

# Maria L. Baldwin School



85 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

[baldwin.cpsd.us](http://baldwin.cpsd.us)

## Mission Statement

We are a diverse school that delivers a welcoming, inclusive, and joyful learning environment that supports every student in taking risks, learning and reaching his or her full potential, that builds community, individual responsibility and self-confidence, and enjoys established connections to universities and museums.



## SCHOOL FACILITY

The Baldwin School is located in the Agassiz neighborhood, at the corner of Oxford and Sacramento Streets just a few blocks from Harvard

Square. The school was built in 1995 and is a state-of-the-art facility that features architecture from the original 1875 building.

## School Facts

School Hours: 8:40 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.

School Enrollment: 345

- 1 JK classroom
- 2 Mixed JK/K classrooms
- 2 K classrooms
- 3 Grade 1 classrooms
- 2 Classrooms per grade, grades 2-5 \*

Professional Development School for Lesley Graduate School of Education

100% of our teachers are highly qualified.

## FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

### Friends of Baldwin

Every parent of a student at the Maria L. Baldwin School is a member of the Friends of Baldwin (FoB) and is a vital resource to the school. FoB is a non-profit volunteer organization working to support the educational experience of our students by raising funds that underwrite scholarships for field trips and enrichment programs.

## School Site Council

The school council made up of parents, teachers and community members, co-chaired by the principal is responsible for reviewing the school improvement plan and working on goals to benefit student achievement and school climate and promote parent engagement.

## Room Parents

Classroom parents help our teachers with chaperone needs for field trips, coordinating a classroom snack schedule, and helping the teacher work with Friends of Baldwin for in school enrichments. Room parents help create a cohesive classroom and help give the teacher more time to teach.

## Baldwin School Curriculum Enrichment Events

- ★ Annual Art Show
- ★ Math Night
- ★ Poetry Night
- ★ Pajama Storytelling Night
- ★ STEM Night
- ★ Winter and Spring Concerts
- ★ Field Day
- ★ School-wide Potluck Dinner
- ★ Classroom Breakfasts and Potlucks
- ★ Teacher Appreciation Day





**SOCIAL CURRICULUM**  
**Responsive Classroom**

Responsive Classroom is a social and emotional learning program that creates a cooperative classroom environment

and gives children the skills they need to solve interpersonal problems and to build positive relations. Every classroom starts the day with *Morning Meeting* which sets the foundation for a positive environment where ownership of learning and personal responsibility are the focus. Monthly all-school meetings are modeled after morning meeting and help to build our school culture.



**LITERACY FRAMEWORK**

The Baldwin School Teachers use a balanced literacy framework to organize a rich variety of literacy experiences for their students. The framework is built on a foundation of oral language and is comprised of engaging activities within instructional blocks for reading, writing and word study. This is part of the Literacy Collaborative developed by Lesley University to improve reading, writing and language skills of students. These activities include: Read-Alouds, Shared Reading, Guided Reading, Independent Reading, Interactive Writing and Writing Workshop. The teachers provide specific lessons and guided learning in whole group, small group and individual settings, guided by ongoing assessment.

**LITERACY CENTER**

The Literacy Center is a professional resource center that provides teachers with a rich collection of quality literature and materials for the classroom literacy programs. The materials include multiple copy sets of books for small group Guided Reading, "mentor texts" for Writer's and Reader's Workshop, "big books" for Shared Reading, Read Aloud

books, Listening Center activities and theme collections. The Literacy Center is also a meeting place for teachers to collaborate on program development, discuss students' strengths and needs, and to share practice.

**SCIENCE**

All students can do science and will develop a deep understanding of scientific concepts. We strive to create a hands-on learning environment where students do science as scientists do. The curriculum is based on the system wide goals for content and skills. We foster an inquiry-based approach where students are encouraged to formulate honest questions and are provided resources to answer their own questions. The goal is to develop scientifically literate citizens by teaching them to think critically.

**MATHEMATICS**

The Math In Focus curriculum compliments our belief that students learn best by experiencing concepts with concrete materials. It encourages students to think creatively, develop their own

problem-solving strategies, master skills and work cooperatively. *FASTT Math* (Fluency and Automaticity through Systematic Teaching with Technology) computer program is used in grades 2-5 to develop fact fluency through adaptive instruction and practice. *Symphony Math* is used to help students develop a strong mathematical foundation and important mathematical concepts.

**SOCIAL SCIENCE**

*The Discovering Justice* program is a literacy-based curriculum that studies and understands the human story, families and communities to help students become effective and active citizens. The basis is building of a peaceable classroom community where children live together in a respectful and empowering way. It involves infusing mutual respect, responsibility, safety, trust, and cooperation into all aspects of the classroom. Students will learn about their community and their world, remember their own personal histories, and explore diverse cultures in America and the world.



## Baldwin School Core Values

We, the students of the Maria L. Baldwin School:

- Always give our best effort.
- Stand up for ourselves and others.
- Are kind, positive and safe.
- Treat others the way we want to be treated.
- Work together to make a fun learning community.



### Experiential Overnight Trips

Students in grades 2-5 experience an overnight experiential education camping trip at the end of the school year, a tradition at the Baldwin School. The activities are centered around various themes, including hard work, respect, cooperation, and communication. These trips promote and reinforce the ideals stressed throughout the school year.

