



St Jude's News

JULY 2017

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

Agents of change— our students never stop!



Women supporting women on
an issue that affects us all

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Edgar the inventor named
International Young Eco-Hero

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Our pioneering graduates
reflect on a year in university

Photos page 10



- **Not just women's business:**
- Kilimba presented the project
- at the St Jude's Science Fair.

- **Kilimba's cause:** A wish to help
- disadvantaged girls motivated
- Kilimba to take on the project.



- **A marvelous mentor:** Pendo's been
- inspiring students for years.



Breaking the cycle

Our students are soaking up the stigma of menstruation, one reusable pad at a time!

Imagine being a young female, whose life comes to a standstill each month because she lacks access to feminine hygiene products.

This is a reality for around 85% of Tanzanian schoolgirls between the ages of 11-19. A number of trailblazing St Jude's students are working to change that statistic.

Kilimba, Veronica and Zamda, with a number of their peers, decided to take on the challenging task after attending a seminar and meeting like-minded students from other schools.

"There were girls at the seminar who had made pads on a tailoring machine. We asked our teachers if we could do the same thing," Kilimba said.

"Some people use kanga (soft material) when their period comes, but it is uncomfortable and not hygienic. The girls in the villages sit on ash or stiff porridge while they have their periods. They cannot do any activities and they miss out on school. They sit on the ash or porridge until the period goes away," she shared.

The students' washable, durable pads are made from common household items.

"We had two pieces of cloth, we cut them in the shape of the sanitary pads and used plastic to make sure it doesn't leak. Then, we put part of an old mattress or some cotton wool in the middle and we sewed it together," Veronica explained.

Empathy and compassion compelled the young women to design a product which would benefit girls in village communities.

"We care because we feel sad that girls can't go to school when they are on their period. And, we just imagine – who could that person become if she

had the chance to sit a national examination? That's why we made the pads," Kilimba, Veronica and Zamda agreed.

School Registrar, Girls' Affairs and Character Management Mistress, Ms Pendo, is inspired by her students' bravery and willingness to tackle a taboo cultural issue.

"This is a girls' issue and Kilimba thought more deeply about it. When we get our first periods, our mothers tell us we are grownups and that we must stay away from boys. This is the only information most girls receive. There are cultural boundaries," Ms Pendo said.

Students at St Jude's are grateful for the support of staff like Ms Pendo, who give them knowledge and advice and encourage girls to ask questions. Ms Pendo also works with the school nurses to provide sanitary items to students who need them.

"We are comfortable because at least we know how to look after ourselves and we can grow in confidence and perform academically at St Jude's," Zamda said.

Our students know that knowledge is power.

"We want to find support and go to villages where people can't afford pads. We will give away our reusable pads and visit churches, schools and families to provide knowledge," the students claimed.

"It's really important to give knowledge instead of money. For this issue, it is better to give education. Education can help people."

St Jude's supporters who are Fighting Poverty Through Education, empower students like Kilimba, Veronica and Zamda to do the same for others.

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You too can become a sponsor and help us break the cycle of poverty.



Paving the way

Edgar in Form 4 is a 2017 International Young Eco-Hero!

Edgar in Form 4 is no magician—he's better than that. The earnest and inventive teen is a fully-fledged philanthropic entrepreneur!

Behind closed doors, the young visionary spends his Saturdays melting and moulding the blight of plastic bag refuse into rock-hard bricks! It's a bold bid to clean up the environment and support his community.

The unique project has earned Edgar global recognition as a 2017 International Young Eco-Hero. Just last month, he competed with thousands of talented candidates from around the world for the prestigious 'Outstanding Innovator' award!

"I didn't want to apply at first, because I saw that most past winners came from America. Then, I thought about brave people like my hero, Wangari Maathai, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. When I thought of her courage, I decided to go for it."

Championing his cause won Edgar the 'champion' title, but the revolutionary idea had humble beginnings.

"I was in Dar es Salaam when it flooded two years ago. I saw people's mud-brick houses being swept away and wanted to design pavers and furniture for them which would be cheap, but also strong," Edgar recalled.

"President John Magufuli encourages people to clean up our country. So, I thought I could start my own waste-management project and help people at the same time."

Edgar feels inspired by the St Jude's community, where he is encouraged to do his best and give back whole-heartedly.

"I couldn't have achieved this without the help of my school!"

"The School of St Jude took students to an innovation workshop on Saturdays, where we brought our creative ideas to life. That's where I designed my first prototype paver using raw materials and I displayed it at our Science Day."

