



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

MARCH, 2016



Gemma and Dorice spread the word

It was Gemma's most anticipated return to Australia since St Jude's opened — and it hasn't disappointed.

For the first time, supporters from around Australia have been able to meet one of the St Jude's graduate's whose life has been changed forever because of their support.

Dorice has been telling her story to audiences across Australia, from packed school assemblies to country Rotary clubs and inner-city eateries.

As part of her whirlwind tour, she has visited Parliament House in the national capital, received a boomerang and tasted her first smear of Vegemite.

She's also generated plenty of excitement amongst our supporter base as a representative of the more than 1800 students whose lives are being transformed in Tanzania.

See photos from around Australia as Gemma and Dorice rub shoulders and shake hands with the supporters who make it possible on pages 5-6.

Help break the poverty cycle and support an educated future for Tanzania. For students like Dorice, a high-quality education makes a world of difference to them and many more in their communities. Find out more at www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html or by calling 0438 783 035.



National electricity supplier Songas gave St Jude's a Passion for Science awards thanks to the performances of award-winning students like Venance (left) and Martin.

National recognition for scientific passion

Following our three consecutive, successful years competing in the Tanzania Young Scientist (TYS) competition, sponsor and major electricity supplier Songas has awarded St Jude's a special Passion for Science Award.

"This is a major honour for our school," St Jude's Head of Department for Physics and Assistant Academic Master Nzinyangwa Mcharo said.

"For the past six years, St Jude's has shown its passion for science through the annual Science Day, which brings together young scientists from around the region to work on projects that will solve the problems facing many Tanzanians.

"We are so honoured Songas has recognised our Passion for Science and this award will inspire our students to continue the work they've been doing."

Songas also awarded St Jude's 2.5 million Tanzanian Shillings (Tsh), which was used to purchase two desktop computers.

The awards kept rolling in for 2015 Science Fair winners Venance and Martin, who earned a 400,000Tsh prize from Songas for their Smart House with Raspberry Pi entry.

It's another exciting step for Venance, who has been at

St Jude's since Standard 1 (Grade 1) and always valued his education, using his time to pursue passions for science, computers and engineering.

It's no wonder he and Martin are good friends, as Martin also began at St Jude's in Standard 1 and is enthusiastic about engineering and physics.

Having come from homes without plumbing and electricity, both students' families have also instilled the value of hard work. This, combined with dedication to their high-quality educations, has seen Martin and Venance on track to successful futures.

When their TYS entry took out first place in the Technology category last year, it capped off a great run in national science recognition for St Jude's. Ntekaniwa and Hashim won a special award for SMS Voting software the year before and in 2013 Liston and Riziki won second prize in the Technology category for their Hybrid Generator.

St Jude's has emerged as a national leader in science, with last year's inaugural Form 6 graduates placing in the top 10% of chemistry, physics and advanced mathematics in the national exams.

Contact The School of St Jude by emailing info@schoolofstjude.co.tz or calling 0438 783 035.



We are so grateful for the hard work of our excellent Medical Check Team, which visited Arusha this month.

Meet one of the students helped by our medical network

Most students bend the rules to get the answers; Simon had to bend the rules just to get the questions.

Sitting in an overcrowded government school classroom, Simon could not get close enough to read the board and his teachers did not notice he had a vision problem.

The determined young scholar came up with 'sneaky ways' to make sure he didn't fall behind.

"I did not ask for an answer but I had to ask 'what's the question?'. In class exercises I could not see on the board, but with the exams I could have the questions near," he explained.

"When I was in public school, I was first in exams but I was last when it came to class exercises."

Simon said the difference between his results would make teachers suspicious, and he did not want to think about what life would be like if he had not been enrolled at St Jude's.

"If I failed (at school), I wouldn't be here in Form 5. If I wasn't here in Form 5, I wouldn't be Rotaract Vice-President and I wouldn't be the Discipline Prefect," he said.



Glasses have made Simon's life so much easier.



Regular check-ups ensure Simon is able to reach his goals and develop as a leader.

"Glasses have made a very big difference – it's a very small thing that can make a very big difference. They have allowed me to participate in a lot of stuff, and work towards achieving my goals."

Simon said the attitude at St Jude's also improved his confidence.

"When I came to St Jude's I felt freedom," he said.

"It was a different system – it was more accommodating. If I couldn't see a question, I go for it, I would go to the front (of class) to check on the board.

"My teachers realised, and here they were friendly and concerned and did something about it. They questioned why it was happening."

Once the teachers noticed a problem with Simon's sight he was referred to the Medical Check Team, a group of international doctors who volunteer at St Jude's each year.

The Medical Check Team has had a long history at St Jude's, following up concerns raised by teachers and providing the expertise needed to diagnose conditions.

In March, the 2016 Medical Check Team of 15 medical professionals spent two weeks at St Jude's to ensure our students are healthy.

Simon was among a group of 12 students with vision problems who the Medical Check Team took to an optometrist in town. Additional requirements for follow-up equipment or treatment for the students is usually arranged through their parents.

This year marked the first time members of the Medical Check Team provided mentorship to St Jude's graduates who are interested in becoming doctors.



