



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

ISSUE 8, 2014



Rebel Wilson Fighting Poverty Through Education!

Australian actress Rebel Wilson, known for her roles in *Pitch Perfect* and *Bridesmaids*, has visited Tanzania to meet her sponsored student Winnie for the first time.

The two have been sharing letters, gifts and photos for over eight years as Rebel has helped Winnie and her family escape the poverty cycle by sponsoring her high-quality education at St Jude's.

Rebel is a long-time supporter of our school and visited on her way home from filming her upcoming movie, *Grimsby*, in South Africa.

She was excited to spend time with all of the students, teaching them a song from *Pitch Perfect*, practicing some rapping and learning a few new African dances.

"I loved some of the kids who were particularly interested in singing and dancing. It was really cool to see that and encourage them to be creative. The students here are all very serious and they love their studying, so it's good to do a few creative things as well," she said.

She also got the chance to visit Winnie's home and saw for

herself how the entire family's life was improving.

"Because the family has a child who goes to The School of St Jude they feel so hopeful for the future of their family and they know Winnie is going to go on and get a good job," she said. "Winnie has two other sisters and two brothers and she teaches them all of the English and what she learns at school... it was so good to see that this young girl is already helping her own family."

Rebel is an official ambassador for St Jude's and believes that the school's vision is creating real change.

"The thing about St Jude's is you know that you are directly helping people. The quality of the education and the quality of the living conditions here is just so amazing for these kids and it gives them such a head start in life," she said.

Read more and see further pictures on our blog! <http://bit.ly/1uCUaI>

Felix is Visiting Singapore and Australia!

Are you keen to hear a remarkable story from our treasured Maasai staff member, Felix? Yes? Then why not host an event in your area and help him spread the word about how St Jude's is fighting poverty through education.

Felix is going to visit Singapore and Australia in October and would love to catch up with you.

We have spaces still available, so if you know

some groups who would like to hear Felix's wonderful story about growing up in a Maasai tribe in Northern Tanzania and how working at St Jude's has changed his life, please let us know by emailing Sarah australia@schoolofstjude.org

If you can't host an event, keep an eye on our website for an event near you!

www.schoolofstjude.co.tz/about-us/calendar.html



Have You Got Your Beanie and T-Shirt?

Love St Jude's so much that you want to tell the world? Why not buy a T-shirt, beanie or bag? They make for a great present and all money made goes straight towards educating our students.

St Jude's was created through word of mouth and what a great way to share the message. See our website for other thing you can buy www.schoolofstjude.co.tz/support-us/merchandise.html

\$15AUD



\$25AUD



\$20AUD



A Volunteer with a Heart of Gold

Robin Vargo is one of our hardworking, much loved, long-term volunteers at St Jude's. She is based in Australia and at one time or another you may have phoned her with a query about the schoolmaking a donation or buying St Jude's merchandise. She has selflessly helped us out for over a decade, always providing warm and friendly assistance to our supporters.

Not only is Robin a main point of contact for our sponsors, donors and supporters in Australia, she is also the Treasurer of the East African Fund (EAF) board. The EAF represents the Australian support base of The School of St Jude, and provides a solid legal foundation in Australia to support the work in Tanzania.

We had a quick chat with her and here is what she has to say about her experience with St Jude's.

Why did you want to help support St Jude's?

I first heard the founder Gemma speak in 2006. After teaching for over 35 years, the mission and values of the school were a good fit with my own values and I appreciated that almost all money donated went to the school.

Tell us about the role you do.

As the Treasurer of the East African Fund board I bank money sent to the school by cheque and look after moving the money around the accounts, pay Australian and other invoices, and with another director - usually the chairman - send money to the school when requested. I print and post information from the school to donors who don't have email, and answer telephone queries on a range of topics about St Jude's.

What do you love most about your involvement?

I really feel that I am helping make a difference to the lives of many Tanzanians by undertaking this role. I enjoy talking with other donors when they have queries and helping to spread the word through giving talks about the school to organisations where I have some connection.



Robyn with her sponsored secondary students Baba and Elinora, whom she met for the first time at St Jude's earlier this year.

You visited the school for the first time earlier this year, what were your impressions?