### Media Literacy

Students will learn and understand various multimedia, information and communication technologies in order to become creative producers of information. They will use tools to create projects and presentations that use various forms of graphics, video and audio. Students will learn responsible Internet use to become safe and informed digital citizens.



### Music

The Kodaly method, of teaching music skills and concepts is used in grades JK - 4. The goal of Kodaly-inspired music education is to bring the joy of actively making music with features that include a sequential approach to teaching music through the use of tonal and rhythmic solfege, multicultural folk music. Students in grades 5 learn about a variety of instruments and then choose an instrument to play. Emphasis is given to the appropriate musical repertoire for each group.

### Art Program

The creative process is essential for all learners and art develops learners who can perceive visual, spatial and aesthetic characteristics of the world around them. Our students have a 80 minute art period. An inquiry-based teaching strategy program, Visual Thinking Strategies, is a technique used for all grade levels.



### Physical Education

All students, K-5, participate in physical education class twice weekly. Physical activity teaches students the physical cognitive and social skills necessary to develop and sustain a healthy lifestyle. The goal of physical education class is to develop a healthy and fit lifestyle through a mostly non-competitive, alternative style of programming which is rich in cooperative, group orientated activities, suited to building self-esteem.

### Let's Move

Our gymnasium is open before school allowing students additional physical education time prior to school. Our physical education teacher incorporates a mentoring element guiding our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in mentoring the K-3 students.



### CitySprouts

Established in 2009, our garden is now thriving. The garden inspires our faculty, students and families with a deep, hands-on connection to the food cycle, sustainable agriculture, and the natural environment.



## About Baldwin Kindergarten



The goal of our Baldwin Kindergarten is to nurture children's cognitive, aesthetic, social/emotional, neurological and physical development. Our major focus of curriculum planning and implementation is to ensure that we create and balance appropriate

educational activities that contribute to these facets of young children's growth and development within a supportive classroom/school environment. Our approaches involve creating an environment in which children of a wide range of interests and stages of development engage in a variety of "hands on" activities that nourish their growth as life-long learners.

Curriculum content areas are carefully planned, woven and implemented into activities that make up specific themes of study. By integrating various areas into related activities (for example, combining the study of insects with reading, writing, music, art, drama, math and social studies), we are able to cover a great deal more than we would by treating them as separate areas of study. This approach is exciting and encourages home involvement too!

Our daily activities are aimed at increasing children's self-esteem, independence, self-motivation, cooperation and problem solving experiences. Children are given opportunities to learn independently, with a partner, as teams, one to one with a teacher and in whole class interactive lessons. We highly value children interacting and learning from each other.

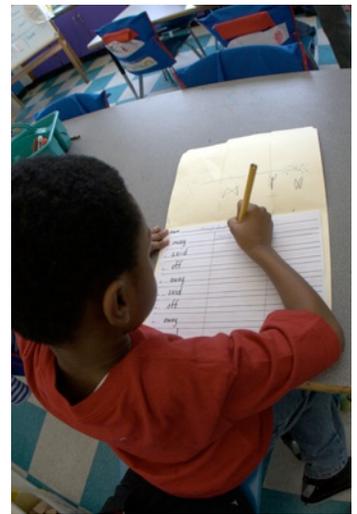
Before children come to school, they have learned about their world through play. We capitalize on this natural inclination by providing time and materials for play as part of our daily schedule. One of the best ways for children

to learn is in an enriched, supportive environment that combines teacher facilitated developmental activities and that nurtures a child's natural curiosity through play.

Our children's families are important members of our class and school community. We value and encourage open and on-going communication through the year. We know that a strong, comfortable school/home connection is vital to support a child's success in school. We welcome and provide many academic, cultural/ethnic and social opportunities for family involvement and participation in the classroom and Baldwin School Community.

### More About Kindergarten ...

Kindergarten teachers use a developmentally appropriate writing program, *Talking, Drawing, Writing*. Lessons are designed to meet children where they are and lead them into the world of writing. The starting place is the child's practice through language, drawing, and storytelling, starting with storytelling and focused sketching so that budding writers learn how to observe more carefully.



### Baldwin Storytelling Program

Our students in kindergarten and first grade participate in storytelling theater where the students are the actors. Storytelling is a powerful medium that helps develop visual imagery skills and is an effective bridge to emergent literacy. Each classroom has their own "stage" where students take turns creating stories and acting them out together. Storytelling builds children's self-control, fosters cultural appreciation, develops working memory, inspires imagination and encourages children to take risks.

#### Baldwin Clubs & Enrichment Programs

After School Academic and MCAS Support  
America READS  
Baldwin/Harvard Hoops  
Before School Let's Move Fitness Program  
Bonjour! French Program  
Crazy 8's

Drama Club  
EnviroEd  
Brownie & Girl Scouts  
Math Olympiad  
Math Overtime  
Morning Computer Lab  
Scratch Software Design Club  
Sew Cool!  
S.T.E.M. Club  
Symphony Math  
Tee-It-Up Golf

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*Principal*

**Nicholas Leonardos**

*Assistant Principal*

**John Roderick**

