



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

ISSUE 2, 2015

Six Ways You Can Colour Their World

We have launched our **Colour Their World Appeal** to raise urgently needed money for the benefit of our students so they have access to everything they need for a great education.

This year you may choose to give to an area of the school where your passion lies. Whether it's welfare, food, educational resources, boarding, maintenance or technology, your donation will directly impact the students. **What's your passion?**

Zuhura (pictured below) used to go to an overcrowded government school. She was hungry most days and had no access to medical support. Despite the obstacles she faced, she showed great academic potential and a strong desire to learn. During the selection process for potential students, we noticed her curiosity and her natural talent shone through.

Given the right tools, environment and encouragement, we knew she'd go far.

At St Jude's, she now uses computers, enjoys the fiction books in the library, eats hot meals every day and is able to grow, learn and play in a safe and beautiful environment.

"Before coming to St Jude's I couldn't read and write and now I can. This will help me be a pilot one day. I want to make the most of this chance I've been given. I'm so lucky to come to St Jude's"

Help give students like Zuhura the best education possible by donating to the area you are passionate about today. **Your donation today will have a big impact on fighting poverty through education.**

Read more on Page Three! ➡

www.schoolofstjude.co.tz/support-us/2015_appeal.html



2014 Form 4s Pass Exams with Flying Colours



2014 was a big year for our Form 4 students. They spent it applying themselves to studies that ranged from history to chemistry to biology. Our students began the New Year with feelings of anticipation as they eagerly awaited their exam results to see if all of their hard work paid off. Finally, the results are here! And happily, the answer is a resounding "yes"!

Overall our 126 Form 4 students received stellar results, placing St Jude's 3rd in the region and 24th in all of Tanzania. Over half of the students achieved a Distinction, the highest possible grade, and 99% of the class achieved a Merit (the second highest grade) or above.

The results indicate our students show particular aptitude for communication, with the class ranking 2nd in the region for Kiswahili. They are also budding scientists and historians, achieving a regional ranking of 2nd in Biology and 3rd in History.

These results are fantastic for all of our students and their teachers who have worked so hard to guide each of them throughout the year. The students are very proud of their achievements, deservedly so, and begin Form 5 with a renewed confidence and excitement for the year ahead.

[Click here to read more stories like this on our blog!](#)

We all know that education is vital, but just how dramatically will it change the lives of our Form 4 students?

- Two thirds of Tanzanian children do not go on to secondary school
- For each year of school completed, an individual's earnings increase by 10% (USAID)
- Among Tanzanians aged 15 - 24, 21% of males and 24% of females are illiterate
- A girl who finishes basic education is three times less likely to contract HIV/AIDS

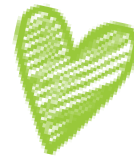


What's Your Passion?



We're raising money for six areas of need!

Choose the area you're passionate about and decide the amount you wish to give.



A Home Away From Home

Give our students a safe environment to call home that is conducive to high academic achievement. Your donation will go towards beds with mosquito nets, clean water, nutritious meals, electric lights for studying at night, caring boarding parents to help with studies and extra-curricular facilities.

\$500 can buy a good bed with all bedding, mattress and a mosquito net for a student



Meals for Students

Invest in the brains of our students by providing them with hot meals so they can make the most of their free education.

\$100 can buy 300 meals



Educational Resources

Help students to think critically, be curious, be creative and have a thirst for knowledge so that they may become leaders in their communities. Your gift will provide students with the latest reference books, science equipment, musical instruments and modern teaching resources.

\$1000 can buy a years worth of science equipment for an entire year level



Medical and Welfare

You can provide lifesaving programs and ensure our students are physically and mentally able to take full advantage of their free education. Your gift will allow our welfare team to keep an eye on children at risk, providing annual medical checks, emergency care, and welfare support to all in need.

\$250 can provide annual medical checks for 50 students



Computers and Technology

Ensure our students can enjoy computer classes with access to the internet, E-learning techniques, educational videos, online encyclopedias and educational programs.

\$700 can buy a computer with Internet for students to use.



Maintain Our School

Keep our school running. We need help to repair the plumbing, replace the drainage system, fix our furnishings, paint classrooms, renovate walls and overhaul the power system so we are able to educate future leaders for years to come!

\$2500 can provide plumbing and borehole management for the entire school for a month.





Join Us for our September Cultural Tour!

Are you ready for the trip of a lifetime? Come and visit our school and enjoy many of the amazing experiences Tanzania has to offer! Enjoy spending time with our students, learning about the local culture and viewing some of the world's most amazing animals in their natural habitat when you head off on safari. Complete your Tanzanian adventure with a trip to the exotic island of Zanzibar where lazing on the white sands will give you time to reflect on your unforgettable holiday. This year, for the first time, you will also see some of our students at work in their local community as our Form 6 students begin their Community Service Year. Our friendly Visitor team is here to assist you with all your planning. **We can't wait to see you! Visit our website for more details today.**

www.schoolofstjude.org/visit-us/making-a-visit.html



Meet Erasto, one of our new, unsponsored students!



