



September 1, 2010

## Holy Innocents Episcopal School Students & Staff Get Involved with Girl Talk

ATLANTA, GA - Ninth-grader **Katie Cross**, seventh-grader **Annie Sullivan**, and **Courtney Kissack** ('09) are pictured on page 44 of the September **Self** magazine, along with other young women involved in **Girl Talk**, a national, nonprofit mentoring program that pairs high-school and middle-school girls. The photo was taken this summer in the Rowan Family Middle School during Girl Talk's **Project Inside Out camp** and featured Girl Talk founder **Haley Kilpatrick**, who was honored this month with *Self*'s "Women Doing Good" award.

Holy Innocents' not only hosted the camp this summer but also boasts a Girl Talk chapter on campus. Kissack brought the program to HIES in 2007 as a service project. "I thought it seemed like a good opportunity to give something back to Holy Innocents'—a place that has given so much to me," the sophomore at Vanderbilt recalled. "Middle School is a hard time for girls, especially, so I hope that by having half-hour meetings once a week that we all take a little nugget away about kindness or about peer pressure."

The HIES Girl Talk chapter is particularly strong, Kilpatrick said, with active weekly participation, as well as support from the HIES community: Middle School Counselor **Kara Friedman** serves on Girl Talk's advisory board and HIES Board of Trustees member **LaDonna Bowling** officiated as this year's Camp Chair.

Haley Kilpatrick started Girl Talk when she was just 15 to help her sister "because Middle School was so difficult for me," she recalled during HIES camp this summer. "I remember girl sleepovers and parties and not being included. I wanted to create an environment where girls feel like they're not alone and can hear from older girls about how they coped.

"We believe that if girls are taken care of emotionally that they'll excel academically."

Thousands of girls from 39 states now participate in the program, which includes middle-school girls from all economic backgrounds.

"I'm humbled daily," Kilpatrick said.

For more information about Girl Talk, visit [www.desiretoinspire.org](http://www.desiretoinspire.org)