The incredible innovator admits he's stumbled over some cracks in the pavement, though.

"It was challenging to melt the plastic bags without creating more pollution. I've made an organic solution, which I use to treat and filter the smoke so the toxins don't cause more harm," Edgar said.

"People told me to give up, but the challenges I faced gave me the chance to develop something else which helps the planet and prevents pollution."

Edgar has grand plans for future projects—he's keen to build whole cities, but knows he must start by laying down solid foundations (or, in this case, durable plastic!)

"You have to start small. Wangari Maathai said, 'it's the little things citizens do that will make a difference.'"

"I think this idea can change the world, but I'd like to start here in Africa. Tanzania is a developing country and it's important for us to use our skills to serve the local community. Yes, we have problems. It is up to individuals to help solve them."

Be prepared to watch Exceptional Edgar rise to the occasion—the innovative sixteen-year-old is already paving the way towards a brighter, cleaner, Tanzania!

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Help a student like Edgar overcome the odds—why not consider becoming a sponsor?



- **Solid Foundations:** Edgar's
- building his dream of becoming
- an environmental advocate
- and inventor!



- **Role model material:** The 2017
- Young Eco-Hero is quickly
- becoming a household name!



- **Great minds:** Debating encourages
- our students to think collaboratively
- and critically.

- **“Attention, Madam Speaker”:** School
- Secretary, Faith, moves a motion as
- chairperson of the debate.





The Great Debate!

Our Standard 6 students show off their stellar skills in Debate Club!

If you had to choose between facing death, seeing a spider or speaking in public, which would it be?

There's no argument over which option some of our young leaders would choose!

Public speaking is commonly ranked as the number one phobia, but students at The School of St Jude are suited up in an armour of cool confidence and delectable diction. Watch out, parliament!

English teacher, Mr Elisa, believes Debating Club is a way for students to improve their leadership skills and that it helps them practice English in a fun, unique way.

"The students enjoy the competition—it makes learning a new language exciting!" Mr Elisa enthused.

During Graduation Week, Standard 6 students impressed our international visitors with their quick wit in a two-hour series of debates.

Topics on the table ranged from 'rural life is better than urban life' and 'education is better than money', to 'boarding school is better than day school'.

Student Council Secretary, Faith, stood with poise and spoke eloquently as Madam Speaker of the debate. It was her job to choose the winner of her round – that 'teachers are better than robots'.

"The opposing side said that robots just give students motivation. Children need to also have love to be motivated, and teachers give love. So we decided that... teachers are better than robots!"

The audience couldn't agree more. Our international visitors wildly applauded the brave students, who humbly accepted the praise.

"I do debating because I would like to be a leader in the future and I love to speak in front of people!" Faith giggled.

Faith's debate-mates, Nice and Rahim, couldn't agree more.

"Debating gives me the courage to share my feelings. The teachers who help us are confident and we learn from them as well," said Nice.

"When you debate, you gain knowledge, hear many opinions and learn about differences," Rahim added.

Whether for personal growth or leadership pursuits, our students are determined to use their 'gift of the gab' to serve the community.

"I want to increase my confidence because if I am to become a leader, then being a good speaker will help me express the wishes of the people I want to help," Faith explained.

Mr Elisa knows Faith's commitment will serve her well.

"Faith's English is especially good because she is always speaking and practicing her skills."

Fearless Faith and her friends are only 12 years old and already they've conquered one of the world's most terrifying tasks! With a St Jude's education under their belts, there's surely no podium too high for them to reach – we can't wait to see what else these young leaders will conquer!

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Consider a visit to The School of St Jude, where you'll take part in the action and get to meet some of Tanzania's future leaders!



Shooting stars!

St Jude's students recently competed at national level in all kinds of sports!

Aspiring athletes from every corner of Tanzania come together each year to participate in UMISSETA—the Union Sports Secondary Schools Competition.

The month-long event enables students from private and government schools to interact, share skills and compete as friendly rivals for ultimate success as national champions!

Many 'shooting stars' from The School of St Jude attended the 38th annual event, and met with phenomenal success! More than 10 of our students progressed to the national round, after several weeks of fierce competition against local teams.

Jovina in Form 4 is one of St Jude's team captains. She hopes to encourage other young people to pursue an interest in sports.

"I admire Mr James, our PE teacher. I want to join the national basketball or netball team so I can promote my talent and help other kids. I will teach them to be a good player and teammate," Jovina said.

