

January 1972

Laura Gilpin.
Dear Baldwin Alumna,

At a recent Alumnae Workshop it was so exciting to find such a vital, aware school that I wanted to tell you about it.

First, the NEW boarding school. There's a new look; a modern lounge-music room on the second floor of the Residence; on the fourth floor a new kitchen where girls can make snacks, bake cakes, and where breakfast is served on weekends. Corridor mothers have been replaced by House Parents (the husbands are graduate students nearby) who achieve tremendous rapport with the girls. A very easy atmosphere prevails.

There's a new flexibility everywhere. Courses are much more varied. Girls can enroll in classes at Bryn Mawr, Haverford, Villanova. Spanish classes are held at Shipley (their girls take German at Baldwin), one girl is taking advanced chemistry at Haverford College, another, special music lessons at Bryn Mawr.

A close bond between each student and her adviser makes this flexibility possible. Each girl and her Director of Studies meet at least four times a year so that she may explore her scholastic life to the fullest. And since there are now 19 black girls, there is a special adviser for them, too, to handle any particular needs that may arise.

Baldwin was one of the innovators among private schools in employing a psychiatrist as School Counselor. He comes to Baldwin one day each week and, for six years now, an easy-going, Open Door policy (you can make an appointment or you can just walk in) has greatly minimized such potentially serious problems as the need to experiment with drugs, sex, personal relationships, conflicts with parents.

Student-faculty committees now decide much of the school policy. Student involvement in running the school is most enthusiastic. It's exciting to see such concern among the girls now that they know that they have a hand in shaping such policies as a new grading system, new rules concerning uniforms, new rules in general.

We are so fortunate to have Mrs. Shoemaker to lead the school in these challenging days. I hope you will join me, as an enthusiastic alumna, in supporting Baldwin with your gift at this time.

*A former Phila. friend, Matilda A. Kie,
now working in the office of the
Mother Church, Episcopal Church, in
Boston sent me a fine article about
you, in the Christian Science Monitor.
I wonder if you know Helen Park Edwards, 1275 Canyon Road, Santa Fe? She
is a great cousin of my three California stepchildren - M.T.*

Cordially,
Marian Toulmin Townsend
Marian Toulmin Townsend '10