



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

ISSUE 6, 2014

Celebrating Cultures from Around the World



Last week, our secondary students proudly celebrated many nationalities at the annual St Jude's Cultural Day.

The students put on a range of creative performances spanning from hip hop, modern and traditional African dances as well as drama pieces showing a tribal King's lunch and the hard work of African mamas. A colourful fashion show was the highlight of the day.

"It was wonderful to see the creativity and imagination of our students," said St Jude's School Director Jon Ford. "It shows their wide range of skills on top of their amazing academic achievements."

"I was really impressed by the students' designs and performances and how Cultural Day builds a lot of confidence with the kids," said Sune Mushendwa, Director of Fnouk Studios, one of the local businesses that sponsored the event.

The event's other sponsor, Kase Stores Ltd, gave book vouchers for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place overall winners.

We had two special guests attend, including Lillian Deus, this year's Miss Arusha, and Hisia, a Tanzanian singer and songwriter. They both gave inspirational speeches to students about facing hard times in life.

Two talented St Jude's musicians, Elisante and Dorcas, put on a top performance and were surprised and excited to receive a recording session given by sponsor, Fnouk Studios, for their efforts.

Thank you to our sponsors! Kase Stores and Fnouk Music Studios. We love having local Tanzanian businesses supporting our students!

KASE
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Check out more vibrant Cultural Day photos and stories from around our school inside!

Moving into the future with Fibre Optics

Written by our volunteer IT Manager James Happell

In a country where a stable source of electricity is no guarantee, it should come as no surprise that the Internet infrastructure in Tanzania is behind most of the world. Internet connectivity in Tanzania has come a long way in the last decade, with both mobile and hard line access expanding exponentially across the country, but the rollout has been slow and the coverage within major cities is limited. The Internet is crippling expensive for most businesses, let alone individuals, as monthly charges for a broadband connection can run into the thousands of US dollars. This not only means that the country is falling behind in the technical revolution, but the education system within the country suffers as well. Primary and secondary students in government schools would be lucky to have stable access to electricity and working computers, let alone the Internet.

It is within this challenging context that we here at The School of St Jude are attempting to provide our students with an education to prepare them for a digital future. It is an ongoing challenge, trying to balance the students' need for high quality ICT facilities while ensuring our donors and sponsors with the absolute best use of their money.

For many years the school has relied on an expensive, slow and unreliable 'Radio' connection to receive their Internet. With recent upgrades in Arusha and a reduction in pricing across the country, we are now able to take advantage of the new fibre optic lines, which have recently been connected across the city.

As many of you will know, fibre optics are the latest in Internet connectivity infrastructure and provide fast, stable and consistent Internet on demand. A more reliable and fast Internet opens up a whole world of possibilities to the students that simply weren't available previously. These include online learning, video presentations, interactive collaboration and an infinite number of ways which we can incorporate the World Wide Web into the classroom.

Large projects like this require extensive planning which we have had in motion for almost a year. There are contracts and lawyers and engineers and endless layers of sales people to wade through before the project can begin. The most important step, naturally, was haggling over price. All prices are negotiable in Tanzania, after all! Following a significant amount of wheeling and dealing, we managed to save the school thousands of donated dollars, and look forward to providing everyone at the school, fast and efficient internet access.

After much planning, testing and installation, St Jude's has now upgraded the Internet connection on both campuses to a fibre optic connection. This connection will bring the school into the 21st Century and will support the development of our students, by assisting them in becoming technologically aware and preparing them for an interconnected, digital world.

Find out more about how fibre optic cables work!

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MwMkBET_5I



What St Jude's means for Esther

In Tanzania, while many children can go to a government school, sadly, they miss out on a quality education. Public schools in the country have very large class sizes and few textbooks and school supplies, which mean that students have difficulties learning the vital information they need in order to finish their schooling.

Esther started at St Jude's only a few years ago and her studies will open up lots of possibilities for her.

Esther lives with her mother and three siblings in a basic mud home. Mama washes clothes to earn a living so previously providing a good education would have been beyond her reach. Esther's dreams would have been limited, however now, with a free high-quality education, she has a future full of choices.

