



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

ISSUE 1, 2014

New Year, New Beginning

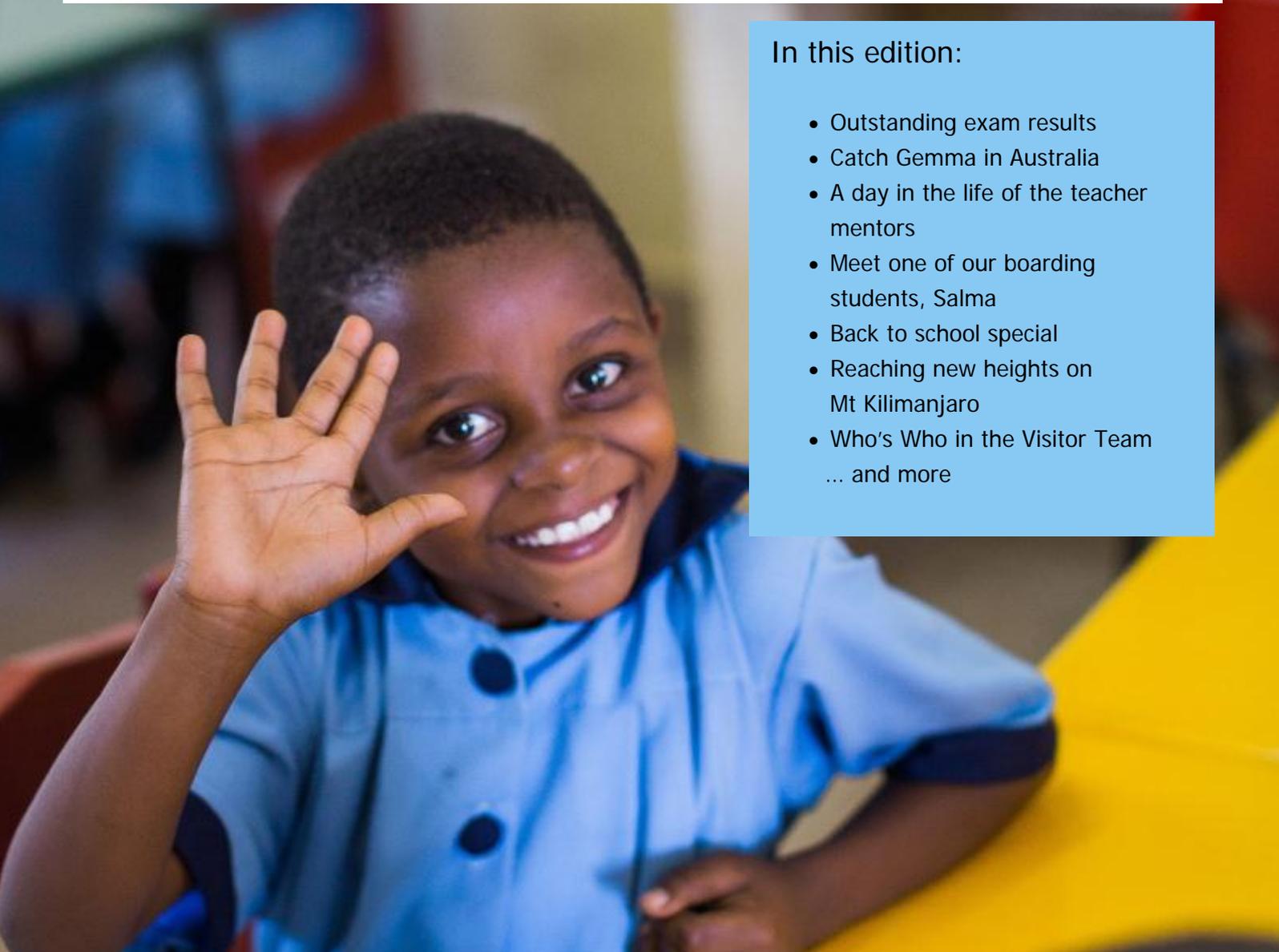
Over the past few months we've been bringing you stories about the ripple effect that you can create by sponsoring one of the 150 new students who have just joined us. What an overwhelming response we had to the 'Start a Ripple' Campaign! We are thrilled to tell you that we had 122 new sponsors sign up during the campaign—that's a huge ripple effect on the lives of students, families and the local community.

