



**The School of St Jude**

# St Jude's News

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

ISSUE 8, 2013

## Careers Fair Stimulates Curious Minds

St Jude's moved forward in our preparations for 2015, when our very first class of students will graduate from secondary school, marking a major milestone in our history and their lives.

St Jude's invited more than 15 academic institutions from the Arusha region and 36 professionals from different job areas for our very first **Careers Fair**.

Students from Forms 1 through 5 had the opportunity to move around different tables and talk to people about their professions in medicine, law, architecture, engineering, business, aviation, government, banking and journalism, among others. They also met representatives from 10 local tertiary institutions.

"This event helped me change my mind about my career choice," said Penueli, a 17-year old Form 4 student. "I was thinking of becoming an editor for a business, but now I know I want to go into TV journalism."

Students and staff from other schools in the region also participated in the event and were able to broaden their knowledge of career possibilities.

At the opening, students sang, presented short skits and gave talks related to their career choices. A number of local speakers encouraged students to apply themselves to their studies in order to build a solid career.

Jon Ford, our new School Director, closed the event by telling the story of a student in the school he managed for 10 years in West Sussex, England. The student dreamed of becoming a doctor and studied hard until she was accepted into medical school. The next time he saw her she was a well regarded doctor.

"You too can become doctors, or any other profession you desire," he told the assembled students. "Just follow your dream and reach for the skies."



# From our new School Director Jon Ford

I'm very honoured to be writing to you as the new School Director of St Jude's. I am so happy to be here. Everyone has been so welcoming and my wife Sandra and I feel at home already.

St Jude's really is a family and it has been delightful to meet the wonderful students, staff, volunteers and parents and see how everyone works together to give our students the very best education we can provide.

It has also been wonderful to meet the generous donors and supporters who have been visiting the school recently. Among them were the lovely Don and Helen, visitors from Australia who have been married for over 50 years and are long term supporters of the school.

I am spending my time getting to know everyone and beginning to understand the amazing range of things that are going on in the school. We have just finished the week of Standard 7 National Exams in Upper Primary, preparations are underway to take in a new class in Lower Primary and I was lucky to experience the Careers Fair which we highlighted on page 1 of this newsletter.

I know there will be challenges ahead as we all work hard to fight poverty through education but I feel privileged to be here and be involved in this amazing school.



*Photo of the month!*

## In this edition

- Just two weeks till Kim and Felix arrive in Australia
- Family visitors from Hawaii
- Meet Sayuni, one of our new students
- All the fun from the recent Lower Primary excursion
- Meet Joanne from our Purchasing Team
- MLC students from Melbourne create signs of friendship
- Mr Rasul and Gemma have both been to Australia—catch up on their visits



# Catch up with Kim and Felix in Australia

We're sure you've heard that our very own Felix Mollel will soon be heading Down Under with Kim. Felix is particularly excited because it'll be his first trip outside of East Africa!

Felix is coming to spread the word about St Jude's and share his compelling story. He works in the school's Visitor's Team and he is from the semi-nomadic Maasai tribe who are located in Northern Tanzania.

Felix will be in Australia in October and his first stop will be speaking at a university event in Sydney before

travelling to Melbourne, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Perth, Adelaide and Canberra.

Kim will be joining him on the journey which is sure to be a lot of fun.

There are still some spaces available, so consider arranging an event with Felix as your guest speaker. He'll be keen to talk at a Rotary, business, school presentation or other event.

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

## News Flash!!!

Kim and Felix will now be stopping over in Hong Kong on their way to Australia! This is such exciting news and means they'll be able to catch up with our wonderful supporters in this corner of the world. Email [australia@schoolofstjude.org](mailto:australia@schoolofstjude.org) for details on this event.



# Meet Sayuni, one of our new students who needs sponsoring

Sayuni is the middle daughter of Selina and Jastin. She has an older sister (Anne, 14) and a baby brother (Jovan, 2).

The family live in a mud-wall house without electricity or running water. Selina cooks in a wood stove outside the house, next to where her mother in law, Anna, has her hut. The women and girls collect water from the village tap, a 10-minute walk down a hill.

Jastin walks around Arusha's central market selling chickens. He buys them in the nearby village of Tengeru and sells them for a small profit. Selina keeps the family's two cows and two sheep, and looks after the home.

They have two small plots of land where they plant bananas for the family's consumption, because the plantation does not yield enough to sell.

The family has expanded since the wife of one of Jastin's brother died, and he and Selina decided to help care for their nieces and nephews with Jastin's brother.

Selina and Jastin are not able to send their kids to a good, private school. That is why they counted their blessings in August, when St Jude's welcomed Sayuni, together with a group of 32 other students.