It's amazing how quickly your life can change when you are given a great opportunity. At this time last March, Erasto Saibato, the youngest of his mother's nine children, was living in a *boma* (Maasai village) consisting of three mud huts, with his Maasai parents and several brothers and sisters. When he wasn't in school, he was helping his mother cook, clean and mind the cattle. After his chores were completed, he would spend the rest of the evening studying... but only if there was enough daylight left.

Erasto was in his final year at the local government primary school on the outskirts of Arusha. Each day, he would walk one hour to and from school. In Tanzania, government schools are often overcrowded, with up to 100 students in a class. Teachers and educational resources are extremely limited and corporal punishment is commonly practiced. Under these circumstances it is difficult to succeed, proven by the fact that less than 40% of all Tanzanian children move on to secondary school.

Despite the challenges he faced, Erasto thrived and managed to place among the top of his class. Last December, he and 700 standard 7 students from the Arusha region were invited to test for one of the spots available in this year's Form 1 class. Erasto, along with 21 of his gifted peers, were successful. They are now enjoying the benefits of a free, high-quality education that will, no doubt, change their lives and the lives of their families forever.

Erasto is now finishing up his third month at St Jude's

and is flourishing in this new environment. He acknowledges the stark contrast between St Jude's and his local government primary school and is taking full advantage of everything St Jude's offers its students including the smaller class sizes, fields to play football on with his new friends, and the educational resources that are provided, especially for his favourite subject, science. For Erasto, the best thing about being at St Jude's is that he always has a place to study – even after daylight.

We are looking for a sponsor for Erasto. If you are interested in sponsoring Erasto or one of our other new Form 1 students, please contact us today.
www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html



Cooking for St Jude's!

We are thankful that our supporters all around the world are always coming up with new and exciting ways to raise money for The School of St Jude.

Last Month, Marta Scuccuglia hosted an Italian-Lebanese Cooking class and dinner with raised funds going towards nutritional meals for our students.

In her own words, Marta shares her experience hosting an event:

"It's fun to get together and have something good to eat at least once a day. That's what human life is all about - enjoying things!

"Since cooking and volunteering are two of my biggest passions, I decided to organise a foodie event to raise money "

I had never cooked for more than six people in my life, but I was determined to push myself and host an Italian Lebanese cooking class and dinner for 36.

I had low expectations but reality proved me wrong as the event was very welcomed, particularly by my work colleagues and friends, and within a blink of an eye the event was booked out.

On the night the atmosphere was extremely vibrant and everyone was ecstatic, it was such a sensational experience by all means for everyone and to date we are still talking and laughing about it!"

Marta's cooking event was so successful she is already planning the next! **See our website for details on her upcoming 'Di-Vine Festival' wine and dine fundraiser in Sydney on 19 April** at which our Director of International Relations, Kim Saville, will update the gathering on the progress and future of the students at St Jude's.

Find out more about hosting an event to spread the word about St Jude's.

www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/fundraising-events.html



"I will have my own hospital in Tanzania", is the confident answer that Esuvat gives when asked where she will be in ten years time. This is one of the most exciting parts of speaking to the graduating students of 2015; they have big aspirations. And why not?

This year the school will celebrate our first ever graduating class. Esuvat is one of the 61 students in the inaugural class of 2015. She understands the importance of her accomplishment and is "so excited to be graduating at last".

Esuvat is very aware of how different her life would be if she didn't come to St Jude's

Before embarking on her medical studies, focusing on the health of women and children, Esuvat will take part in the St Jude's year of community service. She has elected to help teachers with biology and chemistry at a nearby government school. "I am a bit nervous to be teaching at the school" she says.

Esuvat gets nostalgic when she reflects on her time at St Jude. In her family she is one of six children, having four brothers and one sister. Her father is a farmer and her mother looks after the home. Her family comes from Oldadai, a regional town two hours drive from St Jude.

Esuvat is very aware of how different her life would be if she didn't come to St Jude's. "At a government school you would not learn as much. Here I learnt

computing and English and was able to play sports".

You can see that Esuvat has made the most of her time at the school. She was involved in the school government in Form 1, holding the position of general secretary, and played in the school netball team for two years. She loves learning new things, especially subjects such as English, computing and her favourite subject, biology. She especially relishes these subjects as she knows she wouldn't have been exposed to them at a government school.

