



St Jude's News

APRIL 2017

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends



The School of St Jude is a project of The East Africa Fund

Queen's baton relay - Our school hosts heroes



Relay exciting times as the Queen's baton stops by The School of St Jude.

Story page 3



Our students share their thoughts on graduation and what comes next.

Story page 4



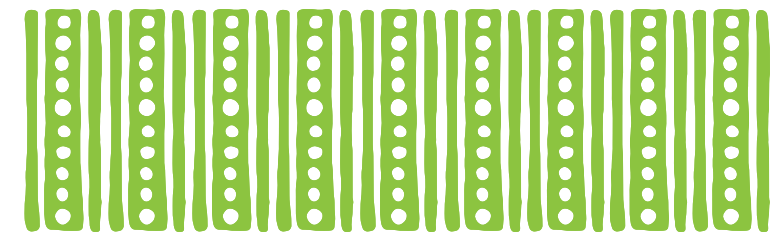
Meg keeps utter commitment St Jude's in mind as she plans for the future.

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- **World-wide friends:** His Excellency John Feakes (Australian High Commissioner) and Her Excellency Sarah Cooke (British High Commissioner) and Commonwealth Games champion Filbert Bayi with Gemma and St Jude's students.

- **Golden moment:** Gemma holds the Commonwealth Games Queen's Relay Baton.



Queen's baton relay

A day of champions at St Jude's

St Jude's had the honour of hosting the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay here at our primary school campus on 10 April.

The Queen's Baton Relay launched at Buckingham Palace on 4 April and we were so lucky to be part of the 388-day journey through the entire Commonwealth.

We were delighted to welcome H. E. John Feakes (Australian High Commissioner) and H. E. Ms Sarah Cooke (British High Commissioner), Commonwealth Games champion Filbert Bayi, the Tanzanian Olympic Committee and the baton bearers to St Jude's.

Our guests were treated to a special melodic moment—the three national anthems for Tanzania, Australia and Britain.

"Today was a spectacular day with all of the students involved," His Excellency John Feakes said.

"As an Australian I am incredibly proud of the work that has been done here at St Jude's and what Gemma has achieved in such a short period of time. Providing a quality education to kids who would otherwise miss out is really life giving," he said.

"I urge people that haven't heard about St Jude's to get involved."

Record-breaking athlete and Secretary General of the Tanzanian Olympic Committee Filbert Bayi carried the baton into the school and had a special message for our students.

"My wish is for more Tanzanians, especially from St Jude's to break my record! I've seen so many sports fields here," athlete Filbert said.

Filbert told our students that he believes success is attributed to these things, "without working hard, without being positive and without knowing what you are doing. Without having a vision, you will never perform".

"Coming here I was so surprised. I was born in Arusha ... this place is fantastic, especially the education", said Filbert.

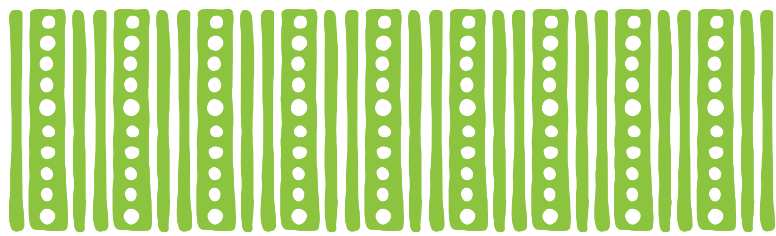
"I am sure in the 2020 Commonwealth Games there will be a participant from St Jude's."

Our students were each able to touch the baton. They were intrigued that there is a secret message from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II sealed in a special compartment to be revealed at the games.

The baton itself also has an interesting story. The materials used to make the baton represent past in the mahogany wood from the Gold Coast, present in the metal inscribed with each country it passes through and the future in the recycled plastic salvaged from the Gold Coast beaches and oceans.

It was a joyful occasion and ended with the students participating in their own mini-games!

There is always something interesting happening at our school! Visit us and see for yourself.



Looking back before stepping forward

Our soon-to-be graduates reflect on their time at St Jude's

In less than a month, Benjamin and Joice will graduate high school, a feat achieved by far too few of their peers in Tanzania. Both of these impressive young adults have been with the school since their early days (and ours)—it's going to be a big change leaving these walls!

When asked if they have been friends for a long time they both laughed, they are not friends, they are more like family now. If you ask Joice about Benjamin she will tell you that he is a hardworking, smart young man. "He's someone everyone can talk to! I know that after high school he will be a perfect gentleman and he will make it in whatever he chooses to do," she said.

