

NEWSLETTER

For The Good Of Children

January 2011

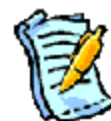


Happy New Year!



We hope that you and your family enjoyed the holiday season and the break from school. We are excited to be back at Aldrich and welcome the return of your children. Here's to a great 2011!

Enrollment Reminder



All current Aldrich families should have received enrollment information for 2011-2012 by now. Aldrich families have through **January 19** to register before registration opens to the public. If you haven't received your enrollment information or would like extra forms for family and friends, please stop by the office. Return your enrollment forms today for the best chance of getting your first choice of classes for next year!



PAJAMA DAYS

Children are invited to wear their pajamas to school on Wednesday, January 26th and Thursday, January 27th. Breakfast snacks will be served, bedtime stories read and even the teachers will be wearing their pajamas! If your children are uncomfortable wearing their pajamas to school they may wear their regular clothes. However, you might just bring their pajamas along in case they change their minds when they see their friends and teachers in pajamas!

School Cancellations

Weather related school cancellations will now be posted on our website, www.aldrichnurseryschool.com. Closings will also continue to be posted on KTTC and KAAL television. Always use your own good judgment about driving and the weather situation.



Let's Keep Our Kids Safe!

The Aldrich staff is concerned about the safety of all children. We continually assess our facility and procedures to keep our school as safe as possible. Below is a list of many of our safety procedures already in place:



- We have alarms on many doors to alert the teachers if a child would try to leave the room.
- Teachers count children many times throughout the day to make sure they have the right number of children with them.
- The east doors are locked during the school day, other than at arrival and departure times, so visitors must enter by the main office.
- All-school facility checks are performed twice each year by our assistant director and board members.
- Classroom and playground inspections are done daily by our teachers.
- Teachers are trained in pediatric first aid and CPR

The staff at Aldrich would like to work as team with the Aldrich families. We ask that parents also do all that they can to keep children safe. Here are some examples of what parents can do to promote the safety of all children:

- Please stay in close contact with your children at all times, especially in the hallway, library, and parking lot.
- If you notice that a child is exiting the building without an adult, please stop that child and help locate the person in charge of him or her. The Aldrich staff will do the same.
- Please do not leave children unattended in the car. Either bring all children in with you, or find an adult you know to supervise your car while you bring your preschoolers in.

If you have suggestions or comments to help keep kids safe at Aldrich, please write them down and drop them off at the office. We appreciate your input as we work hard to do all that we can “for the good of children.”



You Are Invited

Aldrich has an open door policy and we welcome parents and guardians to spend some time in your child's class. Please check with your child's teacher to schedule a visit. Enjoy this opportunity to share in your child's school experience!



Family Zumba Fun Night!



Are you feeling cooped up on these cold winter nights? Would you love to do something with your entire family to get moving and grooving? Aldrich has a solution for you! We are hosting a Family Zumba Fun Night! Family Zumba classes are rockin', high-energy fitness parties! You will be taught easy to learn steps to dances such as salsa, merengue, calypso, and reggaeton that fit easily with fun music. The routines are kid-friendly and set to all sorts of music kids will love, such as Don't Worry, Be Happy, La Bamba, and The Lion Sleeps Tonight. It's easy to do, and so much fun for parents and kids to do together!

We will be offering this fun family night on Tuesday, January 25 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. We will start out with 30 minutes of Family Zumba. Parents and children can spend some quality time together as they get fit and boost energy. Board members and teachers will then provide childcare, fun activities, and snacks for the children. During this time, parents will be offered a light snack as they listen to our presenters and Zumba leaders, Emily Watkins and Katie Button. They will spend some time talking about how to nourish your bodies and minds. Topics will include nutrition, exercise and rest, taking time for yourself and the power of self-image.

The kids will LOVE this new activity and you will feel so good after grooving! Sign up is at the table by the office! Sign up now, as space may be limited! And remember to wear comfortable clothes for this family fun evening!

