



A St Jude's first! 2015 class reunited

In a restaurant garden the graduates came dressed to impress. The sun shone as they began arriving. Alongside the food and drink were speeches from the school founder Gemma, the Community Service Year interns, the Beyond St Jude's team and other graduates.

For Enock, the reunion was part of a very happy weekend of events. "It was our first ever reunion and one of my best weekends of 2016. I had so much fun and 24 hours later I received my university acceptance news!"

The whole event was entrusted to a select number of interns and they pulled it off wonderfully! The staff who were lucky enough to be invited were all highly impressed by what the interns had organised.

It was not just a social event, it became an opportunity for past students to communicate their ideas for the future with one another, with the school and with a few current students who were in attendance.

The event was a great opportunity to be reacquainted with everyone, as alongside our Community Service Year interns were the students who had decided to move straight on to university.

Those who have spent the past year at university, including Jackson and Editha, got up to share tips and stories to help our interns for the year ahead. Jackson warned his peers about the struggles of budgeting, living with new people and coming to class adequately prepared to learn.

A special reunion for our 2015 graduates!

Community Service interns, Joseph and Anna, shared an overview of how they felt their Community Service Year had been and what it had taught them. Joseph explained how proud he is to be from St Jude's. "I realised my colleagues and new friends treat me with great respect simply because I come from St Jude's."

It was heart-warming to see them all so excited to spend time with each other and share their stories. "I haven't seen some of these people for a year now, so it's been really fun!" said Edina.

Anna thought the day was incredibly special. "This was the first one, there will never be a reunion like this again. Of course, many will follow on from us, but this is the first! I loved everything – catching up with my classmates, many whom I have not seen in quite some time, and I loved the food!" she said.

"What I won't forget about this day is that this has been the funnest day of my life. We have not all been together since school finished, and may never all be together again. I have no words to express how special this is."

Sadly, some of the Community Service Year interns who had chosen to keep working until they leave for university were not in attendance as they had too many papers to grade and exams to prepare. Talk about good work ethic!

It was clear that even after all this time, St Jude's students will always be family to one another. This bond cannot be broken by time and distance. The School of St Jude is not just a school, it is a family that will stay connected for years to come. We look forward to many more fun filled reunions in the future!

Want to help St Jude's continue to educate future leaders? Sponsor a student today! Go to... www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html or call 0438 783 035.



Enock and the Beyond St Jude's team share a special moment



Aneti, Caroline and Edina catch up after a busy Community Service Year before attending university



The class of 2015 enjoys catching up after a busy year participating in our community service year or heading to university



Joshua, Justin and Jackson strike a pose for the camera



You may have noticed we look a little different.

St Jude's has a new look!

We're still the same School of St Jude, with the same people providing the same high quality education to approximately 1,800 primary and secondary students.

So why the change? As you probably know, the school has grown a lot in its first 14 years. We wanted a new look and feel to reflect where we are now. We wanted it to show the energy, the trust, the welcoming spirit and the professionalism we're known for.

This will help us attract more international philanthropy, but at its heart, our new look is really about being proud of who we are and what we're achieving for the community. Now and into the future.

We have been so lucky to have two wonderful partners who are helping us achieve this new look, graphic design geniuses Seesaw and web development gurus eFront. These companies have partnered with St Jude's to help us achieve our new look on a pro-bono basis!

The first part of this process is our new logo and an update of our website's landing page. Over the coming months and into the new year you will see more changes as we introduce the rest of our new look.



Our new school logo

The School of St Jude



Our new landing page!

Check out the rebrand concept video at:
www.schoolofstjude.org/st-judes-in-action/st-judes-has-a-new-look.

Check out the work of our partners Seesaw at:
www.seesawstudio.com.au/
and eFront www.efront.com.au/



Staff Spotlight: Sebastian Gitbang

In a rare moment of pause during his business daily schedule, Mr Sebastian Gitbang catches himself by surprise when he thinks about the time that has passed since started at The School of St Jude in 2006.

“It’s almost been 10 years, that’s a long time actually when I think about it,” he says.

“When I joined the school it was not as big as it is now, I feel as if I have grown up with the school.”