Here's Jennifer who is one of our new Prep students who has just started. You can tell from her smile that the gift of a St Jude's education has been a great way to start the New Year.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Start a Ripple Campaign—by spreading the word, sharing photos and articles online, donating or sponsoring—every little bit makes a big difference.

In this edition:

- Outstanding exam results
- Catch Gemma in Australia
- A day in the life of the teacher mentors
- Meet one of our boarding students, Salma
- Back to school special
- Reaching new heights on Mt Kilimanjaro
- Who's Who in the Visitor Team
... and more



Outstanding exam results for St Jude's

St Jude's is proving itself to be a school of excellence as our Form 2s blitzed their national exam, ranking 4th out of 355 schools in the North West Zone of Tanzania.

Impressively, all of the students scored mainly A's or B's in the exam. Students across Tanzania have to sit their exam which determines if they will go on to the next level in high school.

Three students, Godwin, Innocent and Hamisi scored high marks, in the 90's. "It's my first time to be at the top and it feels great; it's where I planned to be," said Godwin. "It makes me want to work hard because I want a good life in the future and someday to become an engineer."

It is a big achievement for our students and the school, as Tanzania, overall, struggles to provide millions of young children with a high quality education. St Jude's is determined to keep providing a free, quality education to more than 1,800 students in Arusha, so they are empowered with the skills to become future leaders in Africa.

"I'm so proud of our students and I think these results will motivate the next lot of Form 2s to strive hard and do well in the national exam because they see how well their peers have done," said Rasul Abdul, St Jude's Secondary Headmaster. "Some of the factors why the students performed extremely well are we have hardworking teachers, staff and parents motivating and helping our students to reach their full potential."



Catch up with Gemma in Australia

Gemma's hitting the road in Australia this March and would love to see you at one of the many events that she'll be speaking at.

Keep an eye on our website for up-to-date information about events.

www.schoolofstjude.org/supportUs/fundraising-events

At this stage, Gemma will be presenting at events in Queensland, New South Wales, ACT, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

"I'm so excited to get back to Australia to catch up with many supporters. I'll be talking about all things St Jude's as well as our exciting plans for the future."

Please email us at
info@schoolofstjude.co.tz
for any further information on
Gemma's tour or a specific event.



**Gemma's
Australian Tour**

March 2014

A day in the life of....

Welcome to our new feature. 'A day in the life of' will highlight the great work and typical day of various teams, staff and students at St Jude's.

To kick off for 2014, we're introducing you to the [teacher mentor program](#).

St Jude's has ten experienced volunteers from New Zealand, Australia, the U.S. and the U.K. working across three campuses in the Teacher Mentor Program.

"The mentors support our teachers with their professional development by bringing some of the best ideas for teaching and learning from around the world," says Jon Ford, the School Director.

"They work alongside our talented local teaching staff helping to integrate these ideas into the Tanzanian curriculum as we seek to provide a quality education for the students."

8.30am: Gaye Tiplady meets a group of school leaders to discuss leadership methods and techniques to ensure St Jude's meets its strategic goals. Gaye has over 25 years of experience in education, 11 of which as principal of a primary school in New Zealand.



9.00am: With more than 30 years experience in primary, secondary and special education classes, Susan Michell is here to demonstrate to teacher Robinson Mollel her suggestion how to use a set of flash cards that was donated to the school.

10.20am: Time for a cup of coffee at morning break.

11.00am: Lynn McMahon is in a planning session with Standard 1 and 2 teachers encouraging the integration of the Tanzanian curriculum. "The idea is for lessons to be linked across all subject areas," says Lynn, an early childhood specialist with 30 years experience teaching both children and adults in this field. "This provides reinforcement of new ideas and deeper understanding of new topics. The development of their new language is also enhanced with this approach."



12noon: Liz Underwood is busy sorting through the new books and objects recently donated to St Jude's. She makes sure everything is classified into school grades and subjects. Once she's done with the classification stage, she will work with teachers to come up with ideas on how to use them in the classroom.



12.40pm: Lunch time in one of the three dining halls. Teachers and mentors can catch up with peers from other departments and have a break while the students have some time outside.