2012 Valentine's Party

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 12th for Aldrich's Annual Valentine's Party! The Valentine's Party is a drop-off event from 10-12 pm for students currently enrolled at Aldrich. We will celebrate with crafts, games, music, stories and snacks. The cost is \$10.00 per child. Refunds will be given until the last day of sign up. Parent volunteers are what make this event possible so please consider volunteering. Contact Emilie Dailey, Valentine's Party Chair, at emiliedailey@yahoo.com or Laura Baudoin, Volunteer Coordinator, at laurz26@hotmail.com.





From the Director: Pre-K Literacy

Do Worksheets Belong in Preschool?

As more and more parents and state agencies push for academics in preschool, many programs are turning to worksheets. It's a simple and cheap solution.

To parents, worksheets look like school work; it makes parents feel like their children are being exposed to an academic program. However, worksheets are not developmentally appropriate for preschool-age children.

Reasons for not using worksheets:

- Worksheets are an abstract way to present a concept. Young children learn best through concrete, hand-on experiences.
- Worksheets don't engage the whole child. Instead they limit children to visual stimulation and fine motor use.
- Worksheets can be used only one way. They lead children to think that there is only a single correct answer, and they require little, if any, higher-order thinking.
- Worksheets typically have a 'right answer.' Worksheet activities may make children feel ignorant and incompetent, so that they learn to stop taking risks by guessing.
- Children who are less successful doing worksheets learn to think of themselves as failures, and ultimately may give up on school and themselves.

Below are some common misconceptions about the use of worksheets in the classroom.

1. *If the kids are choosing the worksheets, there is no problem. It can't be wrong if the kids enjoy them, and are doing them through their own motivation.*
FALSE: Children do not always know what is best for them. Just because they like something is not an indication that it is good for them. How many times have your children wanted to go to school dressed inappropriately for the weather, or chosen to eat candy for lunch. Because children do not always know what is best for them, we as educators must purposefully prepare appropriate materials and activities for our students instead of just copying off another worksheet.
2. *It's all about balance. You can use worksheets if you balance them out with other hands-on types of activities. A little bit of something can't hurt.*
FALSE: Balance what? Why would you want to offer appropriate activities for part of the day, and inappropriate activities at other times?
3. *Worksheets are good for developing fine motor writing skills.*
FALSE: There are many more appropriate types of activities children can be doing to develop their fine motor skills than doing a worksheet. Here is just one list of appropriate fine motor skills: use plastic tongs or small strawberry hullers

to put pom-poms into egg cartons, use eye droppers to mix colors in ice cube trays, play with play dough, use wood working tools, cut with scissors.

4. *My kids beg for worksheets because they want to be like their older siblings and do “real” homework. There’s nothing wrong with sending a few worksheets home.*

FALSE: Worksheets teach children that there is only one right answer and they do not allow children to think for themselves. If a child is not ready to write on lined paper, between the lines (fine motor skills and visual acuity are not developed enough) it can create frustration and lack of desire to write. Children can do more hands-on types of homework such as letter searches in the newspaper and ‘writing’ words with magnets on the refrigerator.



5. *I need to use worksheets because children need the practice for kindergarten; that’s what they’ll be doing in kindergarten.*

FALSE: Don’t fall victim to peer pressure. Having children participate in inappropriate activities, especially those in which they may not be developmentally ready, can set children up to fail. This can adversely affect their confidence and self esteem.

At Aldrich we teach through concrete, hands-on activities. Children are exposed to letters and numbers, patterns and rhymes. We provide literacy rich classrooms in which children can practice writing at their own developmental levels, with a variety of paper and writing tools. We present children with open-ended experiences. These activities do not have a ‘right or wrong’ way of doing things. We want to set children up to succeed.

** Parts of this article are taken from the article “The Worksheet Dilemma” by Dr. Sue Grossman; December 2010*

Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch program has reached the halfway mark this year and continues to be a fun option for students and parents! The cost to attend Lunch Bunch is \$9 and Pizza Lunch Bunch is \$12.



