



The School of St Jude
FIGHTING POVERTY THROUGH EDUCATION

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

ISSUE 1, 2013



Form 2 Students Excel

St Jude's has a mission to educate and mentor well-rounded students who are ready to elevate themselves and their community from poverty. Our teaching methods allow for students to embrace their creativity and focus on critical, creative thinking. Our teachers facilitate the learning process daily, witnessing first hand how engaging, articulate and dedicated the students are becoming. To see this translated on a national scale is equally impressive.

In the recently released Form 2 National Exam scores, St Jude's once again shined. Our students, those currently in Form 3, placed 2nd out of 341 schools in the North West Zone. This class scored the highest average of any previous St Jude's class to sit for the Form 2 Exam, with a mark of 82 percent. All of the 132 students passed the exam, an achievement considering 35.45 percent of students nation wide failed. In the North West Zone, our students placed 1st in ICT, a particular point of joy for our staff, where students are taught computer skills as early as Year 1.

Although exam scores are not the "be all and end all" of an education, they are important indicators of how we are progressing. Academic staff can then focus on particular subjects that we can improve on. Over the past three years, scores in Civics, Geography, Kiswahili, English, Physics and Biology have never been higher than this year. The level of progression is inspiring and a testament to our academic staff who continue the tremendous job of facilitating the learning process for their students.

By the way things are looking, 2013 is off to a fantastic start. We can't wait to see what's next!

In this issue

- Count down to our tour!
- Consolata and Mr Revocatus
- Summiting Africa's highest peak
- Join the fun on the June tour
- Get to know Felix
- Supporting our local community
- Help from around the world
- We love visitors!

Gemma's Heading to Australia — And Kim's Not Far Behind!

Their bags are packed and events are booked! Gemma and Kim are saying their goodbyes here in Tanzania and about to head off to talk all things St Jude's! We sat down with Gemma to ask her a few questions about her upcoming trip.

How are you feeling about your upcoming visit to Australia?

So excited! Last year I was unable to go on my annual tour of Australia because I was pregnant with my new baby girl, Louisa, so I'm incredibly excited to see everyone back in Oz, particularly my mum for a home cooked meal!

Is it hard saying goodbye to your family and being away from them?

It's always been difficult to be leave my family, and since our clan has now grown to include four young children, it's even harder! But I'm so thankful for Richard's family here in Tanzania, who provide so much support to us, particularly when I'm away.

What are you looking forward to the most about your trip?

Catching up with our wonderful supporters and continuing to spread the vision about the school. One of the things I

love the most about these tours is meeting new people who, after speaking with them about St Jude's, have this infectious enthusiasm that reminds me why I started St Jude's in the first place. Oh, and I can't wait to stock up on spaghetti meat sauce (the one in a can). You can't get it here in Arusha and I LOVE it!

How long will you be on the road and where will you be going?

The first gig is on the 2nd of March in Forbes then we troupe around various cities and regional areas for the entire month. From Orange to Devonport and so much in between. We'll be keeping the website events page up to date with all of the events and people can also follow me on twitter to see what I'm up to. I was so overwhelmed to receive such amazing support from people who put their hand up to host an event for St Jude's. Unfortunately due to time constraints we can't go everywhere so we will aim to get to these places next year.



Mum recently accepted my nomination for me at the Australian of the Year Awards. I can't wait to see her!



A recent photo of Louisa and I. I'm getting in as many cuddles as I can before I fly out.



Isabella is growing up so much! Here she is with the parents committee late last year.

Come to an event near you!

www.schoolofstjude.org/supportUs/fundraising-events

 www.facebook.com/schoolofstjude

 www.twitter.com/GemmaSisia

Stay tuned next month as we'll be updating you on all the places that Kim will be visiting in Australia and New Zealand!

Share in Consolata and Mr Revocatus' Journey

As a student in Std 2 last year, Consolata scored straight A's in all of her subjects: English, Maths, Kiswahili, Science, Computing, Vocational Skills and Religion. What's even more impressive is that she did this for all three academic terms, which is a remarkable achievement for anybody at any grade level.

Highly motivated and highly engaging, Consolata is a bright girl who comes from a family that has never had many material possessions. She lives with her mother and father, who both sell washing powder for a living, and her younger sister in the urban Mianzini village. The four of them share a two-room house with no electricity and shared facilities with other tenants.

Consolata is still unsponsored, but she continues to make the most of her education.