It has been a career that Mr Sebastian could not have predicted when he was hired and asked which classes he would like to teach. “My first priority was to teach Maths, my second was Science and third was Social Studies. But when I started, I had the chance to join the social studies department and I was also given the chance to be the Head of Department. So I took the position, and from then until now I have been teaching Social Studies”.

It is a decision Mr Sebastian has been happy with ever since. “Social Studies is about life,” he explains. “It is all about living, human beings and the environment, which is all around us. It helps give our students good and basic skills for their lives. These are the subjects that if you teach the students you are teaching them practical skills. They learn how to live a good life and about things that are important.”



Mr Sebastian is one of our many passionate teachers who believe in our mission of fighting poverty through education

Staff Spotlight: Sebastian Gitbang

Coming up to nearly a decade at the school, Mr Sebastian is able to think about the small things that have had a lasting impact on the school.

“During his time at St Jude’s, Mr Sebastian has had a lasting impact. ‘When I started I was given the chance to come up with new things, like the drumming you see around the school at assembly for the national anthem and other school songs,” he says. Hundreds of international visitors enter our school gates each year and the lively drumming at assemblies is always one of the highlights.

Mr Sebastian is also having an impact outside of St Jude’s. He has been involved in a community program that offers teacher mentoring and training to local government schools.

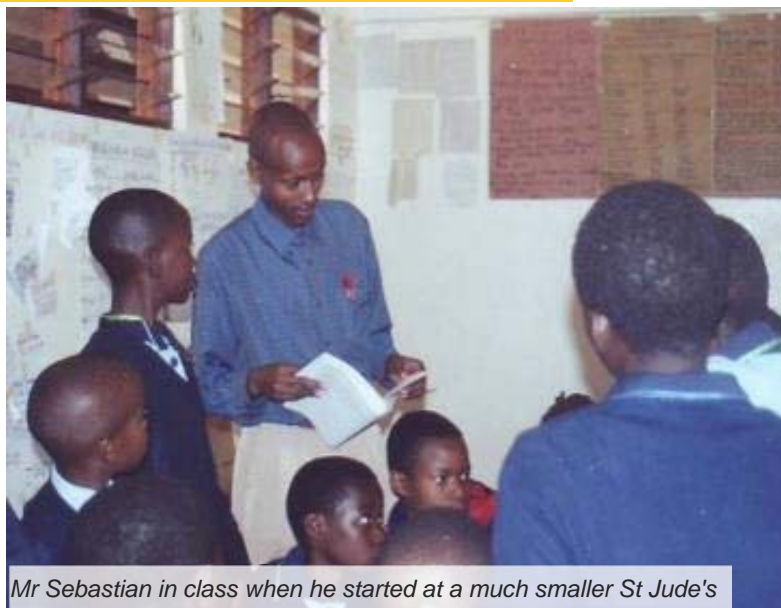
“St Jude’s has made me who I am, so I thought I should share the knowledge and the skills I have gained at my time here with my fellow Tanzanian teachers, because they don’t learn what we do here”.

At St Jude’s, we believe that we should facilitate and assist improvements in teaching and learning in Tanzania. In fact this is our eighth strategic goal.

Mr Sebastian is helping us achieve this and has been having success, “For the past five years the performance of the Government Schools has improved, compared to the way it was before”.

Mr Sebastian is inspired by Gemma and the St Jude’s community and is proud to have been part of the team and the wider impact on the community.

“St Jude’s was just a dream of one person, Gemma, but look at the students who are here. Where would they be if not for her dream? Or the staff, where would they be, if not for that dream. It started as just a dream but you can see what an impact it has



Mr Sebastian in class when he started at a much smaller St Jude's



Mr Sebastian believes Social Studies teaches our students important life skills and practical knowledge.



When your teacher is as passionate as Mr Sebastian the classroom is a great place to be!

Want to help St Jude’s have qualified, passionate teachers like Mr Sebastian? Donate to teaching today! www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html or call 0438 783 035.



St Jude's sponsors visit student's home

From opposite sides of the world two families share a common connection in their support of Isack, one of our Form 1 students. Jim and Bridget are both teachers, so they understand the value of education to a student like Isack.

