



St Jude's News

SEPTEMBER 2018



2018 Cultural Day at
St Jude's

Story page 4

Behind the scenes
st Form 5 student
selection

Story page 8



A visit not soon
forgotten

Story page 10



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Maasai Leader with the World at his Feet

Lotoishe, one of our brand new Form 5 students who started at St Jude's in July

Continued on page 2



Meet brand new Form 5 student, Lotoishe

Some quotes translated from Kiswahili and Maa

Lotoishe is a young man who has already overcome significant barriers in his life, and who is now well on the way to a future of his own making.

He and his family live in a village named Mwandeti, around a two hour drive from Smith Secondary Campus, where he began his A-Level studies in July.

“I heard about the school through my government school headmaster. On the day of my interview for St Jude’s, I started my journey at five o’clock in the morning. I had to walk for two hours to get to a bus station,” Lotoishe said.

“Two of us from my previous school did the interview at St Jude’s, and I was lucky enough to be selected. The day I was selected, I was so happy.”

Lotoishe, the eldest of five children, was a top-scoring student at his local government school and dreams of becoming an Engineer, and of improving life for his family.

“When I got to St Jude’s I was surprised to find a lot of teachers. There are many good science teachers, but at my previous secondary school, there were barely any teachers.”

Usa River, where Smith Secondary Campus is located, may seem far from home for Lotoishe, but he’s now closer than ever to reaching his dream.

More than 15 relatives share small mud huts in Lotoishe’s boma — the traditional name for a Maasai dwelling — and their first-spoken language is Maa, the native tongue of the Maasai.

A narrow, unsealed road wedged into a large valley connects Lotoishe and his fellow Maasai community to urban Arusha. His mother, Nanare, walks for three hours uphill to fetch water at a communal tap.

"Our life is very difficult because we do not have enough money. I must walk very far to get to food and water, so my children eat food once a day," Nanare explained.

"I spend every day doing chores for the family, fetching supplies, cleaning, looking after the young children. It is a hard life but I love my family."

"Because we are Maasai, wealth is measured by how many animals we have. We only have two cows, we sold the rest to afford Lotoishe's government school expenses."

"I know my son will do well and he can make a good living one day. Education will help him get there and we know he can help us all to do better. We are so proud." she said.



Lotoishe is one of 32 new Form 5 students at St Jude's who's academic scholarship is currently unsponsored. You can help to change his life by supporting us today!



Building St Jude's Culture of Hope

On International Day of Peace, we celebrated cultural harmony at St Jude's

Did you know that 61 African tribes are represented across St Jude's primary and secondary campuses?

Each year during September, the entire school celebrates the cultural unity of Tanzania and the beautiful, varied backgrounds from which our students and staff descend.

Julius Nyerere, the first President of Tanzania, set a bold example of strength in unity when he declared, "without unity, there is no future for Africa."

The founding leader of this country, which many of our students will become leaders within, believed that regardless of tribe or religion, Tanzanians are primarily united by their national citizenship.

Having founded Tanzania on this premise, he left a legacy of cultural harmony on a continent that, so frequently, is stereotyped as a hotbed of hostility and conflict.