I was thrilled to visit the school and see everything for myself. I am now confident to talk about the school and the background of the students having experienced it firsthand and having sat down with many students to discuss their dreams for the future. I was also fortunate to be there during the selection process for choosing next year's students. I worked closely with the volunteer staff in most areas and with some of the primary teachers and academic leaders. I was very impressed with their hard work and dedication to the school.

You also have a close connection with your sponsored students—explain how that has developed over time.

When I first started sponsoring students I was very impressed with the information that the school was sending me, and felt that I had to do my part as a sponsor in communicating with the students in a meaningful way. Because of this I know a lot about them and their families, and I read their reports carefully and offer feedback and encouragement. Having senior students, I have sent gifts of illustrated subject dictionaries to help them in their studies and encouraged them to share them with their boarding room. When I met my students it was an instant connection.



"I appreciated that almost all money donated went to the school."

Robin Vargo

We need volunteers! Find out about current volunteer positions on our website

www.schoolofstjude.org/join-us/volunteer.html



Watching the Lives of Tanzanian Families Improve



Above: Standard 5 student Frank, with his Mama, Petrolina at their home

Behind the happy, smiling faces of our students is often a hardworking mama, father or guardian who is doing all that they can to provide for their families. Frank is in Standard 5 and is boarding at our school, with access to everything he needs including accommodation, water, electricity, room to study and meals. St Jude's is ensuring Frank has all the resources he needs to be as successful as possible in his studies; and so is his mother, Petrolina.

Petrolina raises her two children on her own in a very modest home and has a determination to improve her life through studying and gaining qualifications. Initially, Frank failed his St Jude's entrance test twice, so his Mum patiently spent time with him to help him improve his English and other subjects. It worked; the third time he went for our school's entrance test he got in.

However, when Frank and his older sister were younger life was extremely tough. Petrolina struggled to put food on the table and send her children to school. She'd often forgo food so that her two children could eat. On top of that she went through a traumatic period, suffering from health problems and later, the death of her husband. Through it all, she took life as it came and started computing and other classes which were offered through an international NGO. She saw getting herself an education as the road to improve the life of her family.

She never gave up and now the family's outlook is much brighter. She has now received her certificate in computing and is in teachers' college, set to graduate in December this year! She was also able to find a sponsor to look after her daughter's education, who is currently in Form 5 at a school in Dodoma.

"In the past, I had nothing, everything I was getting at that time was to help Frank and his sister," she said.

"Now, I'm a little bit better and I feel I don't have to worry as much on Frank or his sister, as they're healthy." She looks and feels healthier too. "I had a dream, before Frank started at St Jude's, that I would become a teacher. I thought the dream was dead and I couldn't make it, but now I see the light and that I am going to fulfill my dream" she said.

"My advice to Frank is to study hard so he can pass Form 5 and Form 6 and so he can keep on and go to university, because I believe he will change the lives of our family," she said.

Frank is unsponsored and needs your help to continue getting the best possible education at our school. Your sponsorship would go a long way, covering the cost of providing an education as well as providing him with a safe place to study and perform well academically.

"I'm happy because The School of St Jude has good teachers, many books in the library for reading and choosing and when you are in boarding, there's time for study, play and reading, as well as beds for sleeping and food," said Frank.

Petrolina with her certificate and at a local school where she teaches



Find out how you can sponsor a student like Frank today

www.schoolofstjude.co.tz/support-us/sponsor.html

Our Students Delve into the World of Careers

As our senior students move closer towards their graduation on May 30th 2015, they are becoming increasingly excited about exploring future career paths.

Recently, more than 820 secondary staff and students attended our second Careers Fair, where they had the opportunity to learn about new job opportunities from experts in the field. They heard from business owners, teachers and professionals and spoke directly to representatives from around twenty educational institutions, including Kilimanjaro Film Institute, a local film school.

Our secondary students also had a hands-on role at the event, looking after exhibits and explaining about various jobs. They also made an effort to highlight inspirational women of the 21st Century to show that women can achieve anything that men can.

At the event, St Jude's opened a position for Form 4 students to work in during their school break prior to starting Form 5. Twenty students applied with CVs and twelve were interviewed by our Volunteer HR Manager, Anna Richardson.

