



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

ISSUE 3, 2015

**COLOUR
THEIR
WORLD**



Thank you! Over \$100,000 Raised So Far!

On behalf of all our students, thank you for your response to our ['Colour Their World' Appeal](#).

The \$100,000 raised so far will allow us to continue providing our students with the tools they need to become leaders.

Providing a high-quality education is a great investment but to do it we need lots of resources.

We need medical and welfare resources and nutritious food to make sure our students are physically and mentally able to learn. We need well-built classrooms full of books so that students are able to think creatively and develop well balanced understandings of the world. We also need computers and internet so the students have access to knowledge and information and the opportunity to assist with the major skills shortages faced by Tanzania.

We also need to provide students with boarding houses so they have a safe place to sleep each night and a home that is conducive to study.

By providing these things you are giving our students a life-changing opportunity to escape the poverty cycle and make a difference in Tanzania.

They will go into the world after St Jude's equipped with the tools to make real change. We are so excited to watch this vision become a reality.

Invest in the future of our students and Tanzania today. Visit our website and **choose from one of six areas at the school that urgently need funding**. If you are looking to make a larger impact, there are also a few big ticket items that could make a huge difference.

Provide our students with tools to become leaders!
<http://bit.ly/1PmkoEf>

Young Supporters Spread the Word



Left - Ian Skippen who was the MC for the event
Right - Ellie and Ella with Felix

Faith in the power of education led two of our youngest supporters to get involved with Gemma and Felix's visit to Australia this year.

Clayfield College students Ellie and Ella, who are 14 years old, organised two St Jude's presentations to ensure their local community heard about the magic happening here in Tanzania.

"Education means we can make lots of choices, we can choose our pathway in life."

"I find the story of St Jude's and the work they are doing to help fight poverty in Tanzania really inspiring. Every child deserves an education," Ellie said.

Ellie had never organised an event before, and was thrilled that so many people "found the story of St Jude's empowering and inspiring". Ella said it required lots of planning with members of their school and community.

"We enlisted help from everywhere to design and print posters and flyers, and emailed all of our family and friends. We spoke at Rotary clubs and even on local radio to promote the visit from St Jude's," she said.

Ellie's family visited us at St Jude's earlier this year, so she feels a strong connection to the school. She has especially been touched by Gemma's journey as the founder of St Jude's.

"Gemma's story shows us that you can do anything and achieve great success if you have passion and determination," Ellie said.

Ella said meeting Gemma at their event enabled students to truly understand and appreciate how she has given her life to serving others, a quality Clayfield College regards highly.

Ellie believes education is vital for communities and individuals to achieve more, and people could not help unless they knew where it was needed.

"It's essential people know about the troubles some people in the world face, and how amazing people and schools like this one are overcoming them.

"Education gives children and families the opportunity to pull themselves out of poverty - and you can never take away someone's education," she said.

"Education means we can make lots of choices, we can choose our pathway in life," Ella added.

"We really hope the awareness we raised will lead to new opportunities for the children at St Jude's."

Interested in holding an event on behalf of St Jude's? Like to have Gemma or Felix speak at your event in the future? Drop us a line!

australia@schoolofstjude.org

Healthy Bodies, Healthy Mind

The need for a nutritious diet is essential for a proper education, and a day-to-day concern many first-world communities do not often have to consider.

Hunger is an everyday part of life in sub-Saharan African countries like Tanzania, where many people do not have access to sufficient food on a daily basis.

Nourishment is not always available at home, so it is an important part of our care for our St Jude's students that we can provide them with a well-balanced diet to ensure they stay healthy and can focus more effectively on their schooling.

The latest figures from the World Hunger Education Service show little progress in the battle against hunger in sub-Saharan Africa. The World Food Program has found one person in four in the region is undernourished, and **23 million primary school-aged children in Africa attend classes hungry.**

Over 4,000 delicious, nutritious meals are served each day here at St Jude's. Meal preparation is a sight to see – 19 Tanzanian cooks and kitchen staff work through mountains of vegetables, fruit, rice and maize to ensure students and teaching staff can work at their best.

A usual St Jude's school meal includes rice or ugali (maize), with beans, lentils, spinach, tomato, cabbage, okra and other vegetables. We use seasonal produce grown in the school's own gardens and plantation, plus ingredients from local suppliers.

Our St Jude's food program not only keeps our students happy and healthy, but also helps to support the local economy. Because of this, your support makes a huge difference to St Jude's students as well as the local Arusha community.