Benjamin is equally quick to praise Joice. "Joice is absolutely inspirational! When she speaks everyone gains something new from her. Wherever she works in the future, her co-workers will be lucky."

With adulthood looming, the pair have been reflecting a lot on their early days at St Jude's.

Joice laughed when she remembered how uncertain she was of her own academic abilities.

"I remember an academic master quizzing me once after class. He asked me so many hard questions that I burst into tears. But he wasn't bullying me, he was helping me. After that day I was moved up to class six."

"This is what sets St Jude's apart from other schools. The teaching style is so good," said Benjamin.

"Not only are the teachers very skilled, but they are friendly and never resort to caning students like they do in many government schools—because of this I have not only realised what

- I want to do with my life, but I know I will achieve it, thanks to St Jude's!"
- "What stands out the most when I think back on my schools days, is the fun I had with my fellow students. In O-level we would tell funny stories in the common room for hours in the evenings... stories I cannot repeat here," he explained with a cheeky smile.
- "We would laugh until we cried! These were the best times of my life and I know I will miss these moments. It will be strange not to see everyone every day," Benjamin said.
- Graduation is generally an uncertain time for young people, but Benjamin and Joice have already got a plan. They have both signed up to participate in the Beyond St Jude's program.
- The pair have chosen to spend the next year teaching in their local government schools. Impressively, both feel completely at ease with the prospect of teaching classes of up to 100 students.
- Benjamin's reasons for joining the program go beyond simply wanting to help his community. "I want to see my impact in a tangible way," he explained.
- "I might start work and find that there is no teacher for my subject. I know that after a year I can look at the students and their results and see the effect that I had on my community," he said.
- For now, we are all looking forward to the big day when our students don the cap and gown.
- "Graduation is our way forward to higher education. We can't wait for our teachers, parents and supporters to come to St Jude's and share with us in what we have gained," Benjamin said.



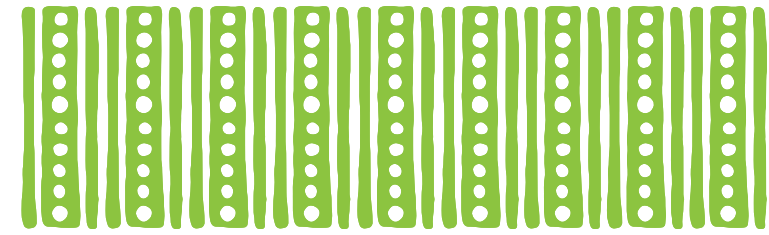
- Dynamic duo: Joice and Benjamin set their sights on life after graduation!



- Flashback: This studious pair have called St Jude's home for a long time and are now ready to embark on their next step towards higher education.



Learn more about the Beyond St Jude's program.
Go to: www.schoolofstjude.org/about-us/Beyond-St-Judes



Securing St Jude's future

Plan now to sustain your impact later

Unique Safari's Meg Katzman came across The School of St Jude years ago when she was looking for "interesting and unique cultural excursions" for her clients.

Not only did she find the perfect place to send visitors to in Arusha, Tanzania, but also an organisation with "utter commitment to the students in all capacities" and one that has impressed her so thoroughly that she has since decided to recognise St Jude's in her will.

"From the moment I stepped onto the St Jude's primary campus at Moshono (in Arusha) I was impressed with the integrity of the organisation," she said.

"Every aspect of daily life that could impact academic success was considered in the daily operations and policies and that was impressive indeed."

Meg knows what she's talking about when it comes to NGOs—she was CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities in Minneapolis, USA, for 16 years.

She said it was important for donors to know the impact their gift has on an individual or organisation overall, and that is something she found in St Jude's.

"I knew right away that I wanted to not only help the School but I wanted to have a personal satisfaction in helping a deserving student to realise their dreams," she said.

"I think The School of St Jude does a very effective job connecting me to Hadija (Meg's sponsored student since 2012) on a routine basis."

While Meg splits her time between the USA, where she is now on the board of American Friends of The School of St Jude, she also often visits Tanzania as Director of Sales and Marketing for Unique Safaris, which is based in Arusha.

"I have been blessed in my work life to have a number of meaningful job opportunities which made a difference in other people's lives," she said, explaining how important and rewarding her total of 33 years in fundraising has been.

"It is a joyful process because people are internally satiated when they find an organisation that shares their values."

In St Jude's, Meg has found an organisation that will ensure she has a lasting impact.