"I was impressed that students put in such strong applications and that they were so prepared. Given it was their first interviews they did an excellent job. All students were keen to give back to St Jude's and were excited to apply for a role that would add to their employability," she said.

"Education is about creativity and the ability to get more information and make choices," said St Jude's School Director, Jon Ford. "

Bensons and Obeshe Suppliers kindly sponsored our Careers Day. Bensons also donated a laptop for the Career Guidance office.

Nine other local secondary schools were invited and also enjoyed attending the event.

Overall, it was a great day for our students to expand their minds about job opportunities!



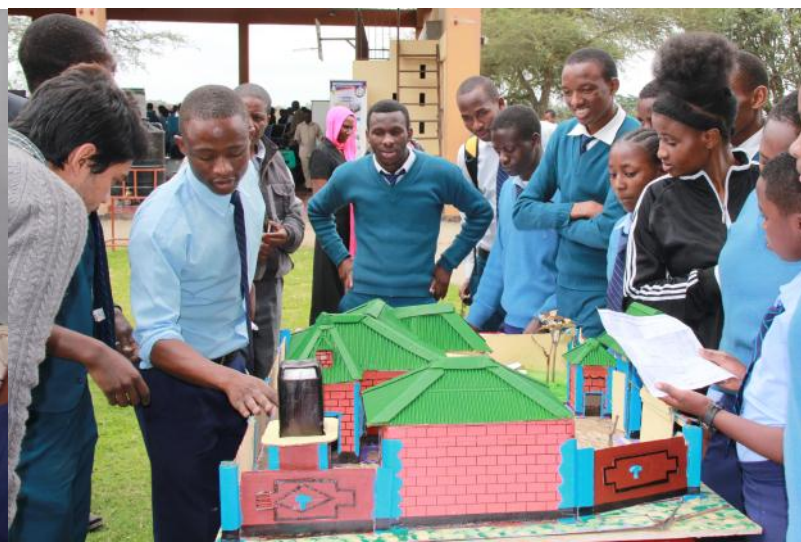
Above: Our secondary students look after an exhibition explaining about jobs in agriculture

Below: Two of our students have fun broadcasting their own radio program



Above: Students listen to a representative from the Kilimanjaro Film Institute talk about documentary making and video editing.

Below: Students plan and design their own model home as part of their architecture display.



Are You Interested in Volunteering in Tanzania?



If you're a teacher looking for an exciting new job, experience living abroad, and the chance to give back, then why not look into becoming a volunteer? We are currently searching for a range of volunteers, including some experienced Teacher Mentors. **Meet Gaye**, one of our Mentors with over 25 years of education experience.

Why did you decide to come to St Jude's?

I actually wasn't looking for a new job. I just glanced at a newspaper and saw the Teacher Mentor role advertised. In the past, I'd worked overseas in corporate schools that were all about making money and that just wasn't for me. I was drawn to St Jude's mission to help disadvantaged children in the region.

What is it like to work as a teacher mentor?

Some teachers are nervous coming to the school to work in a mentor role because they don't have experience in a senior position or working with other teachers. Don't be! This program gives local teachers a chance to work with and learn from teachers who have a different background in education.

Mentors spend the day with local teachers during their planning sessions. We help them find resources and figure out creative ways to implement them in the classroom. But, more than anything, we are a sounding board for the teachers and respond to whatever needs they might have.

Working as a Teacher Mentor has been amazing not only in content, but in our ability to make an impact. If I

worked in a classroom, I could help that class of students. But, as a mentor, I get to work with 10 teachers who teach 25 students each, which means I can help 250 people!

Read more about Gaye's experiences bit.ly/YXvURP

Current Volunteer Positions

Media Relations Officer

We are currently seeking an experienced Media Officer to build relationships with media contacts in Australia and around the world in an effort to promote our vision of Fighting Poverty Through Education.

Short-Term Photographer

As a short-term volunteer photographer you will capture different aspects of student life from the boarding houses to lunchtime in the playground.

Sponsor Relations Assistant

The Sponsor Relations Team prides itself in providing engaging, informative and highly personalised communication to our students' sponsors.

2015 Health Check Team

Are you a health professional? We are searching for a team to visit our school to assist with annual student health checks.

