

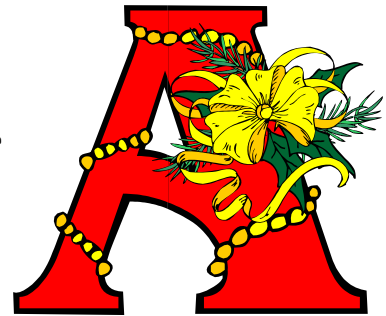
A Note from our Director

Greetings! Most of you attended Parent/Teacher conferences in November. I applaud you for being involved in and supportive of your children's education. This is the first step in many years of school, and you are setting an example of how important their education is to you.

In our mission to teach to 'the whole child', we make sure the children's large motor needs are met. In an effort to halt the trend of obesity among children, the Center for Disease Control recommends that children play at least one hour each day. That's a lot for a busy family, so at Aldrich we make sure that children get some physical activity every day that they're here. Our wonderful playground offers a lot of opportunities for running, climbing, swinging, jumping, sledding and more. The two playrooms also are great places for children to move.

Many families celebrate a variety of holidays this month. All the excitement can be overwhelming, and it is often comforting to children when some of their routines, such as meal time and bed time, stay as consistent as possible.

Have a happy December!





Registration for 2012-2013

Registration for next year is just a month away! Present and past Aldrich families may begin to register on January 3rd with priority given through January 18th. Registration packets will be handed out to all current parents on January 3rd and 4th. In order to register for next year,

families will need to turn in a completed application along with a registration fee (\$55 for one child; \$60 for two or more) and an immunization record (new students only). Some classes fill up quickly, so be sure to return your paperwork and fee early to secure your first choice. All children of present and past families, returning and new, will need to register.

Registration for families new to Aldrich will begin on January 19th.

Please encourage your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to visit Aldrich for a tour! We will have group tours available on Thursday, January 12th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturday, January 14th from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Otherwise visitors are always welcome to schedule a tour during the school day to visit while classes are in session. Encourage new families to contact the office at 507.289.3097 to schedule a tour or visit our website for more information at www.aldrichnurseryschool.com. Current families are our best source of advertising, so thank you for spreading the word about Aldrich!

¿Hablas español? or Do you like Music?



Now that families are spending more time indoors with the colder weather, your child might enjoy trying one of our Enrichment classes! Throughout the school year, join Mrs. Hall for Spanish on Tuesdays or Wednesdays from 11:30-12:00, or Wednesdays from 12:15-12:45. Or this winter, consider joining Mrs. Hall & Mrs. Wangberg for Music & Movement for six weeks on Tuesday afternoons starting on January 10th. These classes are a great way for your children to continue to learn and grow while at Aldrich!

WELCOME WELCOME WELCOME



We are excited to welcome our new office manager, Sue Neumann! Sue will be training with Julie Byrne in the afternoons during December, and she will begin working full-time in January when Julie starts her new position as Business Manager. Here's a brief biography on Sue; please welcome her to the Aldrich family!

Sue Neumann

Here I am... the new Office Manager of Aldrich and just tickled to be part of such a warm and welcoming community! I am originally from Coon Rapids, MN and have lived in Rochester for 18 years. My husband, Greg, and I have 3 children: Jesse (17), JP (12), and Kaycee (11). They are active in hockey, football, baseball, softball, skiing, and golf. We also have two dogs: Chipper (Jack Russell Rat Terrier / 8) and Buddy (Black Lab / 1). Some things I enjoy are: walking (many times with my dogs and husband), spending time with my family (our game nights are my favorite), scrapbooking (although this happens sparingly), and cheering at all my children's sporting events (I'm their #1 fan!). Again, I am so very excited to be here and am thrilled to be part of the Aldrich family!

Winter Reminders

Illness:

- If your child has a fever, he/she should remain home for at least 24 hours after his/her temperature has returned to normal.
- Your child should be kept home for at least 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.
- If your child has a cold, he/she should remain at home for the first three days and until he/she is able to participate normally in school, including participation in outdoor play.



Clothing:

- Winter weather has arrived! Please make sure your child has a hat, mittens, snow pants, boots and a warm jacket.
- Remember to pack an extra pair of shoes in your child's backpack to wear inside.
- Label all pieces of removable clothing and footwear.

From Our Director: Fine Motor Skills

The development of fine motor skills is critical to the ability to learn to write, use scissors, and perform a variety of other important daily tasks.

