



**The School of St Jude**

# St Jude's News

*Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends*

ISSUE 7, 2013



## Felix is coming to Australia!

Felix Mollel is a much loved member of the St Jude's family and he is coming to tour Australia in October! It is the first time that Felix will be travelling outside of Africa and he is so excited to be catching up with St Jude's loyal supporters.

Felix is from the Maasai tribe who are semi-nomadic people in Northern Tanzania and he works as a Visitor Coordinator at St Jude's, one of 450 Tanzanians who are employed at the school.

We would love it if you were able to arrange an event with Felix as your guest speaker. It could be a Rotary, business or school presentation that you might welcome

him to. Or you might have a media contact that would like to interview Felix while he is in the country.

To find out more about the tour or to organize an event, please email us at [australia@schoolofstjude.org](mailto:australia@schoolofstjude.org).



Watch the clip of Felix talking about his upcoming tour.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHUtLMptss>

# Students Show Off New Found Talents

Students, teachers, volunteers and staff participated in our first Extra Curricular Activities (ECA) Day in July.

It was a lot of fun to watch our Upper Primary students make art out of recycled materials, build a mini city, play soccer, dance well-rehearsed choreography, juggle, do origami, knit and many other activities.

In preparation for ECA Day, many in our volunteer and staff teams offered to spend time with the students teaching them a set of new skills.

St Jude's is working hard to educate a future generation of leaders for the Tanzanian workforce, and we strongly believe that having the opportunity to try a variety of new skills is an essential part of a well-rounded education.



You can see more photos from ECA Day on our facebook page.  
Follow this link to go straight to the album <http://on.fb.me/15tFXJp>



# Francis and Mr Bornfirst Share A Love of English

Francis is a diligent, Lower Primary student who is dedicated to his studies and received straight A's in all of his subjects last term. His favourite subject is English and he loves that he has the opportunity to learn the language at St Jude's.

Like all St Jude's students, Francis and his family live in circumstances that are hard for many to comprehend. They rent a one-room home made out of mud and sticks in a compound, with other families. The house has no electricity or internal plumbing and his family use buckets of water for cooking, drinking, washing and cleaning.

Francis' family are so thrilled that he is being educated at St Jude's so he has the chance to break free from the cycle of poverty that their family are in.

Francis' English teacher, Mr Bornfirst, is a very animated and charismatic member of the St Jude's staff. Our students, staff and visitors are all impressed with the fun and engaging assemblies that he hosts.

Mr Bornfirst's favourite topic to teach is English tenses, because he feels it is the best way of knowing how to express yourself and become good communicator.

Mr. Bornfirst is heavily involved in St. Jude's activities and since becoming part of the staff group in 2007 has also taught mathematics and been a part of the students' Music Club and the School's Discipline Committee.

"There is a very big need for educated citizens and I encourage my students to have great visions for themselves and their nation," says Mr. Bornfirst.



You can support Francis and Mr Bornfirst by signing up for a student + teacher sponsorship package. You'll receive updates from both of them throughout the year. Visit our website at:

[www.schoolofstjude.org/Donations/sponsorships.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/Donations/sponsorships.html)

# Word of Mouth Continues To Be One Of The Best Ways To Support

From the moment that Gemma told her family and friends that she was building a school in Tanzania, it has been word of mouth that has spread the St Jude's story around the globe – from Armidale Rotary Club to an International Rotary convention, from a radio interview to a book being published, from a visit from a tourist to an international foundation's support.

And the result is thousands of young Tanzanians receiving a free education; thousands of Tanzanians benefiting from having jobs and supplying goods and services; and thousands of people around the world who have the satisfaction of knowing they are helping achieve this through their support.

So, when Alexandra Schaerrera, a passionate and dedicated St Jude's volunteer, told all her friends around the world about the important project in which she was involved in Tanzania, her friends Lisa and Laura Ledermann from Switzerland were inspired to visit the school. On returning home, they were determined to raise money for the desperately needed school water supply.



This year the Ledermann family arranged a spectacular Charity Dinner in Zurich. Their friends and associates enjoyed top class entertainment, a sumptuous meal, a rowdy bidding frenzy during the auction of donated luxury holidays and a compelling presentation on The School of St Jude.