2.00pm: Over at Smith campus, Linda Kitto spends some time researching local plants and discussing experiment ideas with the secondary school's biology teachers. St Jude's has a total of eight science labs. The teachers use them to help students develop their investigation skills and expand their ability to learn beyond textbooks.



2.45pm: At the Smith library, Glenyce Surtees, a library educator, helps teachers and library staff enhance their research skills so that they can look deeper for different sources of information throughout the school's more than 30 thousand books, DVDs and CDS (not including textbooks) in three libraries.

3.30pm: Sika Somberg, a career counselor and mentor, meets with colleague Mshauri Calistus as well as students to create activities and counseling sessions. They want to raise the students' awareness about the broad range of professional paths they can pursue after high school graduation.

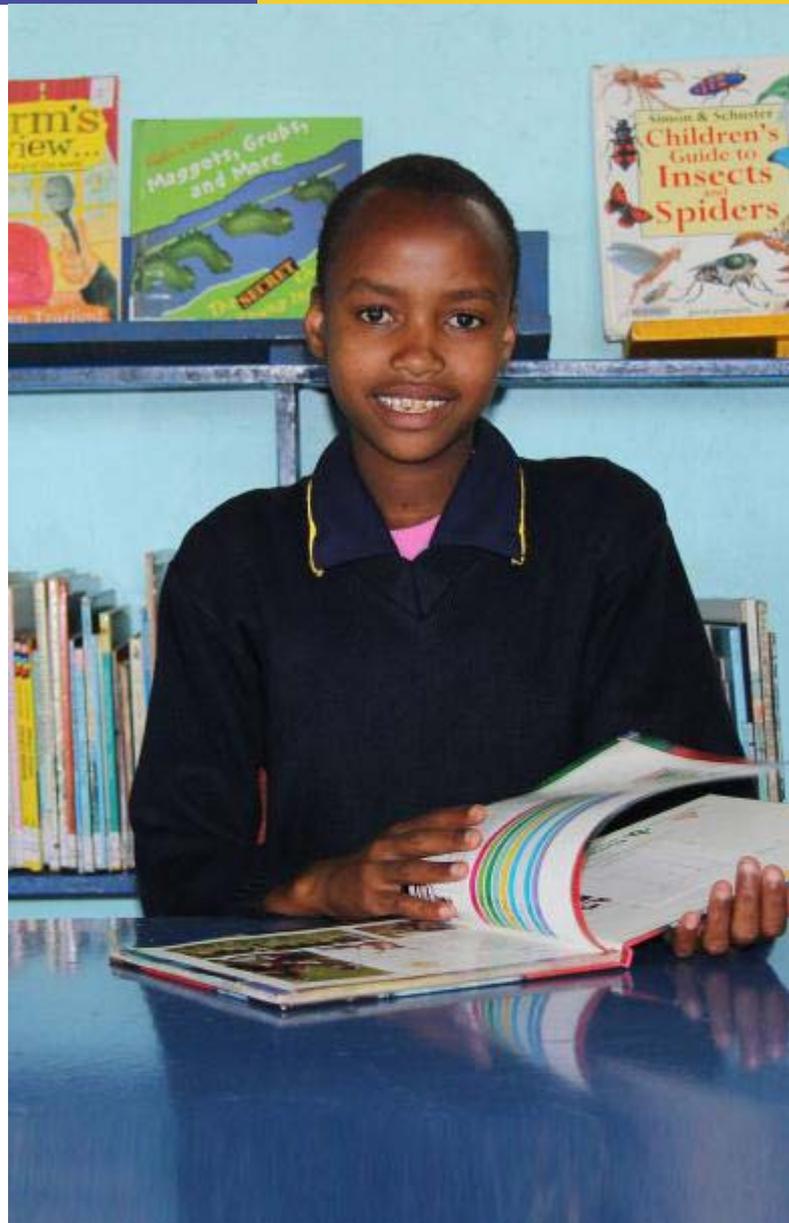


5.00pm: The school day ends.

