



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

ISSUE 7, 2015



Thousands line-up for a chance at an education

More than 1700 students spilled through the St Jude's gates early on a Saturday morning.

Underprivileged youngsters escorted by their parents to wait in the crowd as early as 6.30am, with testing to enter Standard 1 (Grade 1) at St Jude's set to begin at 8am. The mass of excited, giggling children came through the school in groups, a logistical challenge for our staff who were on-hand to direct them through the process.

Just after 3pm the children had all been tested, with 108 meeting the English, maths, science and age requirements.

It's the start of a long, arduous process that defines what St Jude's is about. Read more on page 2 inside.

Each student who gains entry will need sponsorship.
Visit www.schoolofstjude.org or phone 0438 783 035
to find out how you can sponsor.

Thousands line-up for shot at an educated future

"We've spent years refining our student selection process to ensure it's a fair, effective and thorough process that guarantees worthy and deserving families are receiving the benefit of a St Jude's education," school founder Gemma Sisia said. "By helping the families that need it most we're able to break the cycle of poverty by providing a free, high-quality education."

By the time the weekly tests finish in November we will have tested an estimated 10,000 students, according to Community Relations Manager Charlotte Peyrat-Vaganay.

With only 150 spots available in St Jude's each year it is essential we get the selection process right. Our Community Relations team will spend the next three months visiting the homes of students who pass the academic test to ensure they pass the strict poverty requirements.

"It's a very tough job but it is essential that we get it right," Charlotte explained. "We need to make sure we are finding the people who need our help the most. When the students have been selected and you see the difference it makes for their families, it is worth it."



Potential St Jude's Standard 1 students spent much of their Saturday being tested, in the hope of a free, quality education.



Meet Dorice—St Jude's newest ambassador

The value of a quality education has not been lost on St Jude's graduate Dorice, who has been putting hers to good use in her current role as a biology teacher.

The 2015 graduate remembers spending her primary school years crammed five-to-a-desk in a class of more than 100, fighting through hunger while trying to learn.

"When I was in a government school it was hard. Sometimes the teacher was at class; sometimes she wasn't," Dorice said.

"We spent from morning until night without any food and we didn't have any books."

Driven by her dream of becoming a doctor, Dorice finished in the top 10% of her primary school and earned a scholarship at St Jude's, where she was given everything needed to excel in her studies.

"If I wasn't at St Jude's I don't think I would have finished Form 6 (Grade 12) because the conditions (at government schools) are so tough, without teachers, without books," Dorice said.

"My parents couldn't afford to send me to a private school.

"Because I was at St Jude's I passed Form 4 (Grade 10) very well and Form 6 very well."

Finishing high school is a major achievement in Tanzania. Of the 1.63 million students in Tanzanian that enrolled in their first year of school in 2002 like Dorice, less than 39,000 of them graduated from Form 6 this year. That is just 2.4%.

Next year Dorice hopes to study medicine, a profession desperately needed in a country that has one of the worst doctor shortages in the world (1 physician per 100,000 people).

"Here in Tanzania there are very few doctors," she said. "I want to be a gynecologist because there are very few and there are lots of women's diseases that are not addressed."

Before Dorice embarks on her tertiary education she is completing her Community Service Year at the high school just around the corner from her childhood home.



Returning to a government school has made her even more aware of the need for a quality education like the one she received at St Jude's.

"When I was in Form 1 (at St Jude's) we were only 27 students (in a class) but (at the government school) there are 57," Dorice said.

"They have no teachers. I remember the first day I came they had no biology teacher here. From January to July the Form 1s had no biology teacher.

"I started an introduction to biology.

"They really loved me because I was telling them what to do, advising them how to study, how to revise. I'm using what I learnt at St Jude's to help them."

Dorice will become St Jude's first graduate to tour Australia with Gemma next March and April. Email australia@schoolofstjude.org or phone 0438 783 035 to book her for any conferences or major events.



Fun was had by all during St Jude's recent extra-curricular activities fair.