Through this grand gala Mr Ledermann hoped to raise \$50,000 – to everyone's surprise, a cheque for 140,000 Swiss Francs (\$150,000) was presented to Kim at the end of the evening! Not only has the school been able to purchase the tanks for their vital clean water supply but also a floor of the new boarding accommodation for the senior students has been funded and fully kitted out for the 24 students who will be enjoy living and studying there.

**Thank you, Alex and the Ledermann family from all of us at St Jude's!**

Left: Lisa and Laura Ledermann; Right: Alex and her husband Ross, proudly displaying the generous donation from our Swiss supporters.



**Who can you tell?** If you've got friends, family or colleagues that you think would be interested in the St Jude's story, then why not get them together for an informal event? Email us to find out what resources are available to help you along the way [info@schoolofstjude.co.tz](mailto:info@schoolofstjude.co.tz)



# July Cultural Tour

As part of the St Jude's visitor program, supporters are able to choose from four organised Cultural Tours where they can experience the best of St Jude's and Tanzania. Tour participants are given a set itinerary which includes time at the school interacting with our students, staff and volunteers, then they head off on safari through some of the world's best national parks and on to Zanzibar. Sounds amazing doesn't it?

In July we had 16 visitors join the tour and they had a blast. You can see them here with Gemma in front of one of the famous St Jude's buses, catching up with our inquisitive students at the boarding campus and visiting a local Maasai Choir who gave them insight into the semi-nomadic tribal group.



**If you would like to join one of the St Jude's Cultural Tours, visit our website to find out all of the dates:**

[www.schoolofstjude.org/VisitUs/tour.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/VisitUs/tour.html)



# Looking Towards A Bright Future

The sky's the limit for our students who are already mapping out their careers in science, aviation, engineering, medicine, teaching, journalism and other fields. St Jude's has equipped our students with the confidence and skills to believe in themselves and plan for their futures. We have well-stocked libraries, state-of-the-art science laboratories, ICT labs, art and music facilities. Throughout the year, St Jude's also invites a range of guests to come and talk to our students about their jobs and how to enter into various industries. They've had visits from female civil and electrical engineers, some who have worked at The Nelson Mandela Institute. The guests explained to the students about the many facets of the job and the education needed to get into the field. The students asked many questions and a few stayed after the talk to get further information about the different branches of engineering. The students found the female engineers very

inspiring and saw them as role models for their future ambitions.

They have also had a guest talk from freelance journalist Adam Bemba, from Canada, about pursuing careers in media. He spoke to them about his education and how he worked as a radio journalist in his home country. Adam explained to them about the role of the media and the need for good journalists in the development of a country like Tanzania. St Jude's has many talented creative writers who are continually looking for an outlet to publish their work. Some students planned to meet with Adam at the local Mambo Jambo radio station, so they can continue to learn about journalism.

Students also learnt about the exciting world of aviation when local pilot, Captain Philemon Kisamo gave a talk to the class. They learnt about the different types of aircrafts and the courses available. St Jude's exposes its students to critical and creative thinkers so they can have many choices when they are deciding their future careers.



**If you're visiting St Jude's and you'd like to present a careers topic to our students, be sure to let us know.**

**Email us on [info@schoolofstjude.co.tz](mailto:info@schoolofstjude.co.tz)**



## Meet St Jude's Green Thumbs

Green spaces are an essential part of our school community. This is where our students socialise and play during breaks. We feel fortunate to be able to provide a stimulating environment for children to learn, play and be happy.

Take a look behind the scenes to see the green-thumbed troop that make St Jude's a haven for plants. We have 17 gardeners working across all three campuses to keep the grounds of our school clean and beautiful. Among other tasks:

- They sweep the grounds, to remove the leaves that have fallen off the trees overnight;
- They bundle and pile up all dead branches and leaves;
- They water the plants, taking care to remove weeds, wilted flowers and dead leaves.

It's not uncommon to find our *green thumbs* carting plants and soil around, perched on a pergola or wall, or hunched over a patch of garden, either replacing a plant or combing the soil with their hands to remove debris. These are the people that make it possible for us to enjoy the nurturing power of plants.