“As two people who have spent their entire careers in education, in different parts of The (United) States, I feel when we're talking about tackling issues like poverty or about ways we can help communities work through issues related to poverty, education is one of the most valuable places to start if you are going to donate money or time,” Jim said.

Jim was first introduced to Isack in 2015 when he taught him as part of a teacher exchange program. “Jim came home and talked about Isack and our family made a decision to sponsor him,” Bridget said. “Our kids talk about Isack at home, we share pictures and letters that we get from him. They use some of their allowance to help pay for the sponsorship.”

“I felt like we had a lot of connection with her just as parents, parents who care about their kids and their education – being proud of your child and feeling like they have a really good opportunity in life. I could tell that was really important to her.” Bridget said about Martha.

“I felt like it was great conversation and there was a lot more in common than we could have guessed,” Jim said. “We have a lot in common in terms of what we value and what's important to us and teaching our kids the right things to do and the right ways to be.”

Jim and Bridget were able to experience first-hand why their support was so valuable, and why boarding is such an essential service that St Jude provides.

“I was really surprised just how long it took to get to Isack's home and the conditions of the roads – the things that we saw along the way, how the families are living and the lack of resources that you could see around you,” Bridget said.

The families stay connected even when they can't all be together in Tanzania. “St Jude's has been really great about keeping us connected with Isack through the sponsorship program – sending us updates and letting us know how he is doing at school. The emails we get, we share those with our kids and it helps us stay connected.” Jim said.

Want to help St Jude's provide a quality education for a deserving student like Isack? Sponsor a student today! www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/sponsor.html or call 0438 783 035.



Eureka! Success in science at St Jude's

Two St Jude's students who love all things that fizzle and pop were invited to participate in the Young Scientists Tanzania (YST) exhibition with their teacher and Biology Head of Department Humphrey Nkya. Their project, 'Developing a sustainable method of mushroom production for poor people using plant waste materials', involves growing mushrooms in a way that can be easily adapted for local families who farm vegetable plots in Arusha.

As well as a valuable learning experience for the students, it was also a learning experience for Humphrey Nkya "I had the opportunity to meet and share science ideas with teachers from all regions of Tanzania. With the experience I got, I can now provide better advice and guidance to our students".

The two girls, Arafra and Lillian, were awarded a certificate of participation for their project.

"We grew the mushrooms and looked after them every day." Arafra proudly explains. "We then had to write up our experiment like in a science paper."

Lilian told us, "the aim of the project was to find an alternative source of food for poor farmers. Mushrooms are a great source of nutrients many people may not normally get in their diet".



The girls project on display at the Tanzanian Young Scientist competition.



The girls took out the top Biology place at the science day competition.



Eric showcases his vending machine at our annual careers day, he later presented this at the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology

St Jude's students excel in science

"Mushrooms are easy to grow and don't take a lot of time, so they are a really great option for poor people in Tanzania," Arafra said.

The girls learnt a lot through the project about scientific studies, practice and nutrition which will be helpful for the two in their future careers. Arafra wants to be an actuary and Lilian wants to be a neuro or a cardiac surgeon.

Other high flying science students were recently invited to attend the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology to present their new inventions and projects. Eric is one of the students invited, he presented his automatic vending machine.

"The vending machine uses old computer parts programmed in a specific way so that people can purchase drinks when shops are closed." Eric explained.

"I researched the pros and cons of the system and came up with a list of requirements for places you may be able to install it," Eric said.

The project was also well received at our science day and at our careers day. Although Eric loves science he is planning to be an accountant in the future.

The future is also something Eric's Physics teacher Hashim, who accompanied him on the visit, is also looking forward to. "I am very proud of them. I am looking forward to next year when we will also compete!"

Want to help St Jude's students continue to excel in science? Donate to Learning Resources today! www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/donate.html. Or call 0438 783 035.



Let's go! We love excursions

Do you remember your school trips? Maybe you visited a local historical site or a zoo! This month students climbed aboard the St Jude's school buses and learnt beyond their classrooms.

To have a fleet of 21 buses that can visit some of the world's most fascinating national parks is an educational treat for our students. We are lucky to be able to make a student's day filled with smiles and happy memories of local places that Tanzanian children do not normally get to see.