Upcoming Lunch Bunch Dates:

January 12, 13, 14, 26, 27, 28

February 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18

March 9, 10, 11, 23, 25

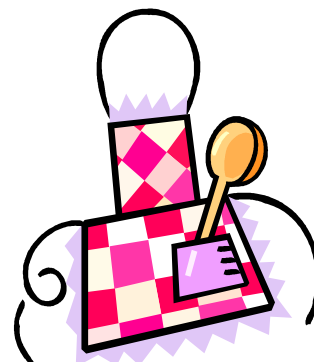
April 13, 14, 15, 27, 28, 29

May 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

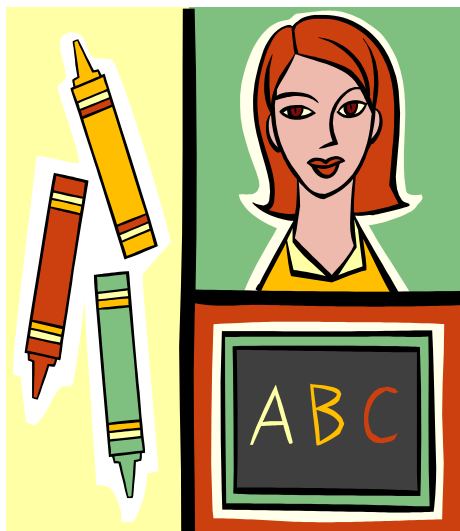


The Return of the Little Chefs!

Aldrich is excited to announce the return of Little Chefs! Mrs. Fleming and Mrs. Battista will again be baking the afternoon away in this very fun and popular 6-week enrichment class from January 25 – March 1. In this installment of Little Chefs, students will be assisting in baking their own snacks such as blueberry muffins, bread, strawberry shortcake, monkey bread, and hot fudge brownie sundaes! They will learn about measurement and different ingredients and why they are used. They will have fun listening to stories and making crafts that relate to the snack and story. Your child won't want to miss this exciting and delicious class! Little Chefs will be offered on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 – 3:30 pm. Tuition is \$85 and is due at the time of registration. Spots are limited, so head to the office today to sign your child up for this fun class!



Volunteers Wanted



Aldrich parents undertake many volunteer tasks for the benefit of our children during the year. If you are a new parent, caregiver or friend who would like to be added to the volunteer list please e-mail Laura Baudoin, Volunteer Coordinator, at laurz26@hotmail.com. Everyone's help is appreciated from maintenance to decorating to fundraising. Volunteers are an integral part of the success of Aldrich. Please let Laura know if you have any questions.

Board Members Needed!!

Do you enjoy working with others on projects? Is the future of Aldrich important to you? Do you have talents and time to commit to enhancing the Aldrich programs? If you answered yes to any of these questions, please consider joining the Aldrich Board of Directors. This group of fun, talented, and committed individuals work hard to develop programs and events that support the Aldrich families and ensure a stable financial future for the school. Board applications are available at the office. Contact Lisa Derr at 288-3611 or lisasderr@hotmail.com with any questions.





Book Fair Success

Many young readers benefited from the Scholastic Book Fair this year! Thank you for supporting Aldrich with your book purchases and book donations to the school. These books will be enjoyed for years to come in our library and classrooms!

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with the book fair. Every job is an important one and each of you contributed to the success of the book fair. We couldn't have done it without you!

Holiday Cheer

Aldrich families spread a lot of holiday cheer. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Salvation Army Toy Drive. Your donations helped the Salvation Army deliver toys to many happy children!



Aldrich Dates to Remember

January 17:	No School – Martin Luther King Day
January 20:	Registration Opens to the Public
January 25:	Family Zumba Night
January 25 & 28:	Phonics Music Class with Miss Kristin Limberg
January 26-27:	All School Pajama Day
February 12:	Valentine's Day Party
February 21:	No School – President's Day
March 18:	No School – Conference Day
March 19:	Barnes & Noble Book Fair – Apache Mall
May 7:	Aldrich Carnival