At St Jude's, Esther is able to develop her knowledge of English, Maths, Science and Computing in a high-quality learning environment. Lessons are fun and interactive and thanks to the nutritious meals which are provided, her brain power is enhanced in two ways!

Her teacher finds Esther a pleasure to teach and notes she tries hard in all of her subjects. "Esther is kind—she comes to me when she sees any issues in the classroom and everyday she prays for her fellow students and teachers," said Jasmine Severe, Lower Primary Mathematics teacher. "She loves her teachers and makes sure to say bye to all of us each day when she finishes school."

She has embarked on one of the most important journeys of her life and now has the chance to lift herself, and her family, out of the poverty cycle. One day we hope to see Esther in one of our graduating classes so she can go out into the world and make a difference.

Can you sponsor Esther?

If you would like to share Esther's journey please contact us today and find out more.

www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html



Above: Esther (second, from left) with some of her friends at St Jude's

Below: Esther with her Mum outside their home

Bottom: Esther in her school uniform waiting for class to start



Q and A with Globetrotting Volunteer US Musician



Above: US volunteer musician Tom Tafejian teaching songwriting and music to St Jude's secondary students.

Tom Tafejian has been teaching St Jude's students about the power of music as part of a year long, global volunteering trip. He's from Olympia, Washington and last September he set off to Armenia to work for a nonprofit organisation helping students create their own music. From there, he decided to teach music to students worldwide. Here is his interview with our Volunteer Media Relations Officer, Steph.

Tell us about your current project?

It started at the end of 2013, when I was volunteering in Armenia. While I was there I designed and facilitated a 10 week workshop that resulted in students creating, performing and recording their own songs. I really enjoyed it and wanted to bring it to numerous countries. I've spent four or five weeks in each country, working

with one school in each. First was Thailand, then I went to India, and then to Oman, Ethiopia and now Tanzania. There are nine countries in total that I'll be going to.

What work have you been doing with St Jude's students?

I started out doing rhythm, melodies and lyric writing exercises using images, metaphors and rhymes. I've been working with the Form 6s' on writing a graduation song; it's about what they've been through, their experiences and how they're excited about finishing school and moving on with their lives.

What ideas have been coming out of your work with students from across the world?

It's a huge mix. Most of my students are teenagers and most of what they want to express are love songs, but there are other ideas as well. Here at St Jude's, the song that I wrote with the primary school students during my first week is a song about education and its importance, and why it is the key to success in life.

Any last thoughts?

Regardless of where you're from, or your circumstances, every person wants to have a voice in the world, and I think music is an incredible way to express what you want to say.

Form 2 Student Kicking Goals

Innocent is in Form 2 and loves playing football. To fulfill his dreams he recently got the amazing opportunity to compete with talented youths across East Africa in Kampala, Uganda. He was one of 50 youths chosen to play one week of soccer matches as part of an event organised by Aspire 21 Football Dreams based in Qatar. The project aims to identify future talents in world football in developing countries. Innocent was the only one chosen from Arusha and shows promising ability in the sport.

He has been playing football since he was a young boy, backing his favourite team, Manchester United. He looks up to top players in the sport, including Christian Ronaldo. When he was young, he would often form a team with his friends to play. Now, he is able to take his talent to another level by being a part of these competitions.

"My mother is proud because it is my first time to have gone to Uganda, and last year I was one of the players to go and play in Dar es Salaam and she was really happy," he said.

From the event in Kampala, three of the best players will be chosen to compete in a competition in Qatar in January 2015.



Inspire Aspire Competition

A group of 15 of our Form 5 students took part in a global competition, for which they designed unique posters exploring their character, ideas, values, goals and people who inspire them. It's a project called Inspire Aspire and is an independent education programme as part of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. The top five of our students' posters are featured on their website www.inspire-aspire.org.uk/tanzania. The overall winners are yet to be announced. Here are a few of our students' quotes from the Top 5 posters:



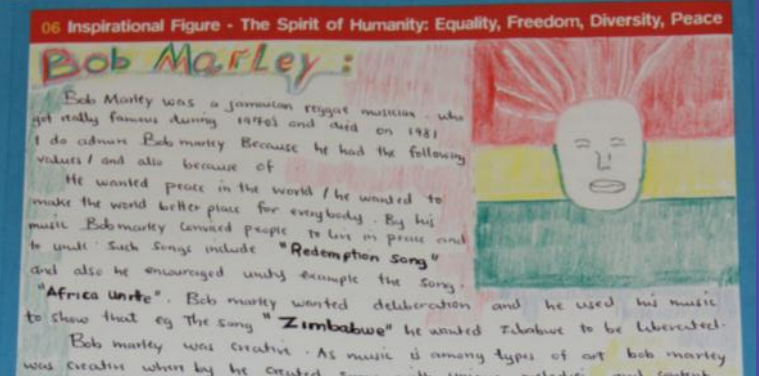
Godfrey

Inspirational figure: Former Tanzanian marathon runner, John Stephen Akhwari who represented his country in the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City. "He not only inspires me because we are both Tanzanians but also his commitment and courage gave me a strong sign of hope in my life."



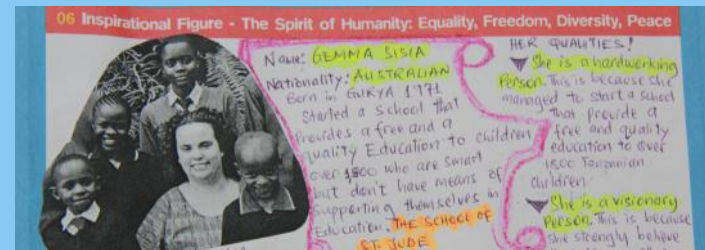
Hermenegildi

Inspirational figure: Bob Marley - "He wanted peace in the world; he wanted to make the world a better place for everybody. By his music, Bob Marley convinced people to live in peace and to unite. Such songs include 'Redemption Song' and also he encouraged unity, for example, the song 'Africa Unite.'"



Amani

Inspirational figure: Gemma Sisia - "I think her qualities: hardworking, kind, visionary, and many others helped her to stay focused and allowed her to turn the dream she had into a reality... Because of hard work and cooperation, she was able to share her dream amongst people and therefore could bring a great change to our society."

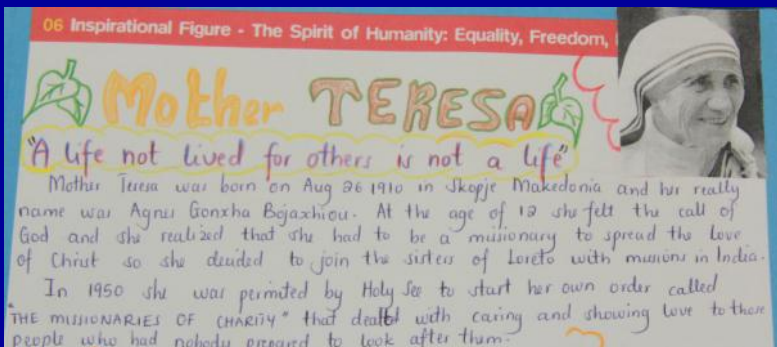


Olarip

Inspirational figure: Gemma Sisia - "She has inspired me because she has lived a life for others and she is still living for others who are in need. The only way to express my gratitude is giving back to the community what I have acquired at school and help others." **What kind of person do you want to be?** "Personally I want to be a man of the people, living a life for others. A generous and caring person who can live a humanitarian life of Mother Teresa and Gemma, a stoic life."

Peneuli

Mother Teresa is my inspirational figure because she impresses me a lot since she was ambitious throughout her journey and she never gave up in any way." **What kind of person do you want to be?** I want to be a responsible and caring person who is orientated by generosity upon others as well as an understanding person with quick, alternative strategies in providing help to all those who are in need like street children, orphans, widows and sick people."



US meets Tanzania

At St Jude's, we are passionate about professional development! To make sure our teachers are the best teachers they can be we are always looking for opportunities for them to learn new teaching methodologies to use in their classes.

This month, a group of teachers from Kentucky, USA, volunteered their time to come to our school to share their knowledge and expertise with our Tanzanian teachers. All of the teachers except for two came from Louisville Collegiate School and had to apply to be part of the program. Collegiate and St Jude's are developing a partnership and it's the second year that the program has been running at our school. We are so happy because it has been a big success.

