

FRIENDS OF ALDRICH NEWSLETTER

Issue 10

September 2010

Aldrich Memorial Nursery School



For The Good Of Children

Aldrich Memorial Nursery School is a nationally accredited learning program for pre-school children. Its mission is to provide an inclusive, developmentally based program that fosters a child's physical, social, emotional and intellectual development focusing on interactive play.

LONG TIME DIRECTOR RETIRES

Dorey Johnson has been a familiar face at Aldrich for twenty-two years. She was a teacher for five years and then, in 1992 she was hired as the director. She served for thirteen years in that role. In 2005 she and Bonnie Stauff "flipped" roles and she continued to serve Aldrich as Assistant Director until her retirement this year.

As a thank you to Dorey for all of her years of service, the Board of Directors and staff recognized her with a retirement reception in May. Many friends, family, teachers, past and present board members and current and former Aldrich families attended. It was a wonderfully catered

event and an excellent way to pay tribute to Dorey and her years of service.

Donations to the Aldrich endowment fund, which Dorey helped to establish, were given in her honor from both the board of directors and from the staff. If you would like to make a donation to the endowment fund to honor Dorey, please see the donation form in this publication.

Dorey dedicated her career and family life to "the Good of Children" and in doing so, served as a mentor to all who have worked with her. We wish her the best in her next phase of life.



GOOD-BYE TO AN ALDRICH TEACHER

Sandy Sokol, who taught at Aldrich for 21 years, retired this past Spring. Sandy worked in many roles throughout the years. When she started in 1989, she worked as an aide at the Congregational Church site. After the new school was built, she became an assistant teacher in the two year old room. For the last several years, she was a team teacher in that same room with Terri Farlow.

Although Sandy looks forward to spending more time with her grandchildren and at her lake home in Forest Lake, she also looks forward to coming back and subbing at Aldrich next year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sandy for her many years of dedicated service to Aldrich and our children.





CARNIVAL 2010

"Aldrich Children's Museum"

We had a warm and windy day on Saturday May 1st for this year's annual carnival. The Children's Museum theme allowed us to provide many interactive activities for children and their parents, with each classroom transformed into a specific Discovery Room. Some of the Discovery Room themes included Down on the Farm, The Human Body, Sea Creatures, All About Food, and The Building Room featuring the Rochester Children's Museum. Other highlights included two outdoor inflatable jumpers, a vintage fire truck for the kids to explore, JETS gymnastics, and a visit from Slider, the Honkers baseball team mascot. Lunch was served along with a variety of other carnival food.

The silent auction featured numerous themed baskets, all with items donated by parents and friends of Aldrich. The raffle had many fantastic prizes worth over \$7,000. The prizes included Walt Disney World Park passes, gift certificates to local restaurants and businesses, bikes,

scooters, a motorized jeep, a free month of Aldrich tuition, and much more!

Many thanks to parents, staff, friends and business owners who donated items, volunteered time and purchased tickets. Including the raffle, silent auction, bake sale, and general ticket sales, we generated revenue in excess of \$15,700. This money, after expenses, will help provide scholarships through Aldrich's financial assistance program. This past school year 33 families at Aldrich benefited from the Financial Assistance Program.

The carnival was a huge success and we couldn't have done it without the tremendous efforts of the Board of Directors, Aldrich staff and the many volunteers. We extend our appreciation to everyone and look forward to another exciting carnival on May 7, 2011!

ALDRICH HAS A "NAC" FOR EXCELLENCE

Aldrich is accredited by the National Accreditation Commission (NAC) for Early Care and Education Programs. This came after extensive self-study, on-site observation by early education professionals and consideration by a national commission.

As a NAC accredited center, Aldrich is recognized as an early education program that exemplifies excellence in the care and education of young children. NAC accreditation benefits everyone involved. Parents can be assured that Aldrich has met standards that exceed the minimum for licensing, the staff has benefited from professional development, and the children enrolled at Aldrich have an environment that is conducive to their individual growth and development. We will be renewing our accreditation in this coming year.





SUMMER SCHOOL 2010



Summer school continues to be a big hit. We had a variety of resource people come in to teach the summer school children about different events.

Two Olmsted County Dairy Princesses, Theresa Twohey and Alana Heins, came to tell the children about life on a dairy farm. They wore crowns and sashes. The children learned that each cow will eat 90 pounds of food and drink 10 gallons (size of a bathtub) of water in a day. They encouraged the children to eat three servings of dairy

products each day and brought individual cheese sticks for snack.

Other resource people who came were a Cub Scout, a person who made butter with the children, a brick layer, Quarry Hill Nature Center staff (they brought a variety of animals), two elementary teachers to introduce different languages, and a teenager to show his remote-control car. The children enjoyed and learned a lot from these presentations.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

From a parent who received Financial Assistance:

“In October of my daughter’s second school year at Aldrich my husband lost his job. We could no longer afford to send her to Aldrich until he had a new job.