In a couple of months the first A Level classes will begin at St Jude's Smith secondary campus. A lot of new teachers have been hired to help our Form 5 students ready themselves for post-secondary education. One of the key members of this leadership group is Mr Revocatus, who is the new A Level coordinator. In his role, he'll be overseeing the students and staff transition from Form 4 to Form 5, liaising with board-ing staff and academic leaders.

"I hope that on completion of the A-Level the students will achieve a firm foundation for future success both in further education and beyond," Mr Revocatus says. "Also, to be able to work more independently, be more responsible and be more confident."

For the past two years he has been a Maths and ICT teacher at St Jude's, and has previously worked in the USA and South Africa. Mr Revocatus is an extremely talented individual who still needs sponsoring.



By signing up for a student and teacher sponsorship package, you will be fighting poverty through education!

Visit our website today to get involved
www.schoolofstjude.org/Donations/

Consolata is pictured here at school and with her mother and younger sister (bottom right). Mr Revocatus with in class with his students.



Global Immersion and St Jude's—Summitting Great Heights Together!

Summitting Mount Kilimanjaro is an extraordinary accomplishment for anyone – it's one of the tallest mountains in the world and can be the most mentally and physically exhausting treks for even the most experienced of climbers. It's also becoming increasingly more expensive to climb, as it draws in thousands of tourists every year. For a majority of Tanzanian people, it's simply too much money to spend when there are hungry mouths to feed. So when Tanzanian's have the opportunity to climb Mt Kilimanjaro, it should not be missed.

Thanks to the fantastic support from Bernie Kelly and Global Immersion, five of our secondary students and the secondary school headmaster were asked to climb Mt Kili. Along with the Global Immersion, every single person reached Uhuru Peak, standing 5,895m at the highest point in Africa. Over seven days our team battled the elements, braving freezing temperatures, altitude sickness and everything else Kili had to throw at them.

The entire school is so proud of them! To witness the mental fortitude and determination of five of our students to push themselves to accomplish a goal, we're all in awe of their spirit. It's inspiring for their peers to know what they're all capable of inside. As for Mr Rasul, St Jude's secondary school headmaster, led by example, showing his students that no challenge is too difficult if you put your mind to it.



The group were lucky enough to have professional photographer Sam Hawley climb with them and capture these beautiful images.

Have You Heard about Our June Tour?

St Jude's now has four cultural tours that it offers to supporters wanting to visit Tanzania. Our tours are the perfect way to get a better understanding of the school and see how together, we are making a difference to the lives of thousands of Tanzanians.

For our Australian supporters, what better time to visit the beautiful climate of Arusha than during the cold winter months at home!



What's included in the June tour?

- Full tour organisation from our St Jude's team in Tanzania. We will arrange all land and air transport in Africa.
- Accommodation and all meals in Arusha
- Local tours including going on village walks, visit to a local orphanage, the local craft and food market and Maasai market
- Afternoon in the classrooms at St Jude's
- Visit the family of one of our students
- Accommodation at St Jude's with your own ensuite
- Four day safari to the Serengeti, the Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Manyara and all entrance fees.
- All safari costs with the exception of tips for the guides and cooks
- Additional trip to Zanzibar (option 1) includes flights from Arusha to Zanzibar where you will spend 5 days on this beautiful island. This option includes a cultural and spice tour.

Don't just take it from us

"The tour was amazing, emotional and everything in between. Every day was a totally different experience and it was great to top it off in the evening with a Kilimanjaro Lager at the Water Hole next to St Jude's chatting with staff and other visitors."

- Joan Russell, 2012 June tour

So what are you waiting for?

To reserve your space on the June tour or to find out more, email us at info@schoolofstjude.co.tz. We are sure this will be the trip of a lifetime for you.



Meet the Team!

Along with a new look monthly newsletter, we're introducing a feature called 'Meet the Team.' Over the coming year, we'll introduce you to some of our wonderful staff and volunteers. This month, take the time to learn about Felix Mollel.

If you've ever visited St Jude's and were given a tour of the Sisia or Smith Campuses, chances are a jovial Tanzanian man named Felix guided you in and out of the classrooms, around the playgrounds and sat with you in the outdoor dining hall. If not, you're bound to have met him, as he's the first person you see when entering our offices.

Felix has been a member of the St Jude's family for the past eight years, first starting out as a bus driver with little grasp of the English language. Determined to work in the administration office someday, Felix would practice his English with the students while he drove them to and from St Jude's everyday.