Before St Jude's, Sayuni would walk to school with her neighbour, Jackline. She was never given homework and

when she needed to buy a school uniform and shoes, her dad would find extra work so he could afford the added expense.

Here at our school, Sayuni will have a full term of intensive lessons before she starts Standard 2 in 2014, the second year of primary school. By the end of this term she and her classmates will be well accustomed to St Jude's quality education.



Sayuni above at her home and below, happy with the friends she has already made at St Jude's (from left: Vanessa, Salma and Sayuni)



If you would like to sponsor Sayuni, please contact us at [info@schoolofstjude.co.tz](mailto:info@schoolofstjude.co.tz)



# MLC Girls Create Display of Friendship

St Jude's has wonderful supporters all over the world and many whose energy and enthusiasm for the school is truly inspiring!

Methodist Ladies College (MLC) from Melbourne has been a loyal supporter of St Jude's for a long time and continually donates their time, money and equipment to our students.

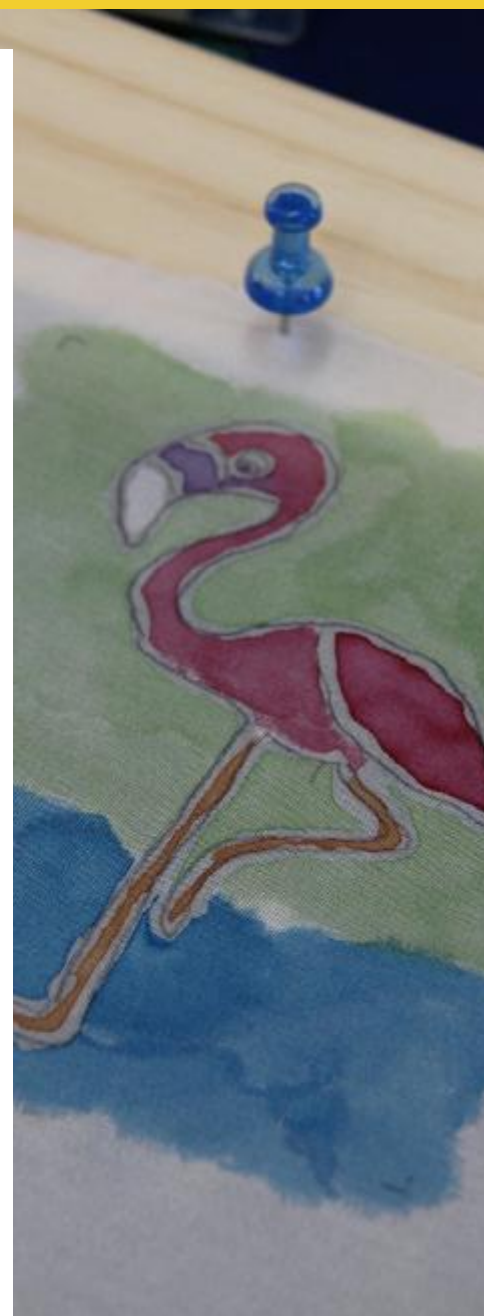
A group of MLC students are visiting St Jude's and as part of their visit are working on a beautiful, silk wall hanging as a reminder of the close ties between the two schools. The girls are carefully painting the piece which is about education, reading and books. Last year, the girls created a mosaic at St Jude's to mark our tenth anniversary.

The silk hanging will feature in the library at the Smith Secondary Campus. They're also making silk cards which will be added as a limited edition to our St Jude's merchandise range. The girls love spending time with the Upper Primary children to show them the art of silk painting.

"Our school has a strong bond with St Jude's and the silk hanging shows our connection with them. We've learnt so much stuff from St Jude's about giving back and we wanted to teach them something in return," Stacey, MLC Grade 10 student, says.

They have found their trip to St Jude's to be life changing and they're passionate about going home to spread the word further about ways to help the school.

The girls' have a great perspective on life and we think they'll go far. Thanks for visiting!



# Excursion Time for Little Ones

Take a look at our upper primary students during their recent visit to local textile and clothing manufacturer Sunflag.

They saw the process of making fabric and thread from cotton to final product.

One of the processes they enjoyed watching was the production of kangas, the traditional African cloth used to make dresses, skirts, head dresses, handbags and decorative items for the home.

Sunflag was established in 1965 and employs over 2,700 people, which makes it one of the largest employers in the region.



Thanks to generous donations, our students can enjoy excursions just like this one!

To make a general donation, go to [www.schoolofstjude.org/Donations/donate.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/Donations/donate.html)



# Visitors from Hawaii drop into St Jude's

A Hawaiian family on a trip around the world stop by at St Jude's and find the time for a Q&A with us.