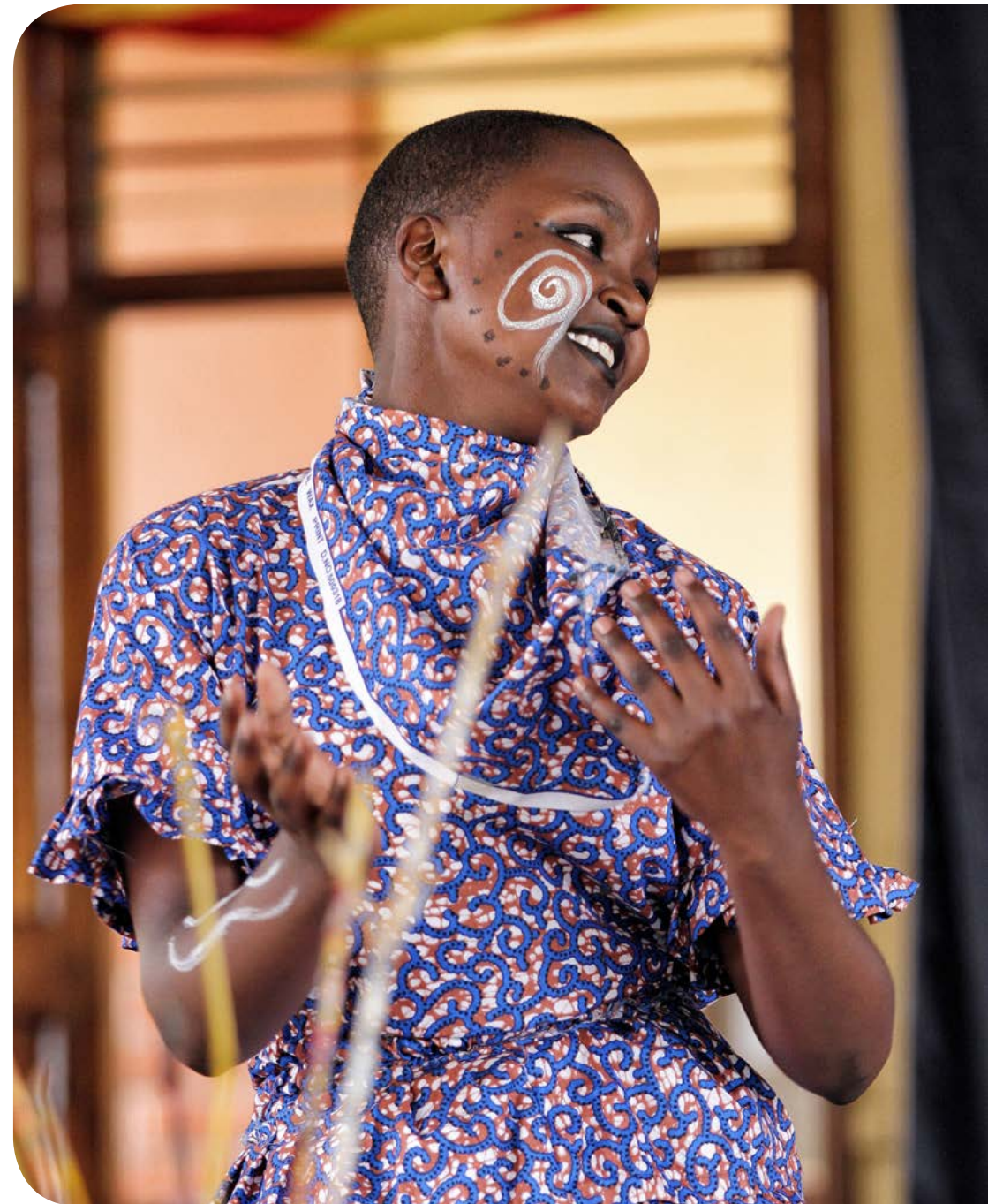
With Nyerere's example underpinning the premise of cultural celebration, our 2018 Cultural Day was a colourful display of national pride and vision for the future.

Throughout the event, 13 groups of students performed entertaining arts showcases, ranging from Hindi songs to traditional ngoma dancing and fashion exhibitions.

Mr Humphrey, Deputy Headmaster of Core Values and Operations, and Ms Irene, a secondary teacher, welcomed special guests to the event. Ms Irene officially opened the celebration with a stirring address.

"The theme of today is 'arts and culture promoting patriotism.' Culture is the total way of life, each community has its way of life, and we as Tanzanians have a way of life. The food we eat, how we dress, the language we use."

"Many Tanzanians adopt western ways of life. That is okay, it is progress, but we also have our own culture. You are receiving a western-style education, and will go out to the world,





The Black Child: A profound visual art piece produced by students.



Dancing sensation: Watch our staff get in on the action!

but please, you must remember, you are Tanzanian. We have our arts, traditional songs, drama, poems, our literature. Be broad-minded and read things from other countries, but remember to read about your own country.”

“I am here to ask you to love your culture, love who you are, love your skin, your hair and your body. We have to love our country. No one will love this country more than we who are Tanzanian.”