"I remember when I was driving a bus some of the students would give me homework, because I was trying to talk to them in English, but my English was very poor," Felix says. "They tried to correct me and I was really reading the papers they gave me, so the next day I would not make the same mistake again."

After working four years as a bus driver, Felix improved his English enough that it landed him a spot in the Visitor Team. He's not only become one of the most recognizable and beloved faces at St Jude's, but he's developed computer skills and an eye for improving visitor relations with the hundreds of guests who visit St Jude's every year.

"St Jude's has really changed my life," Felix says. "My English has improved and I'm very happy to work in the office."

Through hard work and a will to achieve his goals, Felix has become a role model to the students and a cherished friend and colleague to the staff.

Felix is from the Massai tribe and lives with his wife Nembris and their two beautiful daughters, Emily (pictured) and Abigail.



"I remember when I was driving a bus some of the students would give me homework, because I was trying to talk to them in English"

St Jude's Kids Give Back to Their Community

Community service has always been an important aspect of St Jude's. As the school has grown, it has become increasingly important to give back in any way possible. Staff and students head out into the neighboring villages to donate food, clothes and other items. A byproduct of this service is the relationships St Jude's has built with other organizations. Two recent donations to government schools in our area saw student donate sports equipment and computers.

In coordination with the IT department, St Jude's visited Shangarao Government School to donate two refurbished computers. St Jude's fantastic resources allows our students to use some of the most up-to-date technology, so older equipment can be passed along to school's and organizations who have never had them before. In addition, students gave sports equipment including soccer balls to a local government school. The students there will now enjoy having equipment to play with during their breaks.

Through these experiences, students not only learn the importance of community service, but it furthers St Jude's commitment to the people and community who have supported us over the past decade.

"We trust that over the duration of an individuals schooling at St Jude's, we will nurture responsible, well educated citizens who will make a lasting contribution to the community and to their country."

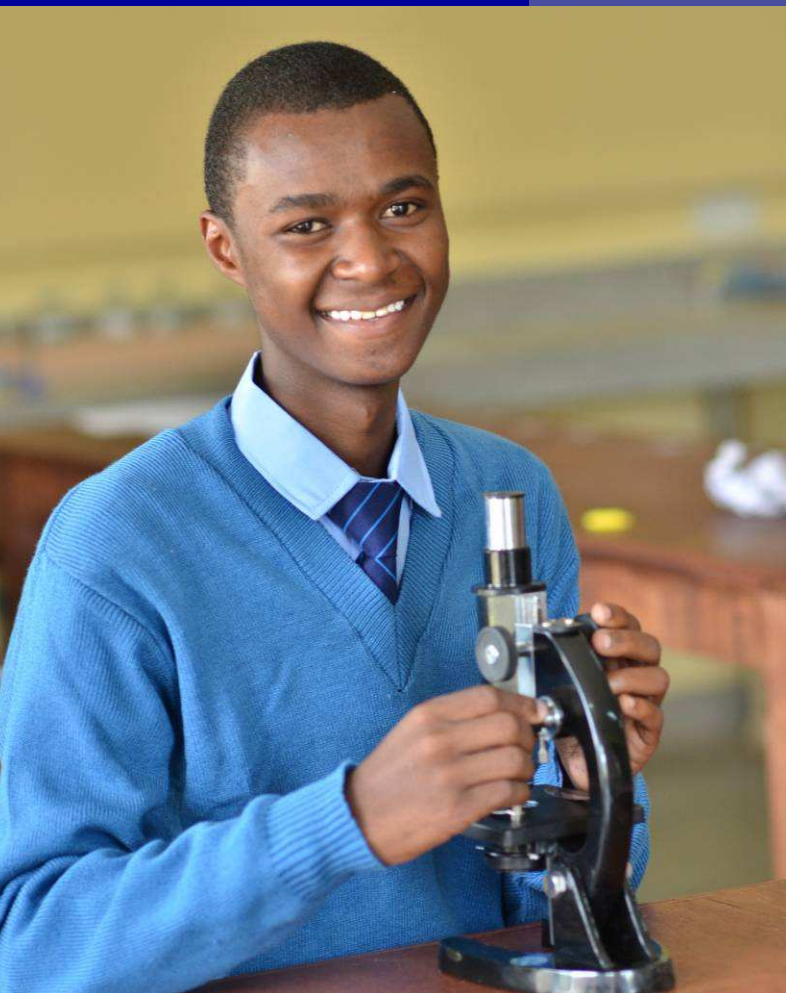
— Gemma Sisia

By supporting St Jude's you are also creating a widespread ripple effect in the fight against poverty.

