

Members of the Holmwood Family,

On behalf of the International Executive Board (IEB) I extend warmest thoughts and best wishes for the holiday season and a peaceful and prosperous New Year. As you enjoy the best that life has to offer, take some time to reflect on the past year and give thanks, first to the Lord and to all who have helped to shape our mission. 2011 represented a year of accomplishments, challenges, financial crisis, joy and sorrow. We have emerged victorious, stronger and more energized. Regardless of our experiences we will continue to support each other, especially in times of need.

Thank you for your effort, commitment and contributions, we value your support and the strength of our Holmwood family. The bond and the relationship we continue to nurture while we look forward to 2012 surrounded by love, warmth, health and comfort is encouraging.

We have tried to bring hope to our brothers and sisters and provided reassurance that their lives have value especially surrounding the time of that fateful accident in April, we are truly from a good HOLM. Take time out for a well deserved rest, relaxation and fun. It was through your efforts, generosity and dedication that we were able to:

- Visit the accident victims and pay tribute on behalf of the Holmwood Past Students' Association (HPSA)
  - Provided assistance while in the hospital and during the period of convalescence
  - Assisted with medical expenses, diagnostic and other procedures
  - Provided land for farming as a means of helping families to recover from the effects of the accident and ultimately contribute to the school's feeding program
  - Established and maintained a girl's hostel to house some who were challenge by the memories of the ordeal as well as the resulting challenges
  - Provided school supplies, uniforms, transportation and lunch money
  - Paid supplemental fees and provided for special needs
- Assist in feeding athletes in residence
- Support the employment of a dorm mother for the girls' dorm housing the athletes
- Support the refurbishing of the girls' dorm and provided fixtures for the new bathroom.
- Re-equip the e-learning labs with computers
- Sponsor a student to the Emerging Global Leader Program in Toronto, Canada
- Provide starting blocks and some gym equipment
- Provide some laundry equipment for the Guidance department
- Initiate fundraising activities to help make the Resource Centre a reality
- Provide financial support for all major track meets, including Western and Gibson Relays, ISSA Boy's and Girl's Championship, Penns Relays and Miami Classics.
- Sustain the lunch program

Through your efforts we will continue to support our alma mater. The activities of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary are still in progress, let us give our support. Activities still pending include:

- ❖ Awards Ceremony (honouring retirees in all categories as well as outstanding sports achievement (senior athletes)) Thursday January 26, 2012
- ❖ Anniversary Banquet – Mandeville, venue to be confirmed Saturday February 18, 2012
- ❖ Open / Founder's Day – Holmwood Auditorium (This includes a variety concert; past students' talents are invited). Thursday, March 8, 2012

June 28 through to July 8, 2012 brings us back together for HOLMcoming celebrations. Start making plans to reconnect, celebrate wonderful memories, share in the camaraderie, get together and stay together. Come HOLM!

Yes, we will enter the New Year with anticipation, hope, parties and promises; let us also pledge to give back to Holmwood in simple ways that will make an impact. If we each contribute to something, our contribution will be large. You may choose to:

- Support academic fees
- ***Donate to the Resource Centre***
- Help to sponsor a needy child
- Contribute to a feeding programme for our hardworking athletes in the different disciplines
- Support the lunch program for the needy student
- Improve the living conditions on the dorm
- Help to equip the classrooms

Let us continue to give with a willing heart and a liberal hand, make Holmwood our charity as we help the school to grow and survive the many challenges. Let us look back at the memories, and then look forward to doing something positive for Holmwood in 2012. As we move forward, we recognize the need to do things differently. Together, let us explore bold and creative ways to achieve more. We value your opinions and suggestions and invite discussions as we work through challenges, gain insights and improve our performance. The road may get rocky but let us keep the golden sky in sight.

We did not enter Holmwood by chance, we were specially chosen. We continue to crave your support, let us live up to our expectations – one humble, happy and committed family. Claim the success for enabling us to contribute to nation building through Holmwood. Your courage, willingness to give, dedication and good spirit made the difference

Thank You.

Let's stay together.

Violet D. Griffith  
President, HPSA IEB.