"In Judaism, charity and kindness are essential acts to live a spiritual life," Meg explained.

"There are actually eight levels of charity but the highest level is to give a gift that allows a person to be able to support themselves and live a life outside of poverty. So my gift to The School of St Jude fulfills me on a personal and spiritual level.

"At this point in my life I start to think about how my donations will live a life of their own and The School of St Jude is the perfect choice for me."



- **Face-to-face encounters:** Hadija shares a moment with Meg who has come all the way from America to visit her.

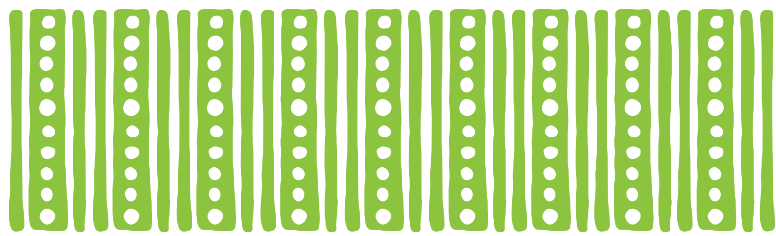
- **American Friends:** Meg and Cindy are both members of American Friends of The School of St Jude board and visited the school recently.



Join Meg and St Jude's in fighting poverty through education.

Download our Wills and Bequests Information pack:

www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/wills-bequests.html



Form 4 Graduation celebration

Our Form 4 graduates are getting ready for big things

Future doctor Monyaichi was recognised with a special award at our Form 4 Graduation after excelling in a number of subjects.

The 17-year-old, who joined St Jude's as a Grade 1 student 11 years ago, was recognised as the Best Overall Student after receiving top marks in Kiswahili, Chemistry, Biology and winning Best Citizen and Most Disciplined Student.

"I was very surprised to win this award, but I have worked very hard," she said.

"I want to become a doctor so I can help people in my society. To do that, I have to study very hard."

This year's Form 4 Graduation marked yet another milestone for our students. In a country where the average adult has just five years of schooling, our students are breaking the cycle.

Hundreds of families, friends and special guests were welcomed to our Smith Secondary Campus this month to celebrate the achievement in a colourful and vibrant ceremony.

- Each of the more than 200 students who graduated Form 4 at St Jude's in 2017 comes from an extremely disadvantaged background and would not have been able to make it this far in school without a St Jude's scholarship.
- "Education is the important thing in our daily life," Monyaichi said. "Education is also the key to success. Without education you cannot do well in life. If you take education seriously, it may also lead you from darkness to brightness of your life."
- For most students, this occasion marks the first time anyone from their family has finished Form 4, the equivalent of Grade 10 in Australia.
- "It is a very special milestone for these students so it was great that we were able to celebrate with their families," St Jude's Academic Manager Nestory Msoffe said.
- "For these families, this is an achievement they thought would never be possible – but the best part is that this is just the beginning."

Want to help a student like Monyaichi achieve their goals and break the poverty cycle? Start a sponsorship today.



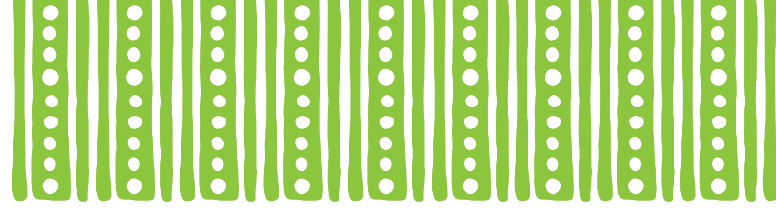
- All-rounder: Monyaichi won Best Overall Student with top marks in a number of subjects.



- Jumping for joy: The graduation ceremony is a colourful event.



- A bright future: Graduating from Form 4 is a major milestone for these students.



St Joseph's boys are back in town!

Visitors from Australia's great 'rugby nursery' score major points at St Jude's



- St Joseph's College were the embodiment of our school values on their annual visit.
- This photo was taken after the young men delivered a touching thank you speech and a special didgeridoo performance for Gemma.

- These generous and thoughtful young men worked hard repainting our play equipment.
- Their new sponsored students were especially excited.



- St Joseph's College is a proud sponsor of students at St Jude's and so are a number of their students and teachers!



- Gemma gave legendary Russell a hug after the special, surprise performance on his didgeridoo.



Whether you visit, sponsor, donate or spread the word - Thank you!

For more information contact: Gemma.S@schoolofstjude.co.tz
or head to our website: www.schoolofstjude.org