Meet Salma— a St Jude's boarding student

Salma is a model Standard 5 student who thrives in the classroom. In her last report she scored A's in all of her subjects and particularly loves learning English, science and computing. Salma always tries to soak up new knowledge and challenge herself to do better. She is in the perfect environment to focus on learning and not worry about distractions, as she boards at St Jude's during the week.

Salma realises the value of education as she and her Mum, Dad, two brothers and a younger sister live in a mud house with no electricity and cook using kerosene. Salma's father makes a living selling second hand shoes while her mother sells tomatoes on the side of the road. They barely earn enough for the very basics and are grateful that their daughter studies at St Jude's so she can escape a life of poverty. Salma hopes to become a science teacher someday because she loves learning more about the body and how it works.



Salma is unsponsored

By sponsoring her, you are helping provide school uniforms, nutritious meals, pens, pencils, books and clean drinking water. If you decide on a 'package' sponsorship, you can include a boarding room so, for \$120 per month, you are helping to cover the costs of electricity, salaries of boarding staff, building maintenance, food, water and basic medical needs for the students staying in the room.

Visit our website at

www.schoolofstjude.org/Donate/Sponsor.html

Back To School

St Jude's shares many things in common with our friends in Australia and January was back to school for kids in both. We caught up with a couple of teachers from both corners of the globe to get their thoughts on the new school year.

Amy Cheers teaches Grades One and Two at Upper Ferntree Gully Primary School near the base of the Mount Dandenong mountain range in Australia. Her class was buzzing with excitement as they began their lessons. Amy shares with her students about what they need to do, to do well in the classroom. In her class, she uses an interactive whiteboard and students have access to computers and iPads.

"I enjoy being a teacher purely for the interactions with students! They can be funny, they can be serious, they can be sad but every conversation is worthwhile and means something and often leads to a learning moment," said Amy.

St Jude's prep students share similar feelings but their experience is vastly different. The students are selected from thousands, based on their academic potential and genuine financial need. Before starting school, they receive new uniforms which symbolises their new life path thanks to the free, high quality education they'll be receiving.

"Our new prep students are very motivated because they are learning in smaller class sizes than their peers in public schools (most of whom share a class with over 100 other students), getting their own text and exercise books and

transported to and from school each day," said George Stephen, Lower Primary Headmaster. "It is different from some other schools in Tanzania where they face the challenges of fewer resources, overcrowded classrooms, and underqualified teachers."



Selemani started Standard 1 at St Jude's this year. He loves maths and dreams of becoming a teacher. Selemani's mother is overjoyed her child is studying at St Jude's.

"There is no better inheritance than education. In my own view, I think the most important thing for him is to get an education and that will open other doors," [translated] she said.

Back in Australia, Perth mother Sharna Mensah looked forward to her daughter starting prep and learning the alphabet and how to read. "She used to ask me everyday how long it is until school starts and talks about her new teacher often. She knows that several of her friends from last year's kindy will be in her class so that just adds to her excitement," said Sharna.

St Jude's explains to its prep students and parents of its expectations of them as they begin their journey of learning which is provided completely free to the family in an effort to help them escape the cycle of poverty.



Watch Selemani's mother speak about the opportunity her son has at St Jude's on our YouTube channel.

www.youtube.com/user/SchoolOfStJude



Reaching New Heights

Four St Jude's secondary students and two teachers were given the opportunity to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in January, with our great supporter, Global Immersion. Amani, one of our Form 4 students, reached the top. Steph, our volunteer Media Officer, caught up with Amani and transcribed his reflections on the awesome feat.

"As a young boy, I never thought it possible that I would climb Kilimanjaro so I when I got the amazing opportunity to do so, I was very excited about it. Climbing Kili was tough and I thought, at times, I wouldn't make it. I am used to hiking, long distance running and athletics but going up the mountain was a new challenge for me. On the first day, I felt no pain or tiredness and loved walking through a forest and observing the different types of plants. We walked for about five and a half hours and I dreamt about reaching the top. The second day was a bit tougher as I really felt the cold and had to learn to climatise to the altitude but I didn't give up.

