

Aldrich Memorial Nursery School
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Rochester, MN 55901-3422
507-289-3097

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

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, have an address change or would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact us at friends@aldrichnurseryschool.com or call the office at 507-289-3097.



Friends

Issue 3
April 2004

Happy 60th Anniversary to Aldrich! Come Celebrate with Us!

Aldrich to Participate in Rochesterfest Parade

To kick off the celebration of our 60th year, Aldrich hopes to be participating in the Rochesterfest Parade. We are in the process of designing our “float” for the event and look forward to promoting the Aldrich name and our milestone to the community. We will be handing out bottles of bubbles and candy so come see us in the parade downtown on Friday, June 18th.

Adult Fall Festival Planned

The 60th Anniversary Committee is currently planning for an adult social gathering to celebrate our 60-year milestone. The event will be held October 9th, 2004. Preliminary plans include a fall festival with food, spirits, entertainment and nostalgia. If you would like to be a part of the event planning or set-up, please contact the office at 507-289-3097. Money raised will go toward establishing an endowment fund for future financial assistance and school support. We look forward to enjoying a wonderful evening and hope you will join us.

Endowment

The Aldrich Board of Directors shares a vision to create an endowment for Aldrich Memorial Nursery School (AMNS). We plan to begin this campaign in conjunction with the 60th anniversary celebration. Gifts made to this endowment fund will help ensure AMNS for future generations and will function as a base for the building of a strong investment. We are excited to have the expertise of the Rochester Area Foundation to manage, invest and market this endowment for Aldrich. As the Board of Directors continues with this process we will be providing more information as it becomes available.



Come Clown Around
“Under the Aldrich Big Top”

The Carnival is Coming!

This year’s carnival will be held Saturday, May 1st from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The theme is “Under the Aldrich Big Top.” Highlights include moonwalk jumpers, several magic shows by Bob Miller Magic, a balloon shapes artist, lots of carnival games and circus refreshments. Please plan to join us for this fun family event! All profits from this event benefit our financial assistance program. If you would like to help with donations, our current wish list includes:

- *Red, yellow and blue plastic tablecoverings
- *Animal crackers in large bags
- *Large Ziploc baggies
- *Shrink wrap in large rolls
- *Inexpensive Large Baskets for Silent Auction
- *Raffle prizes big and small

Thank you and see you on May 1st!

Raffle Time!

We will be accepting raffle donations for the carnival anytime between now and April 28th. Raffle prizes can be in the form of toys, books, videos, gift certificates, theatre tickets, and hotel stays, just to name a few. If you would like to donate an item, please bring or mail it to the Aldrich Office, or if you have questions, please call Patty Arndt at 507-287-8713. Donations are tax deductible and receipts can be obtained from the office.

If you would like to purchase any raffle tickets, the cost is \$1.00 per ticket and you must be over 18. Tickets can be purchased in the front office or at the ticket tables the day of the carnival.



Needed:

A place to keep the flatbed trailer while it is being “transformed” into a float for the parade. Please contact Melissa Domnick at 507-529-8663 if you have space available. Thank you!

Memorial Tribute

**IN MEMORY OF
FRAN OLSON
1933 – 2004**

**Aldrich Director
1976 - 1986**



Fran Olson died at her home in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, on January 3, 2004 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

Miss Olson was a graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, and of Iowa State University. She was an instructor in child development and a director of many nursery schools, including her 10 years as director of Aldrich Memorial Nursery School. Fran retired in 1998 and then earned a Master of Arts degree in linguistics at Northeastern University, after which she taught college in Kenosha and Delavan, WI.

Fran was the director of Aldrich Memorial Nursery School for 10 years, from 1976 - 1986. She was instrumental in several major developments at Aldrich including working with the teaching staff to create a written curriculum. A retirement plan recognizing the needs of married as well as single women was adopted. The board was prodded to enhance health insurance benefits. She also paved the way for national accreditation.

Miss Olson helped incorporate children with disabilities into Aldrich and vigorously promoted scholarship assistance for needy families. She led the drive to integrate Southeast Asian children into the Aldrich program and was a driving force in the refugee resettlement program. She tutored Cambodian women in English.

Fran Olson helped mold the philosophy of Aldrich. “The major activity is play,” she said, “and it is the basic ingredient of all their learning.”

Olson served as the president of the Minnesota Association for the Education of Young Children (MnAEYC), and was awarded the prestigious Evelyn House Award in 1988. While directing the Aldrich program, she was also president of the Child Care Resource and Referral Board of Rochester.

In the planned Director’s Garden, Aldrich will include a statue of a child in memory of Fran Olson. If you would like to contribute to that or to a scholarship in her name, please send your donation with an attached note to the Aldrich office or use the form at the back of this newsletter.

Aldrich in the News . . . Do you Remember When!

Following is an article from the August 1954 Rochester Post Bulletin. The article has been edited.

Nursery School Moving Operation Stalls Traffic

The intersection of Second Street SW and Broadway was blocked for several hours this morning when the former Howe Hotel building, now the Aldrich Memorial Nursery School, was stuck while turning the corner during its moving operation.

The large building was moved onto Second Street at Third Avenue SW yesterday afternoon. The mile and a half trip to the new site on 13½ Avenue NW just off Broadway was begun at 4:30 a.m. today. But the difficulties encountered in turning the corner from Second Street onto Broadway resulted in a delay of several hours. Later in the morning the turn was negotiated and the building continued on down Broadway, with arrival at the destination expected later this afternoon.