We talked to Director Bonnie Stauff, and she suggested that we apply for Financial Assistance, because it wasn’t fair for our daughter to lose all of the great experiences she already gained from attending preschool. We were awarded financial aid. We started paying only a small portion of the tuition each month for the rest of the school year, and our daughter was able to successfully finish her second year at Aldrich.

Not only did the Financial Aid Committee grant us aid for the school year but also provided a scholarship for the Aldrich Carnival, which made it possible for my family to

attend. The committee also granted my daughter aid to attend two weeks of Summer School at a reduced rate.

By the time my daughter was to start her last year of preschool, my husband still had not found a job. We were once again awarded financial aid. During that year my husband finally found a job and then we were able to pay full tuition again.

We would like to thank all the families that have donated their time and money to support the financial assistance program. Because of your support my daughter didn’t miss out on two wonderful years of learning and socializing with other children and teachers, and the most important thing: she is ready and very excited to start Kindergarten this 2010-2011 school year.

Thank you very much!”

A NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR ALDRICH MEMORIAL NURSERY SCHOOL



Aldrich is pleased to announce that Sue Steege has accepted the position of Assistant Director, effective June 1, 2010. Mrs. Steege has been a teacher at Aldrich for the past eleven years, and we are thrilled to have her step into this new role! The Assistant Director position is part-time so she will continue teaching part-time in addition to her administrative responsibilities.

Sue holds a Bachelors degree in Elementary Education, with a minor in Early Childhood Education, and has a

Minnesota state teaching license. She has been an early childhood educator for 20+ years with experience in the classroom environment as teacher, supervisor and mentor.

Mrs. Steege is enthusiastic about young children and their families, and is dedicated to the Aldrich philosophy of learning through play. The Staff and Board are delighted that Mrs. Steege will take on this new role as the Assistant Director of Aldrich Memorial Nursery School!

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Aldrich,

Classes are in full swing for the the 66th year of classes at Aldrich Memorial Nursery School. The staff is excited to welcome the children and begin a new year of learning and fun!

The school has a fresh new look thanks to a group of energetic staff who assisted with painting the hallway, bathrooms and office in cooperation with the Century High School Painting Club. Facility improvements also include fresh paint on exterior doors, hedge trimming and playground maintenance. We are committed to maintaining a pleasant and safe environment for the children and staff.

The Board of Directors is responsible for developing a program of enrichment classes and class offerings will be expanded this school year. Classes being offered include; French, Spanish, Famous Artists, Little Chefs, Music and Movement, Creative Dramatics and Holiday Chefs. These enrichment classes provide a great opportunity to broaden the learning opportunities of our students.

Another commitment of the Board is to continually develop new ideas for fundraising. Last year we hosted a fundraiser at Barnes and Noble in addition to initiating the Scrip Program. Both new fundraisers were successful. A Scholastic Bookfair, Parents Night Out, Valentine's Party, T-shirt Sales, Lunch Bunch Student Pictures and the Carnival rounded out the fundraising activities last year. Thank you to everyone who contributed to a fundraiser.

Effective communication with parents and the community is essential to the future of Aldrich and the Board and staff have been working together to envision a technology plan for the school. As electronic communication initiatives develop, the web site will be utilized as a way to communicate with parents and the community. Check out the latest additions to the site at www.aldrichnurseryschool.com.

With the retirement of Dorey Johnson, we welcome Sue Steege as the new Assistant Director. Sue brings a wealth of experience to her new role as well as a strong commitment to continuous improvement and dedication to the Aldrich Program. We are so fortunate at Aldrich to have so many experienced teachers on staff who truly love their jobs and care for their students.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your continued support of Aldrich Nursery School. We welcome your feedback or ideas regarding fundraisers, programs or community outreach. The current Board of Directors is an energetic, creative, devoted group and I'm thankful to be able to serve Aldrich with this group of volunteers. Thank you for your continual support and I look forward to another great year!

Warm regards,

Michelle Rossman

MUSIC COMES ALIVE FOR CHILDREN

Last Spring, four members of the Rochester Symphony Orchestra visited Aldrich.

They brought a variety of instruments: violin, cello, flute, tuba, piccolo, recorder, trombone and trumpet. They also showed the children a small violin that would be the right size for them.

Some of the songs they played for us included: Peter and the Wolf, Harry Potter, Titanic, Sesame Street, Star Wars and The Farmer in the Dell. They also told a story through music and narration.

What an enriching experience for preschoolers! The Rochester Symphony Orchestra is celebrating 90 years of bringing music to our lives.



FOREIGN LANGUAGES AT ALDRICH

This year we will continue to offer Spanish to students before or after their regular class. Spanish teacher Gloria Berg is excited to be back at Aldrich for another year. As a native of Chile, she speaks fluent Spanish.

Muchos Gracias, Gloria!

We also will be offering French this year. Carolee Nelson-Hall, who is a current teacher on staff, will be teaching this exciting new language. Carolee traveled extensively in France when she was an au-pair for a French family as a college student. Since then she has taught mini-camps as well as a year-long French class for Aldrich. The class will meet one afternoon a week for the school year.