After the opening remarks, students between Forms 1 and 6 took to the stage to perform traditional ngoma dances and dramatic plays. Four student groups showcased cultural pride through visual arts and fashion exhibits.

One winning group in the visual arts category produced a captivating painting titled ‘The Black Child’. It took first prize on the basis of originality, quality, and expression of cultural pride.

“This picture shows what it means to love your nation. This strong woman is a treasure to her nation, who is carrying her child. The child represents the future for Africa,” group members explained.

An indisputable highlight from the day was a surprise performance from secondary staff! Mr Humphrey even took to the stage for a dance, together with cooks and teachers from a range of faculties.

The day concluded with a vote of thanks from Deputy Director, Angela, who called upon students to sustain a positive culture within St Jude’s.

“Today has been a wonderful day to celebrate Tanzanian culture. As we know, there are many cultural areas within our lives, and school is one of those. Respect, responsibility, honesty and kindness are St Jude’s school values. Let’s all work together to make sure those values are always upheld.”

Be a part of building
St Jude’s school culture
by sponsoring an
academic scholarship for
one of Tanzania’s future
leaders.





Progress for One Means Progress for All

Catch up with Jenifa as she discusses the importance of Cultural Day bonds between two countries

In October 2017, we introduced you to Jenifa, a then-Form 4 student who represented St Jude's at the Women and Girls in Science workshop hosted by Nelson Mandela University.

Jenifa, the only daughter among three children, is destined to break the cycle of poverty for her family, having

successfully attained an academic scholarship at St Jude's to complete her A-Level studies.

Immersed in many aspects of school life, Jenifa recently expressed her cultural pride, through participation in our annual Cultural Day festivities.

"Culture, to me, means a total way of life. I love being Tanzanian. From our food, to our clothes, our close families. Our way of being is very genuine," Jenifa said.

Jenifa belongs to the Meru tribe of Tanzania, who are renowned for their agricultural expertise and first arrived to Mount Meru in Arusha from coastal regions some 800 years ago.

"Being a member of the Meru tribe has influenced our family ways. The behavior, cooking, clothes and traditional dances we practice were passed down to us. It is important to carry them forward."

Articulate and insightful, Jenifa explained that while it is important to ensure the sustainability of cultural traditions, she would like to play her part in advancing cultural status for women and girls.

"Last year I wanted to be an Aeronautical Engineer. I changed my decision and would like to be a doctor because I can help more women that way."



Reasons to smile: Jenifa is an outstanding advocate for gender equality.



All-star performance: Graduating from Form 4 is no easy feat in Tanzania.



Overcoming obstacles: Jenifa has attended St Jude's for more than 10 years.

"It is known that African culture does not always empower women. As a doctor, I can help women by treating them when they have babies. I will give them knowledge about hygiene, especially to young girls, and knowledge about maternity problems."

"I also want to support women's mental health. If women go through trauma, they might have psychological problems, but as a doctor I can help to counsel them."

Jenifa believes St Jude's Cultural Day empowers students to take pride in Tanzanian culture, and express creativity.

"Some are dancing, some are acting, some are designers, some are cooking. People can also cooperate and share ideas with each other."

"I am in Form 5 and we have many new students joining us for A-Level who would never have this chance at a government school. One of my friends, Nuru, is new this year and she participated in the fashion show. It makes me so happy to see how excited the new students are to attend this special day!"

Empower St Jude's students to grow in confidence and determination by spreading the word about our school



Driving Force Behind Student Selection

New students are steering towards a smoother road

Ever wondered what it's like behind the scenes at our student selection days?

The student selection process, led by our Community Relations team, and overseen by team manager, Charlotte, takes months of organisation and logistical planning.

It involves over a hundred staff members, from guards, gardeners and bus drivers, to academic and administration teams, sacrificing Saturdays during selection periods to help on Student Selection Day and, in following weeks, poverty assessments inside hopeful students' homes.

Student selection season for secondary students takes place between April and July, with primary students selected between August and October.

Standard 1 and 2 students, aged between 6 and 8, are our youngest recipients of a free, high quality education, and their selection process attracts the largest number of scholarship applicants.

Philomena has worked in St Jude's Community Relations team since 2010 and has since played a vital role in selecting many of our students.