See the full positions on our website

www.schoolofstjude.co.tz/join-us/volunteer.html

Our Students Set to Learn Valuable Life Lessons

Africa has the world's highest rates of adolescent pregnancy, which prevents many girls from going to school as they are either forced out or leave because they feel ashamed about their situation.

That is why education about life choices, prevention and parenting are a crucial part of their development. Sadly, many girls do not have access to these types of support services for a range of reasons, whether it be because they are living in poverty or come from remote areas.

However, there are glimmers of hope. Recently, Denise Bodart from Realityworks, an organisation that uses baby dolls and other simulation technology for educational programs, came to visit St Jude's.

While here, Denise used baby dolls to train 15 boarding house staff at our secondary school about good lifestyle choices and all facets of parenting, showing them real-life experiences that address pregnancy, substance abuse education, child care skills and Shaken Baby Syndrome.

Boarding house parents are now implementing the program so secondary students can learn about making good choices and responsibilities involved in parenting.

As part of the program, they will care for a RealCare simulation babies for up to several days.

"For the millions of students around the world that have participated in a RealCare baby simulation experience, they are always excited to receive the baby; but at the end of the simulation, they can't wait to hand it back to the teacher," said Denise. "They learn that babies are a lot of work and responsibility. Don't rush into it!"

"We want young people to understand the responsibility associated with parenting, and to make the decision to become parents when you are ready financially and have reached an age of maturity," said Denise. "Teen pregnancy decreases the chances of students reaching their personal career and educational goals – we want to help give students the information they need to make healthy decisions for their futures."

We are so grateful for the generous donor who funded the program.

To read more about the Realityworks program check out Denise's blogs on their site

<http://realityworks.com/blog/tag/school-of-st-jude/>



Denise Bodart from Realityworks (above, centre) with a few of our students and staff.



Denise with our secondary Headmaster, Rasul Abdul, trying on the Pregnancy Profile simulator.



Newsletter Competition Winner!

And the winner is... Nicole Boys!!! Congratulations.

We love sharing our newsletter with the world as it is the best way to spread the word about our school and the success of our amazing students. To assist in this we recently held a competition to encourage more people to subscribe.

If you ever have any feedback about our newsletter or if there are specific stories you would like to hear about, please let us know! Email info@schoolofstjude.co.tz with your ideas! Also, don't forget to share this newsletter with any of your friends who might be interested. Thanks!

St Jude's Teachers Share their Skills with Government Schools



Above: Our Lower Primary Curriculum Deputy Jonas Michael teaching at one of the maths workshops.

Over the past year, St Jude's teachers have been doing professional development workshops with government school teachers in Arusha.

Five teachers from our school act as tutors, organising and preparing presentations which focus on maths, science and setting goals. We do different workshops for these subjects which students are not performing well in. Tanzanian students commonly believe that maths and science are difficult, so many are failing in these subjects.

There is also a lack of teaching materials in these areas, which is another contributor to students failing. St Jude's teachers are also aware of the struggles government schools face in teaching these subjects due to a shortage of computer and science labs. Therefore, government teachers are unable to do experiments in the classroom.

At St Jude's, we have all the required resources so we thought it'd be a good idea to support our neighbouring schools so they can acquire different skills to pass on to their students.

We are also eager to learn from other teachers. The main aim of this partnership is to share experiences, skills and knowledge so that we can support Tanzanian students to perform well in maths and science.

We are expecting that St Jude's will be a centre of excellence, and many government schools will benefit from us by acquiring more skills and helping their students to better understand what they are teaching.

We have already done two workshops this year and teachers from 15 schools in Arusha participated. In



Above: Some government school teachers at one of our maths workshops

October we will have another workshop where we will think about how far we have come with the teaching of maths and set goals for 2015. We had nine teachers from the government school at the first workshop, but at the last one we received more than 35 teachers and expect more in the future.

By Jonas Michael, Lower Primary Curriculum Deputy

Government school teachers have reported that they have already benefited from our workshops. Here is what they have learnt:

- Effective methods to use in teaching maths and science
- How to motivate students to value maths
- Learning how maths is important to daily life, and how to change cultural beliefs that maths and science are the hardest subjects in the curriculum
- Using technology in teaching maths and science
- Playing different games when teaching maths for primary schools
- How best to assess and evaluate students' performance
- How to use materials like DVDs in classes for teaching maths. Government schools were provided with these resources

Our Cooks Try Out New Skills in the Kitchen

Our Upper Primary cooks had a great time in the kitchen recently, working with Tony, an Australian Chef who spent a few days teaching them new, simple recipes that call for ingredients found in most kitchens.