New students (here and below) were given eye tests as part of their overall medical checks.



Simon was excited to get his glasses in Grade 2.



Listen to long-term Medical Check Team member Dr Pip speak about the importance of their annual visits by going to our YouTube page and watching last year's Medical Check video.

Spreading the word about St Jude's in Australia



Left: Inaugural St Jude's graduate Dorice is the first ex-student to spread the word about the school in Australia. Below (clockwise from top left): Dorice and Gemma with former St Jude's volunteer Amanda in Melbourne; Gemma and Dorice with representatives from Presbyterian Ladies' College, Armidale; Dorice and Gemma with supporters from Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College; Gemma and Dorice outside Parliament House in Canberra; Dorice outside the SBS studios before her interview, with supporter Nat Suet.



Spreading the word about St Jude's in Australia



*Dorice soaks in the Autumn colours of Armidale, Gemma's hometown.
Above (clockwise from top left): Gemma and Dorice at Rotary Club of Sylvania with Woollooware High School student leaders; Gemma and Dorice with the St Jude's Tour Group at Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School; Gemma watches Dorice speak at an International Women's Day Luncheon in Sydney; Gemma at the Rotary Club of Sylvania; and Gemma and Dorice in Traralgon with Tina, proud sponsor of Dorice's favourite teacher Humphrey Nyka.*

Gemma and Dorice can't wait to continue spreading the word about St Jude's and meeting more of our supporters during April. Go to www.schoolofstjude.org/about-us/calendar.html to see where they'll be.



You helped Blandina, now she's helping others

March 8 marked International Women's Day. To celebrate, we highlighted one of the young women you've helped empower to change her community.

An unemployed single mother with no opportunity to escape poverty. That's what Blandina predicts her life would look like if she did not receive an education.

"I would just be a girl at home or maybe married because girls in Africa, if they don't get an education, they only end up getting married at a very young age," the 21-year-old said.

Blandina has witnessed the impact a lack of access to education has had in Tanzania, where the average girl is out of school before her 12th birthday.

According to the United Nations, only 22% of Tanzanian women have attended secondary school and one in 10 is pregnant before her 19th birthday.

Coming from a desperately poor family in the Arusha suburb of Unga Limited, Blandina thanks the supporters of St Jude's for giving her the life-changing opportunity to finish school with a high-quality education.

"I'm really excited about the education that I got from The School of St Jude and I'm happy to know I'm going to continue with my education. One day I can make a very big impact to the Tanzanian community," she said.

Blandina graduated as part of an inaugural Form 6 class that finished in the top 10% in Tanzania, with more than half the students receiving the top mark of distinction.

Of the 61 inaugural graduates 26 were female and there are plenty more to come, with girls making up 57% of the more than 1800 students at St Jude's.

In a country where women's education is sorely lacking, St Jude's is leading the way in the International Women's Day 2016 theme of "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality".

Blandina and her fellow 2015 graduates are already showing the ripple effect of a quality education by volunteering through the Beyond St Jude's Community Service Program.

Blandina is helping at her severely under-resourced government school, where she teaches commerce to classes of more than 70 students.

Together, Blandina and her fellow graduates are helping at 18 government schools and have reached more than 10,000 students.

Go to schoolofstjude.org to find out about helping a girl like Blandina, or call 0438 783 035.

Giving students a front row seat to education



St Jude's students have high-quality desks and chairs like these ones to help them study. Now government schools will, too.

Students from severely under-resourced government schools now have much-needed desks and chairs thanks to St Jude's.

Our Secondary Second and Academic Master Revocatus Pharao recently committed to donate 30 second-hand desks and chairs from St Jude's for a government school in need.

"There are students (in government schools) who sit on the floor right now, so the President has said to do whatever you can by June, to make sure every student is seated," Mr Pharao said.

Tanzania's recently-elected president, John Magufuli, has pushed to see all Tanzanian children in primary and secondary schools attend for free.

Even though free primary education in Tanzania has been in place for over a decade, parents have been expected to pay school contributions that they cannot afford.

The influx of students in already under-resourced government schools has caused a number of issues, such as a lack of furniture for classes.

St Jude's committed to provide almost 10% of the total need for class furniture in the district.

Mr Pharao said our original plan was to refurbish the 30 sets, but due to a shortened timeframe only a third could be completed before the deadline.

He said St Jude's will definitely continue donating used desks and chairs, as more students will continue to attend government schools.

St Jude's Facility Manager Ombeni Zelote also extended his expertise to the government school, by advising on customising and maintaining the desks and chairs to accommodate more students.

Our Beyond St Jude's team also works with our committed graduates to help alleviate the 47,000 teacher shortage in Tanzania's overcrowded government schools.

The majority of last year's Form 6 inaugural graduates volunteered to give back to their communities in thanks for their free education, by taking part in the Community Service Year before pursuing university.

Your donation to St Jude's goes beyond the school gates. Make an impact in one of the world's poorest countries by visiting schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html

President Julieth outlines plans for change



Coming from humble beginnings, Julieth is using her St Jude's education to become a leader, starting with her position as inaugural President of the Rotaract Club of St Jude's.