"The last night was the most challenging but it was a wonderful feeling to reach Kili. At night, from high above, I could see the bright lights of Arusha and Moshi far below. Slowly and eventually I reached the summit. It was so

amazing to be on top of it and seeing the sun rise and looking over at Mount Meru which looked very small. The sun was very near to me, when I was on the peak and I felt on top of the world. I am from the Chagga tribe, which is from the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, so I was climbing 'my' mountain. That's what the porters would remind me of, when I felt discouraged, about how I was climbing 'my' mountain and I should feel proud. I did. I felt like a 'Chagga Hero' because I had summited the mountain which is so important to me and my tribe. I felt like a great hero. It has made me feel like I can scale any mountain and I now hope and plan to climb one in Kenya someday.

"I am thankful and really appreciate St Jude's and Global Immersion for giving me the chance to climb Kili which I didn't think I'd ever get to do."



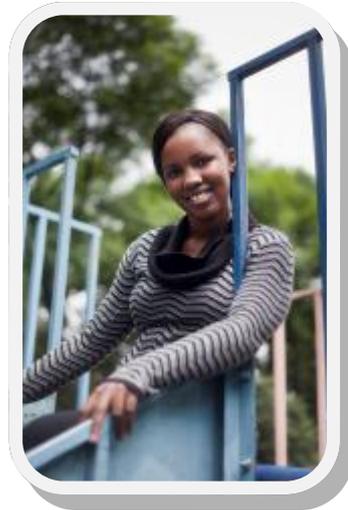
Would you like to climb to the roof of Africa and try summit Mt Kilimanjaro?

Visit St Jude's and while you're in Tanzania, challenge yourself on Mt Kilimanjaro.

Contact us at visitors@schoolofstjude.co.tz for more info.

Meet the Visitor Team

Our visitors have lots of email contact with the team in Tanzania in the lead up to their visit to St Jude's. We thought you might want to put some faces to the names that make up the St Jude's Visitor Team.



Adella's big, welcoming smile is a dead giveaway: she is a social butterfly. There's nothing she likes more than chatting with people. She won't miss a happy hour with friends for anything in the world, but... that doesn't keep her from having a serious side. Not to mention, she's studying her MBA at university!



When Nathan was a little boy in Australia, his mum, a music teacher, tried to teach him the piano, but the boy couldn't sit still! We're glad

she didn't insist, because his love of the outdoors is ultimately what brought him to Tanzania. We bet you can't guess how many times he's climbed Mt Kilimanjaro.

When you see the ease with which Felix engages visitors, you never imagine you're watching a warrior in action.

Seriously. He went through the training and initiation rites of his Maasai tribe and was anointed a warrior. But, hey, relax:

the only war he likes fighting is on the soccer field.



Adventure is Jo's middle name. When she's not busy running the visitors team you can find her running through the banana plantations, hiking up mountains and walking everywhere... For the sake of fighting poverty through education, she has put her passion for skiing on hold. She's in the right place, though, to indulge her love of animals ...



Bernadetha could well be the most fashionable lady in Arusha. You should see her knack for matching gorgeous

jewelry, shoes and clothing! On top of that, she has another great talent: choir singing. She loves being part of her church's choir and, when her minister asks, she can deliver a great sermon too.



Clare has a commerce degree and a huge passion for animals. In 2008 she left a good job as an accountant to volunteer at an organization

protecting wildlife in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana. "I'm a greenie," she says. Yes, you can call her that. She won't kill even the most annoying insect that comes her way.

**Email the team today to discuss your St Jude's adventure in Tanzania:
Visitors@schoolofstjude.co.tz**

In Other News...

Kim's international tour

Kim will be travelling to Europe, North America and New Zealand during the coming months to meet with supporters.

We would love to hear from you if you would like to catch up on the latest St Jude's news from Kim. She will do all she can to fit you in to her extensive itinerary. Email her at kim.s@schoolofstjude.co.tz

Brand new website on the way

We're very excited to be launching a brand new design of the St Jude's website. We've had a team of volunteers working on this project in Australia and in Tanzania—a very special thanks to Dena Paris and Graham West for their hard work.

Stay tuned for its launch over the coming month.

Gemma to speak at 2014 Rotary International Convention

Sydney will be the host city for the 2014 Rotary International Convention in June. Gemma is thrilled to be hosting a breakout session as part of the conference and St Jude's will have its very own booth there as well.

If you're planning on going to the Convention, be sure to let us know.