Tony worked as a chef in numerous places including in the military and hospitals. He has also managed several restaurants in Australia. Tony first came to visit the school in 2010 and enjoys coming back to pass on his impressive skills and knowledge to our staff.

Try one of Tony's delicious recipes!



Tony (centre) working with our Upper Primary Cooks

Sweet Batter

This is a recipe for a sweet batter, which can cover fruits like banana, sliced pineapple, stale scones/buns or bread with jam (Tony's bush donuts).

Ingredients

- 3 eggs
- 2 cups of milk
- 1 cup of plain flour
- a pinch of salt
- 2 teaspoons of baking powder
- Filling of your choice—we loved the bananas!

Method

In a bowl place the flour, salt & sugar. With a fork or whisk, mix these together with a lifting action to capture air into the mix.

Place the flour mix to one side.

In another bowl, place the eggs (no shells) and the milk. With a fork or whisk, mix together until smooth.

Now slowly add the flour and then mix the eggs & milk by gently whisking until all the flour mix has been added and you have produced a smooth thick batter

Cover and allow to rest for 15 minutes.

Coat the filling of your choice with the batter. Deep fry in oil until it's a golden colour, not dark brown. Then drain and coat with cinnamon sugar.

Enjoy!

Damper

Damper is traditionally a simple Australian unleavened bread baked in the hot coals of a campfire. In this recipe Tony adds baking powder to make the damper lighter.

Ingredients

- 4 cups of plain flour (500g)
- 8 teaspoons of baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon of salt
- 380 mls of milk
- ½ cup of flour for dusting

Method

Place flour, baking powder and salt in a bowl. Using a fork or a clean hand mix it all together, lifting ingredients so as to add/capture air.

Creating a hole in the flour, pour 1 cup of milk into the centre of the flour. Using your fingers, start mixing the flour & milk to form dough gently. Put the formed dough to one side of the bowl. Gather the remaining flour and repeat

Combine both doughs to form one and knead lightly until the dough is smooth. It needs to be firm, not wet & sticky. If needed, add a little more flour.

Dust with flour a clean, dry kitchen board. Move dough to board, dividing into 2 equal portions. Knead each portion gently, dusting with flour when needed.

Cover and let rest for 15 minutes

Form into the shape of your choice for basic damper, or flatten dough and top with a small amount of your filling of choice then roll dough enclosing the product inside.

Bake on greased baking tray at 190°C/375°F for 30-40 minutes.

Monique, Cook, 4 years

"I love working with kids and preparing food for them as well as getting a good salary to support my life."



Emmanuel, Head Cook, 5 years

"I am so happy to be a cook at the school and it's good to see kids enjoying the food. I love working here and getting a salary which pays for my children's school fees and helps support my family."



Jon, Cook, 4 years

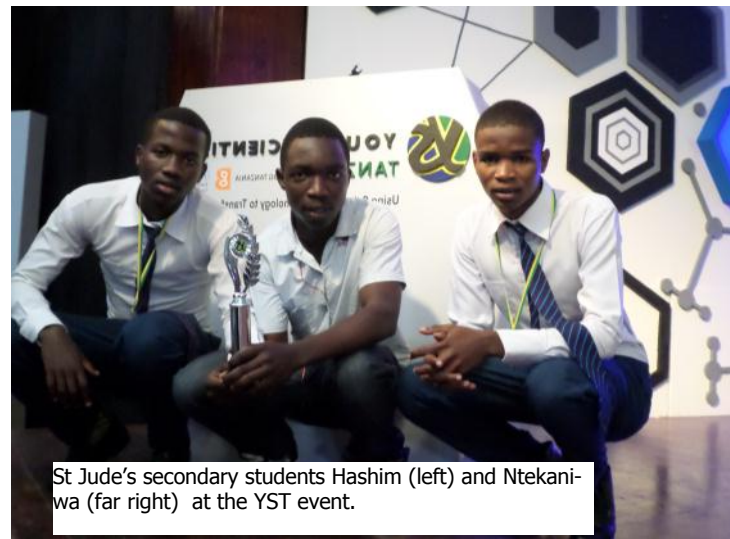
"I enjoy working with different types of foods and like how St Jude's gives us a new uniform and boots when we start working here."