Like any high school student, Esuvat has particularly treasured the moments with her friends and will miss their company when she graduates and goes out to the world. She is also full of useful advice for those students who will come after her. When asked what next year's form 6s should do, she is clear in her guidance: "They need to study harder and be determined," she says, "but most importantly they need to be themselves and help each other".

When asked what next year's Form 6s should do, she is clear in her answer. *"Always try to change for the better"*.

*To the right: Esuvat
Below: Some very excited
Form 6 students*



Read more about our graduation on our blog!

www.schoolofstjude.org/st-judes-in-action/st-judes-first-ever-graduation



Medical Check Team's Annual Visit

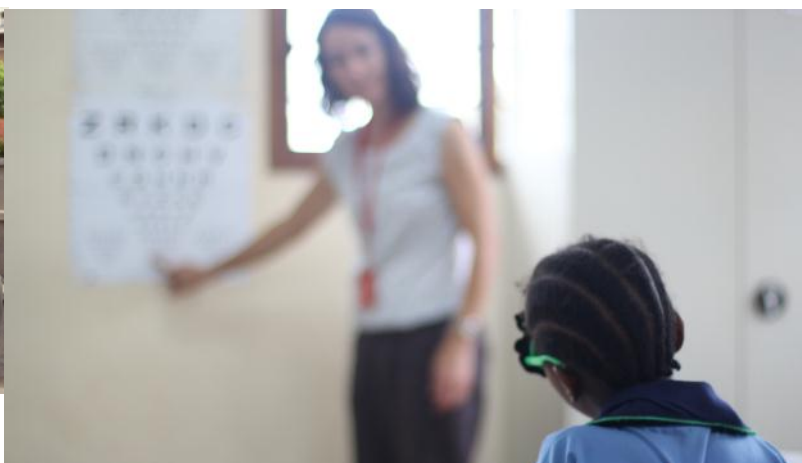


We currently have 18 medical and health professionals here with us in Tanzania. They have travelled to Africa to be a part of a medical check team making sure our students are healthy and able to make the most of their free education.

For the past six years, Dr Pip has travelled to St Jude's with a group of medical and health professionals to perform an intensive two week medical check up on our students, which this year number almost 1900!

Glenda is one of the health professionals on the team this year. As an experienced orthoptist she was excited to be able to use her specialised skills in a very foreign setting. "Specialised eye assessments are a new addition to the annual medical checks," she says, "they add an important dimension to the overall health care of the students."

Glenda was made aware of the programme when the Orthoptic Association of Australia put out a call for volunteers to join the medical check team. "I had been aware of the great work St Jude's does for many years and jumped at the opportunity to



volunteer my skills to such a worthy cause."

The trip has also allowed Glenda to explore a new part of the world, "This is my first time in East Africa and it's been an amazing experience both professionally and culturally," she says. "It's also given me a chance to go on safari, which was incredible!"

"It's been an inspirational experience," says Glenda, "to know that we're having a positive impact on these children's lives is very gratifying and I would encourage everyone to get involved and support the school in any way that they can."

Adventurous Supporter Spreading the Word



Chris, one of our keen supporters, is finding his own way to spread the word about St Jude's. As we speak, Chris is riding his motorcycle on a trip from Hobart, Tasmania, to Kununurra in northern Western Australia. This means he's travelling nearly 4400kms!

In his experience, on long road trips like this, (it's not his first!) people are always keen to say hello and ask about his travels and his bike. This gave him the idea of adding a St Jude's bumper sticker to his bike and talking to people about our vision along the way.

Good Luck Chris! (If you happen to spot him on his travels give him a big hug from us!)

Australian Promo Tours - Kim's on her way!



Gemma is currently touring Australia with Felix, our local Masaai staff member. They are having a lovely time speaking at events organised by our passionate supporters and spreading the St Jude's message even further.

Kim has been working alongside Gemma since St Jude's had 11 students, one bus and no electricity! She is on her way to Australia and will be available to speak at events during April and May. Never run an event before? Don't worry! We will support you along the way.

Kim would love to speak at your event, work-place, or club to help spread the St Jude's message.

Email us on australia@schoolofstjude.org or see our website for more info.

Photos From the Road!



Gemma visiting her old school



Minding a stall for International Women's Day



St Vincent's College Women Inspiring Action



Thanking local Inverell Rotarians for their support



An event held by one of our amazing supporters, Jane

Out and About in Australia



Felix feeling at home among the Australian cattle



Out and about in NSW



*See More Photos on Our Facebook Page!
<http://on.fb.me/1C6MOMC>*



St Joseph's students learning the ways of the Maasai



Felix with Stuart, a champion St Jude's fundraiser



With Des Adams, who dug the first foundation hole on the first building built at St Jude's many years ago



Ascham school in NSW



St Jude's supporters the Lynch Family