Students become the teachers at activities fair

Permaculture vegetables, tie-dyed textiles and electronic games inspired visiting students to learn more at St Jude's biggest ever extra-curricular activities (ECA) fair!

More than 100 parents, teachers and students from 11 neighboring schools visited our Moshono campus for the special event which offered interactive stalls, interschool sports and a theatre showcase.

St Jude's students presented vibrant exhibition stalls and eagerly engaged their peers from local government schools to have a go at something new.

"Engaging with the community and fostering leadership skills are fundamental principles of St Jude's, and today is a perfect example," said Upper Primary Headmaster Peter Manjalla. "The math quiz stall was the busiest and very noisy - that's what we call 'healthy noise' - excited children enjoying sharing in learning together."

Standard 5 student Andrew represented the St Jude's vegetable garden and enjoyed teaching visiting students about sustainable food production.

"In this garden we don't use chemicals; we use manure for fertilizer and the grass we put around the plants keeps insects away," he said.

Garden mentor, Jaffett Ryan, said gardening teaches students about irrigation, self-reliance and nutrition.



"This year the students have decided to clear much more land for vegetables and one day they hope to supply the school," he said.

ECAs or student clubs are a part of the Tanzanian national curriculum that St Jude's places special emphasis on, as we believe a well-rounded education helps to produce strong and confident future leaders. Our clubs are student-initiated and student-led, with two teachers to oversee activities.

Peter worked in government schools before coming to St Jude's and says unfortunately many Tanzanian schools find it difficult to run and resource clubs.

"Because students don't get lunch at government schools, a lot will leave before the end of the day when clubs are supposed to be held. With all of the problems teachers are facing they often prefer not to run the clubs," he said.

Several schools performed songs, dances and student-devised theatre throughout the afternoon and teams from Wema, Hope and Moshono schools joined St Jude's in exhibition games of football and netball. At the end of the day, St Jude's presented the visiting teams with brand new balls.

The students were so excited and the teachers couldn't believe it, said Peter, who presented the gifts. "I told them, we want your children to remember the day that they have had, relationships are important to us," he said. "We want to use every tool we can to meet our goals of nurturing learning and sharing with our community, so we have already started on plans to make the next extra-curricular fair even better."



We value women's education

Less than a quarter of the secondary school-age female population in Tanzania attend school.

The School of St Jude is proving this can change.

International women's empowerment facilitator, Ginette Collin, was blown away when she held a fortnight of after-school classes with our female secondary students.

"The St Jude girls were much more confident than I expected," said Ginette, founder of the Malaysian-based non-profit PurpleLily project.

"When I asked a question everybody would raise their hands – they were really willing to participate in any activities and discussion. It was great."

PurpleLily focuses on women and girls from low social economic backgrounds who are considered disadvantaged – an important area to improve in Tanzania, as UNICEF's latest figures show only 24.4% of females attend secondary school in the country.

St Jude's has more than 50% female students, who are regularly proving they can achieve anything if they are given the opportunity.

A-Level student Omega was one of 70 who took part in the PurpleLily program, which featured classes on Goal Setting, Building Confidence, Communication and Positive Thinking. "(It) was really helpful. It makes us confident and positive about ourselves, and helps us to be motivated to achieve our goals," she said.

The PurpleLily program has proved to be the ideal partnership, with our own Purple Lily club now established and committee members currently being voting in. It is hoped younger students will therefore



PurpleLily founder Ginette Collin was impressed with what she saw from our senior female students.

also benefit from the program, particularly as the positives of giving women a good education are proven. Not only does it help break the cycle of poverty, educated women are less likely to die in childbirth or marry early and against their will, and are more likely to have healthy children that they send to school.

Ginette said the Positive Thinking and Building Confidence classes were particularly popular, and the students learnt a number of useful tools, like using a mantra or affirmation to build confidence.

"The PurpleLily workshops have helped me improve my confidence. I have learned about body language and how to maintain a positive mind. Some of the tools like the Mantra really help me to feel good about myself," student Karen said.

