

August 27, 2010

Dear Lower School Parents,

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year at Baldwin! Summer is a time for renewal as families embark on experiences together, at home or when traveling. I have already heard from some of you about the adventures you've had with your daughters! On a personal note my summer seemed to be the busiest ever, with a trip to Disney World with grandchildren, a visit to see my dad in New Hampshire and having our four children, their spouses, seven grandchildren, my mother and my sister with us at various times at the shore. It gave our family a chance to bond in unique ways that are not possible during a busy school year with everyone spread apart geographically!

The faculty and I are truly excited about the coming year and eager to see the girls on Sept. 8 when we come together as a school. We warmly welcome our new students and their families and will help them soon feel at home! The focus on Baldwin's core values remains an integral part of our curriculum: Learning, Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, and Compassion are the principles that help guide our experiences. Within our beautifully diverse and multicultural school family Baldwin girls have opportunities to learn about and respect differences, show compassion, understand the importance of honesty in all relationships, and grow to be responsible members of the community. Fostering this growth remains a shared endeavor. Family, at home as well as at school, plays a vital role in modeling values and shaping who your daughters are now, and who they will become. Throughout the school year we will intentionally take each core value and explore the ways that it contributes to establishing a strong foundation for our caring community. Together we can help our girls grow into confident, courageous and compassionate young women.

I want to share some of exciting changes in Lower School staffing. Mrs. Anne Mette Hansell will be teaching fifth grade Social Studies and English. Mrs. Lynne Flaxman will be Lower School Technology Coordinator and Mrs. Linda Mullen is now Lower School Librarian. We also have two new members of our faculty. I know you will extend a very warm welcome to Ms. Sara Langsam, Early Childhood assistant teacher and Mrs. Anne Kauler, who will be teaching fourth grade. We are delighted to have both of them join our Baldwin family. Additionally, congratulations and best wishes are in order for Jessica Gionta and Adam Davis on their marriage this past June.

Last spring Lower School students embarked on a gardening theme, planting a variety of seeds and starting their sprouts on classroom window sills. As the weather warmed seedlings were moved outdoors. School ended in June, but our gardens continued to thrive! A number of our girls who attended Camp Magar cared for and harvested beans, corn and squash from the third grade Three Sisters' Garden. We look forward to continuing our gardening endeavors in 2010-2011 and expanding the variety of plantings throughout

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our grades. We will be taking the next steps to creating a bountiful children's garden!

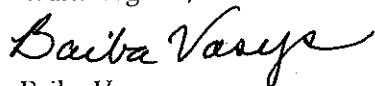
And now for some practical details: All divisions of the school continue to utilize e-mail and the website as the primary means of communication. The weekly Baldwin E-Bulletin will come to you directly via e-mail. It will have messages from division directors and the Head of School, as well as other departments. It contains links to downloads, including the Lower School Weekly Bulletin. All download documents are posted on the Lower School home page. If you need directions in accessing that page, Kimberly Rodgers will be happy to assist you.

On Friday, Sept. 10 you will receive a bound copy of the Baldwin Community Directory and Handbook for all divisions. Your daughter will bring it home in her book bag. If you have several daughters at Baldwin, it will be sent home with the youngest girl. I ask that you carefully review the "All School Policies and Procedures" and the Lower School Handbook. This will also be posted on the Lower School page of the website under downloads. It is vital for the school to have the most up-dated information regarding your e-mail addresses. Please communicate any recent changes to Lower School administrative assistant, Kimberly Rodgers, (krodgers@baldwinschool.org) 610-525-2700, extension 266. She will forward these to the technology department.

Finally, I want to mention the beautiful improvements in the Lower School entrance and hallways. We are most thankful for the support and initiative of a dedicated group of parents, and a designer, who volunteered his time and talent, to help transform those areas. Our Early Childhood Center is also undergoing beautiful enhancements, with maintenance staff working non-stop to prepare for opening day.

I look forward to seeing you on Sept. 8! Enjoy these remaining golden days of summer.

Warm regards,



Baiba Vasys  
Lower School Director