Aldrich Board Of Directors

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Assistant Director	Sue Steege
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Education Chair	Colleen Timimi
Personnel Chair	Emilie Dailey

Personnel Committee

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	Jennifer Lynch
	Michelle Nowakowski
	Cheryl Payne
	Elena Watson

2010 Aldrich Carnival Business Supporters

Aldrich would like to thank all the following for supporting our 2009 Carnival.

Please frequent these establishments and tell them how much their support is appreciated.

About Face	Great Clips Silver Lake	Premier Bank
Adamson	Hair Studio 52	Premier Designs -- Marisa Martin
Allegro School of Dance & Music	Hallmark	Procuts
Animal Health Care Vet Hospital	Hanny's Mens Wear	Quality Sewing Center
Apollo Wine and Spirits	Hunan Garden	Quiznos Subs
Applebee's Marketplace	Hunan Wok Express	R!Ah Hair Studio
Arby's	Hunt's Silver Lake Drug	Recreation Lanes
Ashley's Hallmark	HyVee Barlow's	Red Lobster
Baker's Square North	Janet Lang Dance Studio	Reflections - Heather Levasseur
BB's Pizzeria	Jets Gymnastics	Rocco Altobelli
Beckley's Office Supplies	Benchmark Properties - Jim Phillips	Rochester Park & Rec Golf
Bicycle Sports Inc	Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches	Rochester Athletic Club
Bilotti's Italian Village	John Hardy's Bar-B-Q	Rochester Cycling & Fitness
Blades to Ballet	Joy Cakes	Rochester Honkers
Blu H2O Salon	Kahler Grand Hotel	Rochester Indoor Golf Center
Bravo Espresso	Kelly Dentistry	Rochester Park and Rec
Buffalo Wild Wings	Kismet	Rochester Produce
Caribou Coffee - South	Kwik Trip - Walmart Plaza	Sam's Club
Carlos O'Kelly's	Little Dudes and Divas Salon	Sargent's Gardens
Carousel Floral and Gift	Mary Kay - Pam Burchill	Simoniz Car Wash
CarX Auto Service	Mary Kay - Sara Royer	SJ Jewelers
Chester's Kitchen & Bar	MGear/U of M Bookstore	Snappy Stop
China King	Microtel	Soccer World
Chipotle	Minnesota Timberwolves & Lynx	Stride Rite
Chocolaterie Stam	Minnesota Twins	Subway South
Cold Stone Creamery	Minnesota Vikings	Super Target-South
Cost Cutters at Mall	Minnesota Zoo	Supercuts
Country Green Lawn Care	Mister Hot Shine	Tastefully Simple -- Amy Flickinger
Country Inn and Suites	Modern Looks Salon	The Bread Baker
Creative Cuisine	Nature's Best Cleaners	Think Federal Credit Union
Culvers of Rochester	Gillian's - Nikki Kranebell	Tom Kadlec Honda
Cutting Loose Salon	Nordic Gypsy Beads & Jewelry	Towne Place Suites by Marriott
Daisy Blue Naturals -- Jena Thompson	Northgate Chiropractic Clinic	Travel Treasures
Dance Connection	Northgate Health Club	Uppercase Living -- Lisa Hughes
Denny's	Northwest Nails	Valley Fair
Discount Tires	Nupa Mediterranean Cuisine	Valvoline
Enhance Salon	Nuss Truck and Equipment	Van Paper
Erberts and Gerberts	Oftedahl's	Victoria's
Everything Hobby	Pampered Chef	Viking Pontiac Nissan GMC
Famous Dave's	Panera Bakery	Walt Disney World
Fox Nails	Papa John's	Wells Fargo
Fred Astaire Dance Studio	Paperback Book Palace	Whiting's
Remax - Gary Schueller	Paradise Pete's	WOW Work Out World
Gibbons Optical	Passionate Nails	YMCA
Godfather's Pizza	Perkins	Yogi Pose
Goonies Comedy Club	Pescara	Zadeo's
Grandma's Kitchen	Pizza Hut	
Great Clips North	Portrait Innovations	

Thank You to Our Contributors 9/2009 - 8/2010

Aldrich Memorial Nursery School expresses sincere gratitude to our friends who have so generously supported our program. Your gifts – whether given in memory or in honor of a loved one, or as a gift to the school – help maintain Aldrich’s goal of being the best school for young children.

We apologize if we have inadvertently misspelled or omitted anyone’s name. Please email us at aldrich@aldrichnurseryschool.com if we’ve made an error so we can rectify the situation in a future publication.

Contributors

David & Bonnie Bailey

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Vince & Dee Hollaren

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Dianna Horntvedt

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Chuck & Dorey Johnson

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Martin & Amelia Smith

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Robert & Sue Steege

Marv & Bev Stoehr

Dale & Julie Walston



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

**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 in Honor of Dorey Johnson

Designate this gift to Financial Assistance

Please use this gift where the need is greatest

Other: _____

My/our gift is given _____ in memory of _____
_____ in 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

Please visit us at: www.aldrichnurseryschool.com or Email us at: aldrich@aldrichnurseryschool.com



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