Ginette was obviously thrilled the program had gone over so well. "I just thought that (St Jude's) was the perfect school to start with. It is so academically-focused, but also there's also a really good culture there of working. I'm really happy I started with St Jude's," she said.

Ginette and her husband Brian sponsor a St Jude's student and teacher, and Brian volunteered here during extended summer holidays in 2010 and 2011.

"We've been linked to St Jude's for a long time, so I was happy to bring Purple Lily there for the first time in Tanzania," she said.



**Find out more about Purple Lily at
<http://purplelily.org>**



The group from Dominican College who recently raised €35,000, here on a visit to St Jude's in Tanzania.

Putting the fun in fundraising

Birthday parties, movie preview and music nights... fundraising for St Jude's is a celebration! Our thoughtful and generous supporters are constantly inspiring us and we hope their stories can inspire you!

Here are just a few of the fun ways our supporters are raising money for St Jude's:

1. Rolling out the red carpet

Former volunteer Amanda Summons and her friend Berlin Liew (a St Jude's sponsor) recently hosted a screening of Pitch Perfect 2 - a film featuring our very own ambassador Rebel Wilson (below right)! They raised more than \$1000 and Berlin's employers, the CSR department of Dentsu Aegis, also chipped in with \$800. Talk about a Hollywood ending!

2. Sharing a birthday with St Jude's

Helping St Jude's can be a perfect way to celebrate a birthday - whether you are just hitting double digits or turning 80! Australian Natasha raised \$439 by asking friends to donate to St Jude's for her 10th birthday. Sydney-sider Jan Payten had the same idea for her 80th birthday and raised \$2000! Great minds think alike.

3. Getting the community involved

St Jude's wouldn't be where it is today without the support of schools and community groups. Ten students and two teachers from the Dominican College in Wicklow in Ireland recently raised an incredible €35,000

(\$AUD54,000) by holding more than 20 fundraisers in their community! Schools in Australia have got involved too. Inspired by our own Colour Their World appeal, Balgowlah North in Sydney encouraged everyone at school to dress in the colours of the rainbow... which saw a pot of gold worth \$1067.90 go to St Jude's.

4. Test your limits and achieve even more!

Get your family and friends excited by setting a fundraising challenge. You can run a marathon, do a road trip or climb Kilimanjaro! Fundraising challenges are a great way to raise money while having fun. Early next year, 18-year-old Aussie Steve Jaggard will use pedal power to generate interest in St Jude's, by riding more than 1000km. He hopes to raise \$10,000 for the estimated 20-day trip from the Adelaide Oval to the MCG (Melbourne Cricket Ground) through his event, The Light Ride. Go Steve!



Inspire others by holding your own fundraiser.
Visit www.schoolofstjude.org or phone
0438 783 035 for more information.

Daniel's on his way to greatness



Growing up in a poverty-stricken area of Arusha, Daniel dreamed about one day going to a top international university and using his education to help his community.

Thanks to St Jude's – he has that opportunity.

Daniel has been selected into the African Leadership Academy (ALA), where he will complete the two-year pre-university program alongside some of the top scholars on the continent.

"I've always dreamed of going to Harvard, now it's possible," Daniel said. "Without The School of St Jude this wouldn't have happened. I wouldn't be ready for this opportunity without the education I have received."

He follows in the footsteps of former St Jude's student Liston, who was granted an ALA scholarship last year and recently returned to guide his former classmates through a weekend workshop.

Their achievements prove St Jude's is succeeding in its mission to break the cycle of poverty by providing a free, high-quality education to Arusha's brightest and poorest students.

"My parents don't have much money so they would have never been able to afford to send me to a school like St Jude's," Daniel said. "I would have gone to a

government school and it would have been very hard to pass Form 4."

Schools in Tanzania are under-resourced and most students face an uphill battle to graduate high school.

Of the 1.63 million Tanzanians that started school in 2002, fewer than 39,000 graduated from Form 6 this year. That is just 2.4%.