The story of the Aldrich Memorial Nursery School began in 1945, a year after Dr.



C. Anderson Aldrich, an renowned pediatrician, came to Rochester to establish the Rochester Child Health Project, later named the Rochester Child Health Institute. The school is named in honor of the man who started a project to guide and observe the physical and mental health of all children born in Rochester from that time on. Dr. Aldrich, who died in 1949, was known also as author of several books including "Babies Are Human Beings" and "Feeding Our Old-Fashioned Children."

After the project was well under way, the then existing nursery school, organized by Margaret Helmholtz Burchell, was used as a nucleus to set up a much larger school, called the Rochester Demonstration Nursery School, with sessions in various parts of the city. The first of these was located in the basement of Central School where it remained for seven years.

In 1947 two more school sessions were started, one at Holmes school and one at Folwell school. Then a house was rented in southeast Rochester for the nursery school, known as the "Little Gray School."

The Howe hotel was built in 1918 by Mr. And Mrs. Elmer Howe and was sold to the Mayo Association in the spring of 1948 for the Rochester Child Health Institute. The 30-room tan frame building was later converted to "Desk O" for the Child Psychiatry Section of the Mayo Clinic.

Until 1949 the schools had been operated by a board of directors comprised of interested women in the community, working under the direction and supervision of the Child Health Institute, whose personnel and facilities were made available to the board.

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SEEK SCHOOL SPACE

The institute was discontinued early in 1952, and the lay board of directors was on its own to look for space in which to hold the school, because Folwell and Central needed the rooms for the increasing numbers of students.

In the fall of 1952 the board of directors of the nursery school incorporated and changed the school's name to the Aldrich Memorial Nursery School. Members of the board began to look for a building to accommodate Rochester pre-school children and to raise the sum of \$35,000 needed for the building, the lot, moving, the contractor's fee for the new basement, the foundation, and necessary remodeling and readying for the opening of the school this fall (1954). The nursery school board now purchased the Howe Hotel building from the Mayo Association.

As an observation school, Aldrich Memorial provides



Former Howe Hotel Building

teaching training for the University of Minnesota graduate student public health nurses, specializing in the field of mental hygiene, under the auspices of the Rochester-Olmsted Public Health Center.

Also, student

pediatric nurses of St. Mary's School of Nursing observe at the nursery school for two-week periods as part of their curriculum.

At the present time a fund drive is well under way to raise the rest of the money needed - \$20,000.

Although this is a private school, its aim is to be community-wide. Therefore, scholarships are offered. The nursery school, designed to help children three to five years old to learn to work and play together, is expected to open on or about September 14 (1954).

Aldrich Board of Directors 2003-2004

Executive Committee

Dorey Johnson—Director
Bonnie Stauff—Assistant Director
Heather Hebl—Past President
Susan Burriss—President
Melissa Domnick—President Elect
Deborah Kupfer—Treasurer
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A BIG Thank You!

A huge **THANK YOU** goes out to our Aldrich families who helped raise money for our new sign, which looks great out in the front of our school! Also, a big thank you to the **Dakota Sign Company** for making and installing the sign, and for donating a portion of the sign as well!

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>

Did you know...

We presently have 30 wonderful, dedicated teachers on the Aldrich staff? Did you know that many teachers have been here for 10 years or more? They are:

Colette Miller – 41 years
Gwen Scilley – 28 years
Joan Grosso – 26 years
Kay Battista – 23 years
Dee Hollaren – 20 years
Bonnie Stauff – 15 years
Lorene Fleming – 14 years
Mary Gutknecht – 14 years
Sandy Sokol – 14 years
Bonnie Bailey – 10 years

Also...

Dorey Johnson, Director, has been with Aldrich for 16 years.
Deb Milne, Custodian, has been with Aldrich for 11 years.
Chuck Milne, Custodian, has been with Aldrich for 10 years.

Aldrich Wish List:

Stethoscopes

New color all-in-one
printer/scanner for the
front office

New digital camera

Portable CD Player

Large U.S. Flag

The French Adventure

A new class, the French Adventure, for 4 - 5 year olds will be offered for the 2004 - 2005 school year. The children will be introduced to the French language, culture, customs and more. Children may enroll in the class in addition to their regular Aldrich class.



Photos from the Past

Do you recognize anyone?



Your support and continued interest in Aldrich Memorial Nursery School is truly appreciated. If you would like to make a monetary contribution to Aldrich, please complete the following form.

Enclosed is my/our contribution of: \$ _____

NAME _____ HOME PHONE (____) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

_____ Designate this gift to the Endowment Fund

_____ Designate this gift to Financial Assistance

_____ Please use this gift where the need is greatest

_____ Other: _____

My/our gift is given in _____ memory of _____

_____ honor of _____

I/We would like the following individual/family notified of this gift:
(Notification is sent immediately. The gift amount is not indicated.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

Please make checks payable to **ALDRICH MEMORIAL NURSERY SCHOOL.**

Thank you for your support.
www.aldrichnurseryschool.com

New Look to Logo

Did you notice Aldrich has a new look? A **big thank you** to **ACTION GRAPHICS**, located here in Rochester. Action Graphics created our new logo, new colors and a new look. Are you curious about the turtle in the logo? The turtle has been associated with Aldrich throughout its rich history. Years ago, an Aldrich family donated the turtle playground structure in memory of their child. The turtle was adopted by Aldrich as a school symbol, is part of our logo and is proudly displayed on the new sign, in our letterhead and even on the new sweatshirts.



Return Service Requested

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