Visit our website today to make a donation or sign up for a sponsorship package!

www.schoolofstjude.org





Liston's Big Dreams Are Closer than Ever

Since joining St Jude's in 2004, Liston has progressed through each grade with a zeal and determination that has made him one of the most creative students on campus. In 2012 he built his own mobile phone from scratch, which earned him a prize in a science competition. In 2013, he's in the process of building his own generator.

"When I observed the environment, it is not impressive," Liston says. "I'm thinking of having another type of fuel that can replace fossil fuels that are not environmentally friendly. First, I built an internal combustion engine and now I have to find the alternative fuel."

It comes with no surprise that Liston placed first out of 132 St Jude's students in last year's Form 2 national exams. He's an incredibly motivated individual who would like to attend tertiary education and then open his own workshop to build and fix mechanical and electrical machines.

Like many Tanzanian homes, Liston's family home has no plumbing so water is collected from a local stream. Fortunately the family now have access to electricity, although supply can be irregular at times.

Thanks to supporters like you, Liston is able to enjoy the boarding facilities at our Smith Secondary Campus so he can focus on his studies. It's obviously paying off when you see what he is achieving.



Liston pictured (above left) recently in his science class. Above is a photo of Liston back in his Lower Primary school days.

By becoming a student and boarding sponsor, you can support the dream of St Jude's students just like Liston.

Visit www.schoolofstjude.org/donations/appeal.html to find out more.

Support from around the Globe!

St Jude's exists because of the generosity of people from all walks of life. We're excited this month to share with you some of our fundraising support from various corners of the globe... from Germany to China! We are so excited that the message about St Jude's is reaching these new audiences. Together, we can fight poverty through education!



Thanks to Marcus Cremer, Georg Wochner, Erich Bauer and Georg Heinen as well as all their fellow Rotarians in Cologne, Germany, St Jude's has books, computers and science equipment (as pictured below)! Kim is looking forward to visiting our friends in Germany next month to tell them just how their support is making such a huge difference to the lives of our students.



Students from Jiangsu College for International Education in China recently worked on a project with the National Association of Independent Schools in the USA. The theme of the project was poverty and they came across St Jude's while doing their research.



Help us spread the word!

As you can see, it takes many people to fight poverty through education!

Email us at info@schoolofstjude.co.tz to find out how you can play your part!



We Love Visitors!!!

Since our last newsletter we've been as busy as ever with lots of visitors who have come from various places to visit St Jude's.

Whether they're current supporters or have simply heard about St Jude's and want to find out more, everyone is welcome and can experience the magic of our beautiful school in Tanzania.



Top: Our yLead supporters who climbed Mt Kilimanjaro with our Secondary students (find out more on page 4); Top left: Canterbury College checking out the Moivaro Boarding Campus; Top right: Alex Dyson and Ollie Wards from Triple J dropped by after their safari with their mates; Bottom left; Linda Fox and her sons came in January to see their sponsored bus 'Tembo'; Bottom right: Gemma got to catch up with Keith and Jenny Fleming, Chhatar and Gillian Sethia.

Come and see for yourself!

We welcome visitors who would like to spend a day or a few nights or come as part of one of our cultural tours!

To find out more, email us today at info@schoolofstjude.co.tz or visit our website www.schoolofstjude.org/VisitUs/tour.html.

Want to Support, But You're Not Connected?

We understand that not everyone uses the internet to show their wonderful support of St Jude's! If you would like to get involved but would prefer to use an alternative method, you can print this page and post it to us at **PO Box 82, Kew East, Victoria 3102** (Australia). Alternatively feel free to give Robin Vargo a call regarding your donation. Robin can be contacted on **+61 3 9817 6245**.

Your details

Title: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode _____

Phone number: _____ or _____

☐ I would like to make a general donation of
\$ _____

☐ Gemma's book 'St Jude's', AUD\$33 (Australian delivery)

☐ St Jude's 10 Year Anniversary book, AUD\$25
(Australian delivery)

I would like to sign up for:

☐ Sponsorship of a teacher, AUD\$55 per month

☐ Half sponsorship of a student, AUD\$60 per month

☐ Student and teacher sponsorship, AUD\$110 per month

Payment details

☐ Please find enclosed my cheque made payable to **RAOAF Eastern Region St Jude's School**

☐ Cash ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Card number

Card expiry /

CCV: _____ Cardholder name: _____

Signed: _____