Pictured above are the gardening team from the Moshono Campus; Middle: Eliahu raking the leaves at the Lower Primary Campus; Bottom right is Edward.



General donations to St Jude's can be directed towards any number of things including non-academic salaries (like our gardening team), general maintenance costs to keep our school looking in tip top condition.

<http://www.schoolofstjude.org/Donations/donate.html>



# Cultural Day Fashion

Our secondary students were influenced by earthy and bright colours and the free-flowing styles of Africa during their fashion show at Cultural Day. Kangas (traditional patterned fabric) and symbols of Africa featured prominently in their designs, which they created and stitched together. The students coordinated designs to fit the theme 'The Brave Do Not Abandon Their Culture.' The budding student designers showed great promise as they drew on traditional clothes from their homeland and modernised it through flowing dresses, edgy hairstyles and accessories. "I loved the show and it was full of different cultural designs and costumes," says Form 2 student, Fatima. Judges awarded prizes to the best fashion designs.

St Jude's would like to send a big THANK YOU to Cultural Heritage for supporting our Cultural Day event. Cultural Heritage is a community hub where the past and present of over 120 Tanzanian tribes can be viewed. The Centre boasts various carvings, artworks, artifacts, clothing and books.

We are truly grateful for their sponsorship of prizes for the event.





# The Power of Song

If you have travelled to Africa, you can often be drawn to the uplifting voices of church choirs as they sing to the heavens. More than 140 secondary students at St Jude's have also formed their own choirs and are learning to find their voice, build confidence and let their talent shine. They have been singing hymns and performing at the school's Sunday Mass or churches across the Arusha region. The students are aware of the wonderful educational opportunities they have been given thanks to our supporters and singing in the choir is one way they are giving back to the

community. "At the beginning, when the choir was formed, they were hesitant but they have proven they can sing superbly in harmony and rhythm," says the Smith Campus's Academic Deputy, Seraphine Lyimo. Their main focus is on spiritual music. "They're singing for the churches because we want them to do this kind of community service of sharing their talents and serving to bring joy to others," says Sr. Eliza Fernandes.



## In Other News...

### St Jude's Lends A Hand to Fire Affected School

It has been a sad time for more than a hundred school children at neighboring D'alzon Girls Secondary School in Arusha after a fire tore through their dormitories and destroyed all their belongings. The girls lost everything including clothes, bedding and blankets. Luckily, no one was injured in the large blaze. Gemma heard about the school's plight and offered for the students to stay at St Jude's. Most have been staying at the Moivaro boarding houses where they are being fed, looked after and taken to classes. "It has been devastating for the D'alzon school to have lost so much and the least that St Jude's could do is offer them accommodation for as long as they need," says the Australian St Jude's Founder, Gemma Sisia. The D'alzon students have been staying at the boarding houses for the past few weeks and it is uncertain as to when they can return to their school. "We cried a lot after the fire and we're now trying to raise money to buy the students more uniforms and supplies," says Sr. Rose from the D'alzon school. The school is looking for any support that they can get and St Jude's will be willing to help them.

### We're Looking for Volunteer Medical Check Team

Are you a health professional who needs a change, wants a challenge and would like to volunteer in an area of need, but can't make a lengthy commitment?

Then this may be the opportunity for you!

We're currently seeking applications for volunteers to join our medical check team from 10-21 March 2014. Volunteers will need to be available for the full two weeks.

Check out our website to get more details including an information pack, skills required and contact details.

[www.schoolofstjude.org/ContactUs/jobs.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/ContactUs/jobs.html)

### Spaces Still Available for Ultimate Challenge

St Jude's Ultimate Kilimanjaro Challenge is an 18 day tourism, marathon and mountain climbing event that kicks off in February 2014. Participants can choose to climb the mountain then run in a full 42-km marathon, a 21-km half marathon or a lighter 5K itinerary. Anyone can opt to take part in just one of the two sporting events. It's bound to be an adventure of a lifetime! We're thrilled to have New York Personal Trainer Anne-Michelle Barrett on board to give participants tips and motivation along the way. Register your interest today by emailing [visitor@schoolofstjude.co.tz](mailto:visitor@schoolofstjude.co.tz)