World Rotaract Week may have finished, but our Rotaract and Interact clubs are just getting started!

After being voted in by their peers last month, Rotaract President Julieth and Interact President Lisa are whole-heartedly seizing the chance to lead our clubs to do the best for their community.

"A good leader must put the people's interest before his or her personal interests, and must never feel that by being a leader they are above other people," Julieth explained. "Being a leader means that people trust you, give you a chance and believe you had the potential to lead them towards achieving a certain goal. We will achieve a lot for our community through Rotaract, and I am looking forward to seeing people in the community smile because of what we have done."

Julieth has thrived at St Jude's for the past 13 years, but she has not forgotten the difficulties her family has faced as part of living in a developing country.

Her family's home is like many in Tanzania – with no plumbing and intermittent electricity; water is collected

from a nearby tap for a small monthly fee and meals are prepared over a basic charcoal-fuelled stove or outdoors over a wood fire.

She's committed to solving the problems facing families in Tanzania and sees Rotary as the perfect way to use her education to make people's lives better.

Julieth and her fellow future Rotarians are already making a difference in their local communities. Under Julieth and Lisa's flourishing leadership, our 110 eager students have been busy getting plenty of community service projects into gear with the Rotary motto of 'service above self' in mind.

The first group of St Jude's Rotaract and Interact students have already been out to King'ori, where a new water harvesting system is providing clean rain water to students for the first time. Eventually, seven government schools will each receive a system through the project, which is run by NGO Save the Rain. Our responsible Rotaract and Interact students helped out by conducting basic health checks (measuring height, weight, etc) with students.

Did you know? Rotary has been a major part of the St Jude's story. Rotary clubs laid the first bricks at our Moshono campus and now the wheel is coming full circle, with St Jude's producing budding Rotarians.

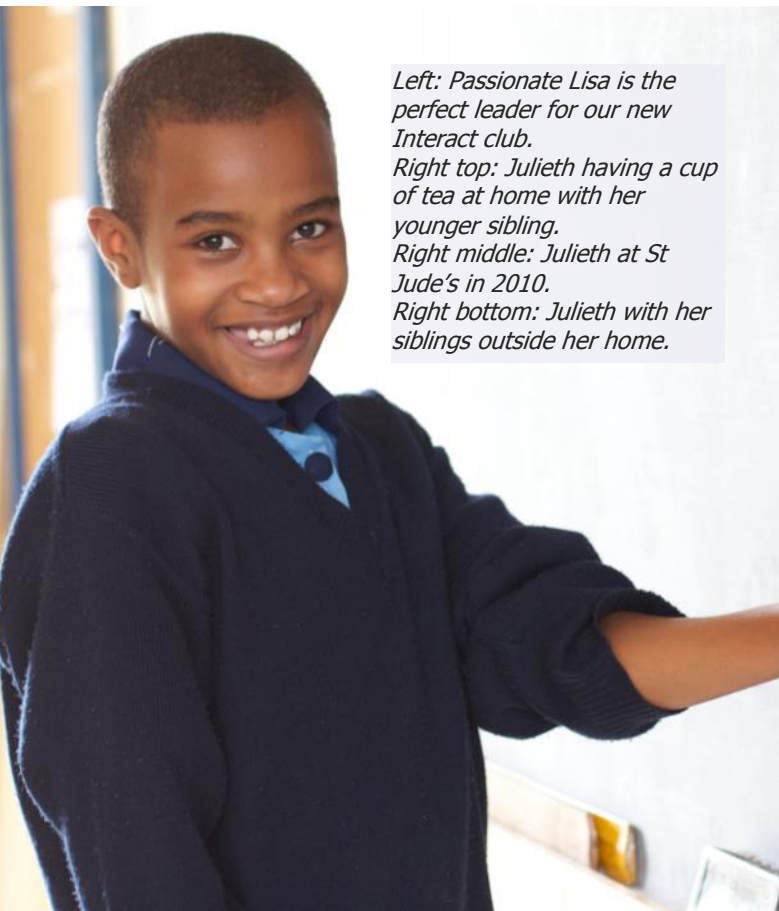
President Julieth outlines plans for change

Our Rotaract and Interact clubs' commitment to community improvement also saw them busy cleaning up the school and surrounding grounds recently.

"I believe there are people out there who need a helping hand," Julieth said, explaining why she's looking forward to seeing more of what Rotaract and Interact can do. "What Rotary is trying to do is to bring happiness into the world and, through their actions, change lives. I can't wait to see people's smiles and how their lives might be changed by a simple act of kindness."

St Jude's sponsor and Australian Rotaractor Seb Cox has been busy finalising the official co-sponsor paperwork to have approved by Rotary International, as well as helping arrange projects.

We're look forward to seeing what else they have in store!



*Left: Passionate Lisa is the perfect leader for our new Interact club.
Right top: Julieth having a cup of tea at home with her younger sibling.
Right middle: Julieth at St Jude's in 2010.
Right bottom: Julieth with her siblings outside her home.*

Go to www.facebook.com/schoolofstjude and like our page to get regular updates as our Interact and Rotaract clubs carry out projects.