"At St Jude's you are given a better opportunity," Daniel said. "You are given everything you need; food, quality teachers, plenty of books and resources."

Daniel has become a shining example of the values St Jude's teaches. He started a microfinancing program which helped 30 women in his local village and became a key part of his ALA application.

"It helped them raise money to get their kids through school and pay for their homes," he said. "We structured it in such a way to help everyone involved."

Daniel hopes to do similar projects when he returns to Tanzania after completing his schooling.

"When I finish I will come back to Tanzania," he said. "Where else can I go? This is my home. People look up to me. In my village people are looking up to me. They know I have a very great opportunity to help my village."

Cultural Day 2015

Our students explored their cultural roots with boundless energy, making our sixth annual Cultural Day an event to remember. Held at our Usa River campus, the colourful celebration featured a wide variety of Tanzanian music, dance, dress and food. St Jude's students represent 61 cultural tribes, with just over a quarter of those being Chagga. Many of our students also hail from the Maasai, Pare, Mwarusha, Msambaa and Meru tribes.

All these different cultures weave together to create a peaceful, vibrant and diverse country, where the population considers itself Tanzanian first and foremost. For Cultural Day, earlier this month, we spoke to Tanzanians from different backgrounds, so they could proudly share their roots with the whole St Jude's family.

Maasai (160 St Jude's students)

Area: Northern Tanzania and south-west of Kenya (the Maasai Mara National Reserve).

Lifestyle: The Maasai are semi-nomadic and raise livestock on seasonal rotation. According to the Maasai Association, women are responsible for constructing their houses, which are made of mud, sticks, cow dung and cow's urine. Women also look after domestic duties, while male warriors are in charge of security.

The elders are directors and advisors for day-to-day activities. Form 6 student and proud Maasai Godson (pictured right) says "young boys look after the cattle and young girls who help their mums at home with domestic works".

Cuisine: "If you consider that we are nomads, meat is our first food, and then milk from the cattle." Godson said. "We also drink blood. It's to keep energy, and must be fresh. What we do is take it from the cow (elders know how to take it from a live cow), and apply cow dung to the wound to stop (bleeding). We stir that blood, and sometimes we mix it with milk or take it alone. We do not keep that blood for later use."

Dress: Age and location dictate clothing, although red is a favoured colour. Animal hides have generally been replaced with cotton cloth, with shukas (basic pieces of fabric wrapped around the body) commonly worn. Kangas (one-piece sarongs) are also common, as are body decorations such as jewellery and piercings.

Fast fact, and Godson's favourite thing about being Maasai: "The fascinating thing about being a Maasai is that we are exposed to the environments where we become brave. For example, I am now a Moran, a Maasai youth warrior, whose main duty is to look after the tribe, with our main duty security.

To do this, we have to be brought up in an environment where we become brave. One of the things we used to do was fight lions. You had to do it



with a spear and a bush knife, and no-one would come rescue you. We believe the lion is the beast of the forest, so if you are able to fight a lion, who else could scare you? No-one.

Today we do not fight lions because we have been educated enough on the conservation of environment and wildlife, and the importance of having them. It is fascinating now, that in places like Ngorongoro Crater, Maasai now live with lions. Today, we just have a positive attitude and self-confidence. Even if I'm not going to fight a lion, I know I'm still capable of taking care of my family, and being responsible for the security of my tribe. What made us able to kill a lion was not our physical fitness, but our mental attitude."

Cultural Day 2015

Chagga (500 St Jude's students)

Area: On the slopes of Mt Kilimanjaro, says St Jude's Form 1 student Nancy (pictured right, in centre wearing black). Households live amongst banana/plantain groves, with coffee plantations also popular.

Lifestyle: Traditionally, Chaggas work on their farms, with jobs divided by gender – men feed goats, build houses and prepare fields, while women look after domestic duties and are in charge of trading in the marketplace.

Cuisine: Nancy says a large part of the Chagga diet is bananas and plantains, or 'ndizi', as well as a little milk. Their staple crop is millet.