Thank you to everyone who has helped donate towards providing our students with nutritious meals. [Watch this video](#) and see our students enjoying their delicious and nutritious lunch!



\$100 can buy 300 meals!



PROVIDE NUTRITIOUS
MEALS TODAY

Lush and Green Thanks to the Rainy Season!

Grass, trees and plants on the school grounds have grown so much in the last month!

It is rainy season here in Arusha, the rain has fallen in buckets and the effect has been almost immediate. Students arrived back at school after Easter, surrounded by knee-high grass and vibrant shades of green.

At St Jude's, we strive to keep Tanzania beautiful by doing what we can for a cleaner, greener future. One way we do this is by using grey water and solar power.

Grey waste water from our kitchens is used to keep the gardens fresh and green when nature can't do it herself. Although we are lucky this month with a wonderfully wet rainy season, we also have long dry seasons where we can't depend on the rains.

Solar panels have also proven useful in lowering school running costs, especially for providing hot water.

By making best use of available resources, The School of St Jude strives to make a little go a long way.



Beginnings of the Secondary Campus Nature Park!

Eight keen young green thumbs have been busy over the last few months clearing land at Smith campus for their very own Nature Park!

Form 2 student Kilimba explains that the students envision a park to showcase native trees and grasses, set by a pond that will be home to fish and turtles.

"There will be native flowers, fern plants and moss. It will be for students to study by, have a picnic and for visitors to see," Kilimba said, adding that fruit trees will also be planted.

"We had a lot of work when we started digging (the pond), as the soil is rocky and hard to dig."

When the group returned from the Easter break, they discovered the past month's rains had given them more work. Grass and pest plants had grown so quickly in the area that they spent a weekend of their own time to clear it once again.

The project, which the students began planning in February, is expected to be completed next year.

With the site under the shade of a large "msesewe" tree, it certainly will be a Nature Park to behold.

See what else is happening around campus by checking out our blog

www.schoolofstjude.org/our-stories/our-stories.html

We Love Visitors

We love visitors! And you will love it here, too.

This month we welcomed Julie-Anne, who has sponsored a student and teacher at St Jude's for the last five years. During their visit, Julie-Anne, her daughter Liz and son Chris saw firsthand how their support is changing lives here in Tanzania.

Julie-Anne and her family were guided around the school and had the chance to spend the day with the student whose life she is changing forever.

"It is very exciting to be a part of this and I would encourage other people to visit and be part of the dream."

"I got to see mum meet her sponsor student for the first time and for them to get to know each other and share lunch," Julie-Anne's daughter Liz said. "It was really lovely."

The family also caught a glimpse of the high-quality education 1900 of Tanzania's poorest and brightest students receive from professional teachers.

"I would encourage people to visit St Jude's because it is a wonderful place to see where a dream is well and truly alive and blossoming," Julie-Anne said.

"The children are confident in themselves and their future. They know where their future goals lie and they are happy to share those with sponsors like me."

"It is very exciting to be a part of this and I would encourage other people to visit and be part of the dream."

Like to visit us in Tanzania? We would love to show you around!

<http://bit.ly/1K7vYA9>



From the left - Liz, Neema's father, Julie-anne, Neema's sister, Neema, Neema's mother and Chris



"Commitment is the moment in life when you seize opportunities and use them to alter your life and destiny".

Alex Elifas is a contemplative soul and his impending graduation in May is providing him cause to be even more reflective than usual. "St Jude's has built a big part of my personality", he says, "Who I am has been shaped by the school".

Alex's time at St Jude's has been eventful. He's a bright young man who was able to skip ahead two grades. In his senior years he left the school for one year so as to return to finish his schooling with the rest of the inaugural graduating class of 2015. He is proud to be finishing with his class and cannot wait for the graduation celebrations. "I look forward to spending time and celebrating with my sponsors, friends and family", he says.

"Because of St Jude's I will be someone in the future."

However, despite the overall focus on the senior class, Alex has a more holistic view of his graduation and the influence it will have on the rest of the school. "I am trying to figure out how to have a positive impact on the other students. I want to inspire the younger ones".

Alex's time at St Jude's has had a profound impact on his life. "St Jude's made me dream differently. Without St Jude's I couldn't have the plans I have now. It has given me big dreams."

Alex's dreams are impressive. After graduation he will take part in the St Jude's community service program. He looks forward to giving back by teaching at a local government school where his scientific knowledge can have a big impact in a region with a desperate shortage of maths and science teachers. He plans to learn French and the keyboard in his spare time.