Each of the American teachers teamed up with one of our Tanzanian teachers to do team teaching, planning and delivering lessons from the Tanzanian curriculum together. Some took a biology class while others took technology, English and various subjects. Our teachers were enthusiastic to learn from them about how to improve their teaching skills and they were able to absorb the information easier as the American teachers were by their side and in the classes.

James Calleroz White, who is the Head of the Louisville Collegiate School, visited classes and held a series of conversations about teaching, learning and leading.

"We're very happy with how the exchange program worked and we found that with an extra teacher you got a better lesson as the student was able to learn something that had much better detail because of the good preparation and co-operation between the two teams," said St Jude's Upper Primary School Headmaster, Peter Manjalla. "Our upper, lower and secondary school leaders have decided to work together to look at more ways to improve maths results and we're excited about searching for new ways to improve learning and teaching."

The US teachers also set up a 'club' with the Standard 7 students so they could do fun yet enriching activities with them outside the classroom. They included science demonstrations, vocabulary games, outdoor running games and a range of other exercises.

The American teachers learnt a lot from our Tanzanian teachers as well. They learnt about having more designated reading times for students, and they received an overview about Tanzania and Tanzanian culture which they plan to share with students and colleagues back in the US.



A Day in the Life of Lower Primary Teachers

St Jude's has 45 dedicated and committed Lower Primary Tanzanian teachers who teach our students an enriched curriculum including art, music and IT. Across the school, students are in smaller class sizes than in Government schools which allows teachers to get to know the students really well as individuals and intervene and support when issues arise. They also enjoy doing extra-curricular activities and excursions.

"I am very proud of the teachers as they are constantly trying new ideas to help the students learn even better and listen to the advice of teacher mentors," said St Jude's School Director, Jon Ford. "The warmth and affection the students have for their teachers is made clear when the teachers are given awards in assembly and the students cheer and shout with such excitement for every teacher that the noise is deafening!"

Here's an insight into their day:

8:20am – English teacher Julius John is teaching his class about the different types of verbs and how to use them in sentences. Many of our students have a very basic understanding of English so Julius asks direct questions about verbs and grammar, interacting with the students by inviting them up to the board to write sentences, which in turn helps them retain what they have learnt.

9:35am – Science Teacher Bertha Claud holds up a handful of books about food to encourage her class to go to the library and read more about the topic. In Tanzania, many people have limited understanding about nutrition and which foods are needed to boost the body's immunity. However, in Bertha's class, they are fast learning about which foods give them proteins, carbohydrates and vitamins.

10:00am – English teacher Elineema Kileo is testing his class on the spelling and tenses of different English words by getting students to come up to the board and write one on the blackboard.

10:30am – Time for students and teachers to have some chai (milky tea) and buns.

12:40pm – Students and staff take a break for lunch

1:20pm Bertha takes an afternoon class for a Kiswahili lesson, the language spoken in Tanzania and across East Africa. These classes are the only ones at St Jude's which are not taught in English.

2:15pm – Julius also takes another class for a Kiswahili lesson.

3:10pm – Students meet in their homeroom before catching the bus at 3:30pm.

If you're interested in sponsoring a teacher and helping with their professional development, visit our website today!

www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html



Cultural Day Fashion



See more photos and videos of Cultural Day
on our Facebook page!

<http://on.fb.me/1tdIg1p>



Thank you for sending our students on excursions!

We live in one of the world's most beautiful areas with internationally renowned safari parks on our doorstep. Many of our students would not get the chance to see some of the animals they love like elephants, lions and cheetahs, so throughout the year, St Jude's takes them on excursions to local safari parks. It helps them to understand more about the exotic animals of their homeland.

Other excursions include getting up close to reptiles at Arusha Snake Park, while our older students get an insight into different professions. They recently headed to Kilimanjaro International Airport to understand more about becoming a pilot and the world of aviation.

Thanks so much to everyone who helped out our recent 'Make Your Mark Appeal' including those who purchased lots of excursion packs – we're happy to say that we have reached our goal and that, as promised, a generous family matched the full \$200,000 worth of donations.

**THANK
YOU**



You can give our students an engaging and interactive education by donating today!

www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html