Awards for Young Scientist Tanzania Competition

Well done to our secondary students who received a special award, trophy and prize for their technological project in the Young Scientists Tanzania competition in Dar es Salaam. There were 100 schools involved in the event, which provides a platform for young people from across Tanzania to be creative and show their scientific talents. It also encourages youth to enjoy science and come up with practical solutions to everyday problems.

Two of our secondary students, Hashim and Ntekaniwa, entered their SMS polling software project, which could be used in an election. They came up with the idea of online voting, using either the internet or SMS, so people would not have to wait in a long queue to cast their ballot, since many Tanzanians now have a phone. they used the software Raspheri-Pi to develop their idea.



St Jude's secondary students Hashim (left) and Ntekaniwa (far right) at the YST event.

Inspire >Aspire Competition

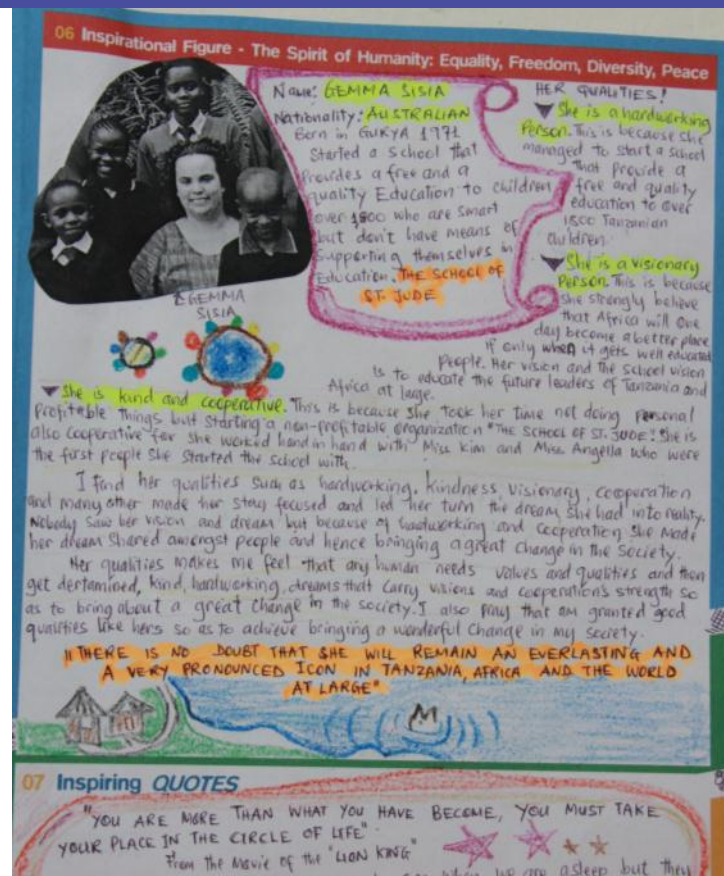
Three of our students have won prizes in the global Inspire > Aspire competition. It is a unique Awards Programme that worked with the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games to inspire and connect young people throughout the Commonwealth. The students designed posters exploring their own character and values, and connected with other students across the globe.

First prize went to Amani Mosha, second was awarded to Olarip and third prize went to Godfrey.

"They were all of such high standard and incredibly difficult to separate!" said a representative from Inspire>Aspire.

Amani chose our founder Gemma Sisia as his inspirational figure in his poster. "There is no doubt that she will remain an everlasting and very pronounced icon in Tanzania, Africa and the world at large," he said.

We're very proud of Amani and all of our students who were involved!



Reaching New Heights

A big congratulations to F5 student Denis who performed well in an East African sports competition in Dar es Salaam recently!

More than 3,000 participants were involved in the championships, which develop the talents of students and gives them an opportunity to connect with others from across the region. 700 of the competitors came from Tanzania.

Denis ranked fifth overall in the triple jump and broke his own personal record. Great job, Denis!