His long term ambitions are to study electrical engineering with a focus on biomedical engineering. Alex wants to have a positive impact on his country through his chosen profession. "There are currently no experts in the field of electronics and biomedics in Tanzania", Alex says, "I will work on different projects to improve the country. I am looking forward to being in a position where I can support or sponsor projects in Tanzania that will have a positive impact on society".

St Jude's will always play an important part in Alex's life and it is inspiring to hear him speak of his feelings for the school and his continued involvement. "Thanks to St Jude's I had an easy life, a life without struggle," he says. "Because of St Jude's I will be someone in the future."



Right: Alex wins an award.

Below: Form 6 students are ready for their next journey.

Read more about our graduation on our blog!

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



Un-sponsored Student - Diana



Above: Diana with her friends. Below: Diana receiving an award.

Eight-year-old Diana has a beaming smile and quiet demeanour, but behind it is an impressive determination to make the most of her education.

The grade one student has so far devoured the opportunity to learn all she can, and already has dreams about how she can make the most of her time at St Jude's.

Her parents, John and Rodina, are very proud of their daughter. Her father works hard as a tailor to provide the best future for Diana and her three siblings, while her mother hopes to soon return to the business after giving birth to their youngest child.

We asked Diana some questions to gain an insight into her special world.

What do you like learning at school?

Science, English, music and ICT (Information Technology). I like singing the school song. (She demonstrates with a beautiful, gentle rendition of the national song, Tanzania, Tanzania.)

What makes you happy about going to school?

Reading and writing. I also like seeing my friends Irene and Zahara.

What does your family think now that you are going to St Jude's?

They are happy I passed (the entrance exams). They are happy I am going to school and getting a good education, and being looked after.

What would you like to be when you grow up?

A nurse (beaming smile returns). I like the school nurse and want to help children, just like her.

As the third of four children, Diana is fortunate to receive the education opportunity she currently has at St Jude's. She is a keen, intelligent student and potential community leader.

Students like Diana can only have their futures assured with sponsorship.

See how you can sponsor a student like Diana and change a life today:

<http://bit.ly/1EgzpDO>



Lake Manyara Excursion

Lake Manyara National Park is touted as a scenic gem, a smaller and often overlooked part of the Tanzanian safari experience.

Once described by Ernest Hemingway as “the loveliest I had seen in Africa”, its compact game-viewing circuit features diverse vegetation and a wide variety of animals.

Last month our 140 Grade 6 students were thrilled to visit the Park as part of our annual excursion program, which aims to give students a greater understanding and firsthand experience of their local environment.

Other excursion destinations for Grade 5, 6 and 7 include Ngorongoro Crater and Oldupai Gorge, African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, Tanzanian Atomic Energy Commission and Arusha Post Office.

We love being able to provide our students with a practical understanding of the world and appreciation and pride for their special part of Tanzania!

Lake Manyara Quick Facts

Location: Northern Tanzania, the entrance gate is 1.5 hours (126km/80 miles) west of Arusha.

Animals living there: Elephants, hippos, zebras, baboons, giraffes, buffaloes, wildebeests, leopards, hyenas, impalas, waterbucks, warthogs and more than 400 species of birds (including millions of flamingoes during the rains).

Ecosystem: 11 different ecosystems of diverse vegetation, ranging from savannah to marshes to evergreen forest.

Fun Fact: The park is home to a special population of tree-climbing lions, which scientists speculate may have been forced into the unusual behavior to escape a nasty biting fly that devastated the Ngorongoro Crater lion population back in the 1960s.



Our Students Talk About Their Lake Manyara Excursion



Our Grade 6 students sat down to share their experiences and re-live their favourite parts of last month's Lake Manyara field trip.

Q1. What animals did you see there?

"Zebra", "elephant" and "gazelle"

Q2. What else did you like about the excursion?

"In the hot spring, you can boil an egg!"

"My favourite thing to see there was the hot springs. It has hot water, and the water is hotter and hotter when you go down (into the ground). When you touch it, it is very hot. When you dig, the deeper you go, the hotter the temperature," Harrison of 6D said.

The hot springs were popular with many, others also enjoyed seeing elephants "eating and moving around".

Q3. What is something you learned on the trip?

"In the hot spring, you can boil an egg," Harrison said. The other students all agreed that it was "pretty cool".

Q4. Where else would you like to go on excursion?

"Ngorongoro Crater" was the outright favourite destination.

Q5. How would you describe the excursion?

"Very awesome" and "good".

Stay in touch with what is happening around school!
Facebook, Twitter and Instagram provide you with current news and updates so you are always the first to know!