Dress: According to Nancy, Chaggas traditionally wear a specific type of kanga (cloths that are wrapped around the body),



Nancy, above in a traditional black kaniki, is proud to be a Chagga.

known as a 'kaniki'. They can only be black and/or white (like the one she wore during Cultural Day).

Fast fact: They have a reputation for being good businesspeople. Encyclopaedia Britannica describes them as "one of the wealthiest and most highly organized of Tanzanian peoples". One such example is

Michael Shirima, founder and owner of Precision Air, Tanzania's largest privately-owned airline.

Nancy's favourite thing about being a Chagga: "I'm proud of being a Chagga because they're from around Mt Kilimanjaro. The food is also really nice."

Gogo (28 students at St Jude's)

Area: Central Tanzania, in the Dodoma region.

Lifestyle: People from the Gogo tribe typically raise livestock, according to St Jude's Form 5 student Simon (pictured far right). He said it is quite common to have larger families, and other Gogos are often surprised he is only one of three children.

Cuisine: Simon says ugali, a common Tanzanian food, is a staple. However, the Gogo make their version from wheat, instead of the traditional maize flour, millet flour, or Sorghum flour. "It means 'power'," Simon says. "The wheat means power. If someone takes it

they get courageous".

Dress: (Modern) dress includes trousers and a Maasai shuka (a basic piece of fabric that can be worn a variety of ways). Women wear loose-fitting dresses made of

solid or printed cotton fabric.

Fast fact: They are "very good singers," according to Simon. Examples include popular Tanzanian singer Ben Paul and traditional singer Hukwe Zawose.



As a Gogo man, Simon comes from a long line of talented singers.

Spreading the St Jude's gift

Our amazing Form 6 graduates only finished school in May but they are already making a massive difference in their local communities.

St Jude's first ever graduating class is tackling the problems in Tanzania's education system head on by volunteering as teachers at severely under-resourced government schools.

Our photographers recently joined the Beyond St Jude's team as they traveled to the schools participating in the program.

They were moved by the level of appreciation shown by the students and teachers being helped by our graduates.

"The two (graduates) from St Jude's should be your model," the principal of Baraza Secondary School told his staff and students.

"They joined St Jude's from government schools like ours here. Because of their total dedication in fulfilling their dreams they are here today rendering this noble service to our school."

The work has also helped our graduates, who are regularly teaching classes of more than 40 students while dealing with a lack of resources.

"To teach students is not easy work," said Alfani, who has been volunteering at Moshono Secondary School. "You need to be committed and hard-working and be co-operative with teachers and students."

The aim is to improve education in Tanzania, where less than 2.4% of people graduate high school and overcrowded classrooms have an average of 46 students per teacher.

"I have realised why many students in Tanzania fail so much," said Tumaini, who has been volunteering as a maths teacher at his local high school.

"Coming from a school like St Jude's, I did not anticipate this level of difficulty. The whole process of teaching in these government schools should change. St Jude's is an example to be followed as far as educating a child goes."

St Jude's encourages students to give back to their communities and volunteering at government schools gives them an understanding of the issues facing Tanzania.



Alfani, who volunteers at Moshono Secondary, believes it is important to work together.

"There is a real need for change in government schools," said Joshua, who is teaching biology in classes with more than 60 students. "When you compare this school with St Jude's, they really need something extra."

The Community Service Year runs until next June, but the interns are already seeing the benefits.

"The act of giving back is so satisfying," said Amos, who has been teaching maths. "I sleep every night with peace knowing someone's future is possible because of me."

"This is a chance for the graduates to show their appreciation for the education they've received," said Angela Bailey, Beyond St Jude's manager.

"They are giving back to their communities, using the skills they have learnt from their free education."

Get the chance to find out firsthand about the Community Service Year when Form 6 graduate Dorice tours Australia with Gemma next March and April.

For more information about St Jude's, email australia@schoolofstjude.org or call 0438 783 035.