These activities include:

- Tying shoes
- Zipping and unzipping
- Playing games that require precise hand and finger control
- Drawing, painting and coloring
- Manipulating buttons and snaps
- Doing puzzles
- Opening and closing objects
- Developing and maintaining an effective pencil grip
- Picking up and holding onto small objects
- Using locks and keys
- Being able to isolate finger movements (i.e., using one finger at a time, such as in playing the piano or typing)
- Doing ANYTHING that requires small precise hand and finger movements



Fine motor skills may need some extra work to develop. There are many simple, fun activities for children to ensure proper development. Here are some ideas that you can try at home:

Clothespins:

1. Children use their fine motor muscles to squeeze the clothespins to clip each piece of clothing to the clothesline. Tie a piece of thick string between two handles to make the clothesline, and use mini or regular clothespins. Use small doll clothes purchased at a dollar store, mittens, or socks to hang.
2. Children squeeze the clothespins and clip them to the sides of a box. To make the activity more interesting, write letters on dot stickers and place the dots around the sides of the box. Then write letters on the clothespins so the children can match them. Other skills could be used, such as colors, numbers, and beginning sounds.

Toothpick Punch

To do this activity, cut 6 inch squares of construction paper. Draw a number or letter with a marker. Children place the paper on a carpet square and use the toothpick to punch holes along the lines. When they are done they can hold their paper up to a window and see the light shining through the holes. Kids enjoy it, and it's great fine motor practice!



Lunch Bunch

We continue to offer Lunch Bunch six times each month during this school year. This lunchtime opportunity is available to children who were 3 by September 1st. The cost for regular Lunch Bunch is \$9 payable by cash or check at the time of sign up. Once a month, a peanut-free Pizza Lunch Bunch will also be offered. The cost for Pizza Lunch Bunch is \$12. The Lunch Bunch sign-up sheets will be located on the information center. In the event of school closings, either half day or all day, Lunch Bunch will be rescheduled. If your child cannot attend due to illness and prior notice is given, a credit for a future Lunch Bunch will be given upon request. We hope that you and your child will enjoy this program!

Upcoming 2011 Lunch Bunch Dates:

December 7, 8, 9 & 14, 15, 16

Dates When Sign-Up Starts:

Tuesday, November 29 - PM

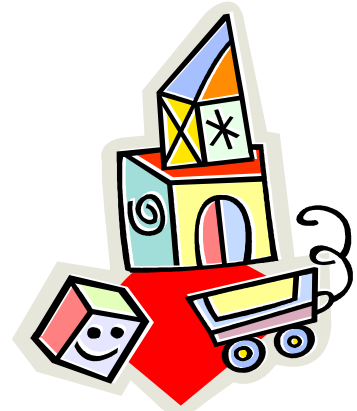
Library Book Due Date

There will not be a classroom visit to the Aldrich library this month, however feel free to visit the library and check out a book with your child. Please be sure to return all library books to the blue book bins before Winter Break. Plan a visit to the public library over break, and keep reading with your child!

News from the Board

Toy Drive

Aldrich is once again partnering with the Salvation Army in our annual toy drive. If you wish to donate, please place new, unwrapped toys in the collection bins located at each end of the building by December 15th. This toy drive helps bring toys to needy children in our area during this holiday season and is a wonderful way to instill a spirit of giving in your child.



Think Scrip for the Holidays!



The holidays are fast approaching, and Aldrich can help you with your gift list! Purchase a Scrip card to give as a gift, or use them yourself for your own holiday purchases! A percentage of each card goes back to support Aldrich.

PANERA BREAD is our featured Scrip card this month. Panera is a great place to go for a quick bite to eat during the holiday shopping season. It's also a perfect card to give as a little thank you to special people in your lives. We normally carry \$10 Panera cards in stock, but we can order \$25 Panera cards upon request.

Here is a list of the Scrip cards that we usually have in stock. Stop by the office soon to purchase cards today!

Family Restaurants

Applebee's
Carlos O'Kelly's
Olive Garden
Red Lobster
TGI Friday's

Quick Bites

Bruegger's Bagels
Chipotle
Great Harvest Bread Co.
Kentucky Fried Chicken
Noodles & Co.
Panera
Quiznos
Starbucks
Subway

At the Mall

Barnes & Noble
Bath & Body Works
Crazy 8
Macy's

Other Favorites

Best Buy
Gander Mountain
iTunes
KMart
Lands' End
Walgreen's

Always Handy!

Kwik Trip
Target
WalMart/Sam's Club

Godfather's Pizza Night



Our last restaurant fundraiser night was such a success that we decided to try a few more! On Wednesday, December 21st, order Godfather's Pizza, and they will give Aldrich 20% of your total when you mention Aldrich Nursery School at the time you order. This deal is good at either of their locations from 4 - 8 p.m. Both dine in and carry out are included, but not delivery orders. Pick up a pizza for an easy dinner during the busy holiday season, and support Aldrich at the same time!

Aldrich Dates to Remember

- **December 21 – Godfather's Pizza night:**
4 – 8 p.m. at both locations. Mention Aldrich when you order!
- **December 23-January 2** – Winter Break
- **January 19 – Chuck E. Cheese night:**
4 – 9 p.m. More details to come!
- **January 26** - Winter Parent Outreach:
Family Yoga with Nicole Cummings

