elmo entertained the children as a special guest. Games, cookie decorating, arts and crafts, stories and more activities were available for the children to participate in.

The parties were planned and hosted by members of the Board of Directors and parent volunteers. Proceeds from the Fall Party went toward an Arts Offering. The Valentine Party proceeds went toward the playground fund.

"Come Play With Me Under the Sea!"



The theme for Aldrich's annual spring carnival this year was "Come Play With Me Under the Sea!" The carnival, our biggest fundraiser, is a wonderful family event which has been a part of Aldrich since 1952! The proceeds from this year's event went to Aldrich's Financial Assistance Program and other school needs.

Highlights of the carnival included a popular moonwalk jump, several storytellers, games, an outdoor obstacle course, a bake sale, lunch, and more. There was also a raffle with many terrific prizes, including bicycles, area restaurant and service gift certificates, hotel certificates, toys, books and much, much more. Grand prizes included one free month of Aldrich tuition, an overnight package for two at the Kahler hotel, and a propane grill!

Many thanks to the Board Members and parent volunteers who put in so much time and effort to make this carnival such a huge success!

Movement Adventures

Jane Hein is an instructor at the Rochester Athletic Club, as well as an Aldrich parent. She came in January and February to teach three sessions of “Movement Adventures” to each Aldrich class. Jane taught the children the importance of physical activity and a healthy diet, as well as having them stretch, exercise, move like animals, and dance. Many thanks to Jane for providing this enrichment opportunity.

Rivers and Dams in the Sandbox

Doesn't that sound like fun? In addition to the regular curriculum, children enrolled in Aldrich's summer Program were able to enjoy a variety of fun water play activities, including water hoses to the sandbox, plastic gutters to connect and make waterways, sprinklers, buckets of water and paint brushes, bubble blowing, and more!

Many Smiling Faces!

The first ever school pictures by Kids at Heart Photography were a success! The days went very smoothly as the photographer put the children at ease and worked hard to get their best smiles. We had an amazing 63% of students placing orders, which helped raise \$1500 that went directly to the teachers for their classrooms.

Lunch Bunch

Have you heard about Lunch Bunch? This is an exciting stay-and-play program that is held four times each month. This lunchtime opportunity is a fun socialization experience for children in the 3-, 4- and 5-year-old classes, as well as an attractive benefit to parents. Lunch Bunch allows students to remain at school after their morning class or to come early to school before their afternoon class. Children bring their own lunches for a supervised session of lunch, stories, songs and play.

Lunch Bunch runs from 11:30am – 1:00pm, and the cost is \$8.00. This is an important fundraiser for Aldrich, producing over \$4500 last year!

Do you shop the Internet?

Did you know that a portion of your purchases may be donated to Aldrich at no extra cost to you? Please **visit our website and click on iGive** for more details about this Aldrich fund raiser!

<http://www.aldrichnurseryschool.com>

Thank You Parent Volunteers!

Many parent volunteers are needed each year for activities such as: classroom help, Lunch Bunch, book fair, library check-out, child care for Board functions, Fall Party, Valentine Party, and, of course, the end-of-the-year carnival. Close to 200 volunteers were used for the 2002-03 school year!

Thank You!

Aldrich Memorial Nursery School would like to thank all the parents, teachers, staff & Board Members who supported the “Under the Sea” Carnival. Thank you to everyone who donated items to the carnival, silent auction, raffle and bake sale. Thank you also goes out to all those who volunteered their time and talents to the carnival. It could not have been such a huge success without all your help.

We would also like to thank all the businesses listed below who made contributions to the carnival. Please remember to support and thank these businesses for their generosity to Aldrich when shopping, dining, or seeking entertainment or services.

Animals & Pets

Brink’s Pet Place
Fish & Pets
Wild Birds Unlimited

Automotive

37th Street Tire & Auto
(Goodyear)
Simoniz Car Wash
Valvoline Express Oil Change
Waterworks X-Press Car Wash

Banks

Sterling State Bank
Wells Fargo Bank

Books

Walden’s Books

Cards & Gifts

Ashley’s Hallmark

Chiropractors

Brookview Chiropractic Office—
Dr. David Tucker

Clothing

Baby Baby

Flowers

Carousel Floral

Food Stores

Good Food Store Co-op
HyVee

Hair Care

Great Clip’s - NW Plaza

Health Clubs & Swimming

Northgate Health Club
Rochester Area Family Y
Rochester Athletic Club
Rochester Swim Club (Orcas)

Hobbies & Toys

Hendy’s Hobby Shop
J D Coin
Moon’s Craft’s Shop
Toy Zone

Hotels

Best Western - Soldier’s Field
Country Inn & Suites
Holiday Inn South
Kahler Hotel
Marriott Hotel
Radisson Plaza Hotel
Raintree Resort & Conference
Center –Wisconsin Dells

Liquor

Joe’s Liquor

Movies & Videos

Chateau Theatres
Hollywood Video

Music

Growing with Music

Party Supply Rental

Rentex

Photography & Pictures

Hart Photography
Herring Art & Frame
Lower Photography
Picture Plus
Ritz Camera
The Studio of Fine Photography
Wolf Camera

Restaurants & Food

Applebee’s - Apache Mall
Applebee’s - Target Marketplace
Arby’s Restaurant
Boston Market
Bruegger’s Bagels
Carlos O’Kelly’s
Cookies by Design
Dairy Queen
Daube’s Cakes & Bakery
Famous Dave’s BBQ
Golden Corral

Restaurants & Food (Continued)

Java Cafe
John Barleycorne
John Hardy’s Bar-B-Q
Kemps - Marigold Foods
Noodles & Co.
Old Country Buffet
Outback Steakhouse
Pannekoeken Restaurant
Papa Murphy’s Pizza
Perkins Restaurant & Bakery
Subway - 7th Street
Subway - Hwy 52 & 37th Street
TGI Friday’s
The Bread Baker Company
Timber Lodge Steak House
Valentino’s
Victoria’s Restaurant
Whistle Binkies
Schools
Aldrich Memorial Nursery School
Sewing
Quality Sewing Machine Center
Shoes
Stride Rite
Sports
Bicycle Sports
Colonial Bowling Lanes
Minnesota Twins Baseball
Recreation Bowling Lanes
Rochester Honkers Baseball
Stores
Menards
Sam’s Club
Zoo
Minnesota Zoo

Playground News

We have a new addition to Playground 3. There is now a shade structure over the sandbox! In June 2002 some parent volunteers designed and built the structure for our playground. Not only is it attractive, the added shade is really a bonus during the hot summer school days, and even some early fall days. We hope to add similar structures to the other playgrounds sometime in the future.



Return Service Requested

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