The talented netballer stunned peers and spectators with her impressive goal-shooting abilities.

"She is perfect. She never misses," said Frank, a fellow St Jude's regional champion.

Frank's outstanding talent on the volleyball and handball courts earned him a place in the National round.

Like Jovina, Frank was inspired by Mr James, who trained the students and supported them during the district, regional and national competitions.

"Mr James was more than great. First, I was so happy when he called us to join the competition.

I was just proud to be part of it. Another thing is that he provided equipment for us. I didn't have any sports shoes, so he gave me some."

"We really appreciate the help from our teachers and everyone who helps The School of St Jude," Frank added.

As well as formidable skills, the students needed tremendous will and stamina. The training regime was no walk in the park.

"They had to wake up at 5am every day to train at the competition. They would have tea break and then go back to training. They break for meal times and then practice," Mr James said.

"I climbed many hills!" giggled Emiliana, a Form 4 basketballer.

Her motivation?

"I want to be like Brittany Griner [US women's NBA champion]. I saw one of her [televised] matches and she was really good," Emiliana said.

Although the students didn't place in the national round or progress to the East Africa Secondary Sports Competition in August, their hopes haven't been dimmed.

"A big challenge is competing against better players. It makes you feel like you are not capable, but fear gives you the pressure to keep practicing and improving so that we can be our best like them. That is how you get to the next stage," Frank insisted.

"We want to say thanks to our supporters for how you have helped us. We are so very happy," Jovina added.

Because of people like you, our students will continue shooting goals in all kinds of arenas.

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You can help us by making a donation!



Masters of the Pen

Students turned 'essay' into 'our say' in St Jude's 2017 Headmaster Essay Competition!

The evenings at our secondary campus were a hum in June. As the submission deadline neared, drafting and redrafting happened at rapid speed in the library, study hall and dorms.

Every year, St Jude's Headmaster Essay Competition is open to all secondary students with words of wisdom to share. The most considered and contested themes of 2017 include leadership, education, the environment, and inspirational role models.

The competition is organised annually by Mr Joseph, a passionate English teacher at Smith Campus.

"Currently, we have the East African Essay Competition externally. It is open to students from many schools and they may write in either Kiswahili or English. Because St Jude's is an English-Medium school, the students write in English," Mr Joseph said.

"The competition helps to build students' grammar and confidence."

One student who met with success is Veronica. The insightful author wrote a prize-winning essay about one of our secondary teachers.

"I joined the competition because I can express my ideas, feelings and views. I decided to write about a Physics teacher, Mr Mcharo, because he inspires me. He is really encouraging and gives us good information about science. Physics is not my favourite subject – Civics is – but I really like the way Mr Mcharo teaches," Veronica said.

A humble Mr Mcharo was overwhelmed by his student's tribute.

"I feel proud to know I have inspired someone. I teach Physics which is considered challenging and abstract. If you don't learn to inspire kids through storytelling, they may think the subject isn't worth their effort. We must especially encourage girls," he said.

"I encourage my students to read lots of science-fiction, take as many calculated risks as possible, travel to as many places and live to inspire others. As Mahatma Gandhi said, 'we must be the change we wish to see.'"

The competition provided a voice for many students who wish to, "be the change."

Nickson participated in the competition as a way to improve his language abilities.

"I want to become a web developer one day and will have the skills to write my own articles, instead of hiring somebody to do the creative writing," the inspiring entrepreneur said.

Christina entered because she has leadership aspirations. The competition gave her a platform to expand on her opinions and craft a strong and persuasive argument.

"I wrote about leadership. I thought it was a good thing to see how my views could help solve different problems," she said.

"I would like to encourage other students to participate, because it is the way that they can express thoughts and maybe things that could be solutions to problems or alternative to things that are happening in society."

"No matter what the results may be, participants don't have to get praises; they just have to try it," Christina believes.

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Students at The School of St Jude are excellent at spreading the word about their passions. Why not help them by spreading the word about us?

Beyond St Jude's

The journey continues! Catch up with our university students in Dar es Salaam.



- Muhimbili University Students



- **Anna - Medicine:** "The most important thing I have learnt so far is how to be independent."



- Ardhi University Students



- Right:
- Emmanuel - Maritime Transportation
- “My dream is to invest in the Tanzanian
- Maritime field because we are surrounded
- by oceans and lakes, but this sector
- is not fully developed yet.”



- Left:
- Mkesa - Taxation
- “In ten years, I see myself as a successful
- person and I want to be a donor to The
- School of St Jude.”