Carlene and Ian, a facilitator and a computer IT professional from Hawaii, did something few parents have done: they took their three children (an 8-year old girl and twin 11-year old girl and boy) out of school for 18 months and set off with them on a trip around the world. The children attend Punahou School, the alma mater of President Barack Obama in Oahu (Honolulu), Hawaii.

Here's a short version of the Q&A we did with Carlene.

## **What led you to take this trip?**

We felt it important for our children to walk a mile in someone else's shoes, learn another language from submersion, and expand their understanding of the world and its wide diversity of peoples, geographies, histories and issues. We tried our best to set this trip up as a hands-on-learning education and one of self-development, instead of a voyeuristic tour or philanthropic venture. We chose five main areas of study: 1) political-social-religious-corporate bodies; 2) development planning, architecture and art; 3) language and religion; 4) energy; and 5) food: sources, models, politics, water issues. Finally, we wanted this time before they became teenagers to reach them and have valuable time with them.

## **How, when and where did you find out about St Jude's?**

One of our daughters has been studying various forms of education. She thinks real education and population control are of paramount importance and feels girls and women's education and rights are utterly the most important issue facing this world. To that end, we have taken time to visit schools around Europe and Africa, learning about different methods and styles, different facilities and opportunities, different types of education. St. Jude's was mentioned to us by contacts, but we also saw advertising for it. We did a little homework and decided to visit it along with two Tanzanian local public schools.

## **What were your impressions of the school?**

Anyone visiting the school or reading the brochures knows this is a school with good intentions and good support, and children are very fortunate to attend it. We were pleasantly surprised at the size of this oasis and the condition of the facilities. While treading a financial tightrope daily, the administrators have done a great job of balancing their resources. The faculty appears to be a working machine, with the support of new blood and energy when they have visiting teachers. We, like others, took a few hours to ride the buses home with the kids to do a home visit. We were grateful to have time to talk to various grade level teachers while riding the buses, since the teachers also commute by the school buses.

If you or someone you know are heading on an adventure to Tanzania, remember that St Jude's LOVES VISITORS!!!

We welcome visitors for day and overnight stays and just love showing people around our school and introducing them to our students and staff.

Contact us at [info@schoolofstjude.co.tz](mailto:info@schoolofstjude.co.tz).



# Out & About with Joan

Joan started at St Jude's in 2007 as assistant *fundi*, fetching tools and materials for the workers who build classrooms and desks.

She was so good at her job that she was soon promoted to be Gemma's assistant - measuring land, buying beds and bed sheets, tables and desks for the boarding houses.

With her dedication and professionalism, Joan progressed to the visitors' team, taking people on tours around the school and on trips and excursions.

Joan currently works as a purchaser. This is a huge job – heading into town and the often chaotic markets every day to buy food and school supplies. Joan is the 'go to girl' for bulk orders of rice, beans, lentils, wheat flour, sugar and salt, and does a good job of haggling with the suppliers. Joan is our resident bargainer at the local markets, ensuring great deals for the school and saving us money wherever possible.

"When I came here, fresh out of school, I knew nothing," says Joan. She thinks it's "lovely to work here. I learned everything I know at St Jude's."



Joan (above) out and about purchasing goods from local businesses and markets. All of the food and goods gets loaded into the St Jude's bus, brought back to school and distributed.

Support our food program by making a general donation to St Jude's!

Visit our website to make your contribution:  
[www.schoolofstjude.org/Donations/donate.html](http://www.schoolofstjude.org/Donations/donate.html)





# In Other News...

## Gemma Presents At Australian Schools Conference

Gemma has come back from a successful tour of Australia where she was a keynote speaker at a conference for senior primary leaders in the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Gemma spoke about the role of faith in her journey to around 170 guests, including school children from across south-east Queensland. It was a great way to spread the word about St Jude's and meet with old and new supporters.

Gemma also took her son Jacob along who helped hand out information packs at the conference. Gemma and Jacob loved spending time in Australia and visiting family while they were in the country.



## New Website On It's Way

Over the past year, we have been very lucky to have the extraordinary talents of a web designer who volunteered her time with us. Dena has been working with various stakeholders from St Jude's to create a fresh new look for the school's website.

We are putting the final touches on the new look and hope to launch in a few weeks time.

We are sure you will like the new design and hope that the new layout means that you'll find all of the information you need from St Jude's in a few clicks of your mouse!

We will be sure to let you know when our site will switch over. If you follow us on facebook, keep an eye out for a little online treasure hunt as well. Sounds fun, right?

Thank you for your ongoing and loyal support of St Jude's!

Don't forget to pass this newsletter onto your family and friends who might also like a read.