Our Standard 3 students visited Shanga, to learn about recycling and a range of art and craft making processes. "They made slippers out of car tyres." said Amina, who was amazed to see unusual materials being recycled into everyday items. Hadija enjoyed seeing a crafts workshop. "It was so busy," she said. "They were recycling and making things!"

Standard 1 and 2 students visited Lake Manyara National Park, one of the most picturesque stops on Tanzania's famous safari circuit. Their geography lessons came to life watching hippos, elephants and buffalos cooling off in the water. After seeing these animals with their own eyes, the students better understand the importance of national parks in Tanzania.



Standard 3 learn about glass blowing and shaping at Shanga



Standard 1 and 2 students enjoy the view at Lake Manyara

Want to join our students? Go to... www.flickr.com/photos/133385067@N06/sets/72157672451497302/
Or why not visit us and see it all for yourself!
www.schoolofstjude.org/visit-us/making-a-visit.html
Email visitors@schoolofstjude.co.tz
or call +255758305776



Our American Friends' website launches

We are fortunate to have generous supporters across the world, and are excited to announce that some of our amazing American friends have made it even easier for US supporters to help fight poverty through education.

The American Friends of the School of St Jude, Tanzania, Inc. has a new website which allows US supporters to give to St Jude's with easy, tax-deductible contributions!

Our American Friends have been working hard to ensure St Jude's US fundraising efforts are officially recognized as a 501(c)(3) public charity. Now we're celebrating the American Friends organization being granted official tax-exempt status! EIN 47-3077055

This means that donations from the US will no longer go through a third party financial provider, so more of your donation will come directly to the school.

That will help us continue to foster the next generation of leadership in Tanzania, by providing a free, high-quality education to approximately 1,800 of the poorest and brightest students in Arusha. And you aren't just helping our students have a brighter future.

Our holistic approach and extended national curriculum is creating community-focused leaders with strong skills and values, a vital contribution to a country where 93% of the adult population has no secondary education.

You'll also help support local families, as our school purchases local ingredients for 31,000 meals each week. From January to December in 2015 St Jude's injected over \$3,254,000 USD into our local community through purchasing, services and wages. In fact, 98% of our total expenditure benefits the surrounding community, not to mention the 19,256 hours our hard-working local staff members spend volunteering each year in their local communities.

The American Friends website is now accepting donations and sponsorship payments, and US supporters with monthly auto-deductions can easily make the switch by contacting us. You can also help St Jude's by letting us know of any American government and foundation grants we may be eligible for by emailing supporterrelations@schoolofstjude.co.tz.

Celebrate with us today by donating to American Friends of School of St Jude!
www.afstjude.org/sponsorship-programs-and-general-donations/



Join Us! Health Check Team 2017

Applications for our yearly Medical check team close at the end of September! Want to help St Jude's ensure the health and well-being of all of our students? Then you should apply! Please note you must be available from Feb 27th – March 10th and this is a 2 week volunteer period.

Job Purpose:

To be part of a health check team to provide support to the Student Welfare team in identifying students who may have health problems that could potentially affect the student's ability to learn and reach their full potential, and to provide advice.

Key Responsibilities:

At the beginning of every year, our students have a medical check which includes:

- Height and weight measurements
- Vision testing
- A brief physical examination
- Documentation of findings and recommendations
- You will also be required to provide advice and support to Welfare staff and students identified with specific issues.

Skills and Competence:

There are three types of volunteers needed:

Health professionals with experience in undertaking medical assessments of children and/or adolescents. This may include, but is not limited to, experienced general practitioners, nurse practitioners with expertise in child health or paediatricians (6 positions).

Health professionals who can undertake vision assessments. This may include, but is not limited to optometrists, orthoptists, ophthalmologists, nurses (3 positions).

Individuals who are highly organised and enjoy working with children. An understanding of medical terminology is desirable, as are skills and experience working with people with disabilities. Allied health professionals such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists, nurses or students studying a health profession may be interested in this role (6 positions).

Interested candidates are kindly requested to send their CV accompanied by a cover letter to recruitment@schoolofstjude.co.tz with a cc to pipbinns@gmail.com and charlotte.p@schoolofstjude.co.tz (Community Relations Manager at St Jude's)