"Weeks before Student Selection Day, our team visits government schools within Arusha to deliver invitation letters to students who score in the top 10% of their government school Preparatory and Standard 1 classes. It is a huge activity."

Academic testing begins at 8.30am on selection days and usually runs until 5pm. However, many students and their parents start lining up outside the Sisia Primary Campus gates from 6am.

For secondary scholarship applicants vying for positions in Form 1 (Grade 8) and Form 5 (Grade 11), the journey to Student Selection Day is much longer and more arduous... and not just in travel time!

Form 1 applicants are invited from within Arusha, whereas Form 5 scholarships are offered to top-scoring secondary students from government schools in regions throughout Northern Tanzania.

Successful Form 5 applicants will have received only a government school education for a decade, and many travel for more than a day via public transport to be at St Jude's to sit their academic test.



Their resilience and potential for success is already proven; advancing from primary school to secondary school in Tanzania is uncommon. Additionally, with 4,614 O-Level (Form 1-Form 4) schools, and only 540 A-Level (Form 5-Form 6) schools in Tanzania, advancing from Form 4 to Form 5 is highly improbable for the majority of students.

St Jude's Form 1 and Form 5 scholarships provide a pathway for young, disadvantaged Tanzanians who have already demonstrated their academic skills, to progress beyond their means and their imagination.

Students who successfully pass St Jude's challenging academic test and document checks on selection days are visited in their homes at a later date by poverty assessment teams, comprised of academic, business and facilities staff, as well as Parent Committee members.

It may take between 12 and 16 hours per day for poverty assessment teams to interview six Form 5 applicants, due to the long distances the teams have to travel.

Poverty assessments are always challenging, regardless of whether the applicants' families are based locally or far away. Assessment teams encounter additional challenges, though, when travelling long distances to interview prospective Form 5 students in their homes.

Our bus fleet scales roads along the steep outskirts of Mount Kilimanjaro, traverses rocky terrain in remote tribal villages and, sometimes, get stuck in thick mud. Weather occasionally prevents our buses from reaching students' homes on the first attempt, particularly during Form 5 student selection.

"Within two weeks of arriving at St Jude's, I participated in Form 5 poverty assessments. The rain was so heavy that our bus struggled to drive uphill on long, muddy roads. We eventually realised we couldn't reach one student's house that day, and after being bogged for an hour, were able to make our way back to a main road," Supporter Relations Officer, Eithne, explained.

Travelling to remote areas enables us to expand the fight against poverty, and to reach some of the students in greatest need of an education.

Our Form 5 entrants consistently rank among top-scoring Form 6 graduates. Some of them, like Gift, have completed a Community Service Year and now study in leading universities in Tanzania or abroad, having attained scholarships through Beyond St Jude's and the MasterCard Foundation at African Leadership Academy.

A bright future is just a few short years away for students who join St Jude's in Form 5. Consider giving them a step up and sponsor an A-Level scholarship for one of these remarkable young adults.



Seasoned selector: Philomena has worked in St Jude's Community Relations team for nearly a decade!.



Stuck in the mud: St Jude's needs well-maintained buses to ensure we safely travel through varied conditions



Taking in the view: Staff teams undertaking poverty assessment checks get to see remote areas of Tanzania.



Learning is a Two Way Street



Find out how cultural immersion builds lasting bonds between two countries

When 12 intrepid students from Methodist Ladies' College (MLC) in Melbourne, Australia, stepped out of a St Jude's bus and into our schoolyard on September 1, they brought more with them than just their luggage.

They brought compassion, laughter, songs and hope.

It was a long awaited trip for the young travellers, each of whom made their mark on our school community.

Alice, currently in Year 10 at Methodist Ladies' College, expressed her excitement at being selected to participate in the College's immersion to Tanzania.

"It was amazing to find out we were selected to come to St Jude's. We saw the effect it had on students who'd come before us and we could only imagine just how special it would be."

"When you come to St Jude's, you realise exactly where your money is going and can see how it changes the students' lives. You also receive much more than you could possibly give, there is so much joy here."

During their two-and-a-half week stay, MLC's staff and students enjoyed learning about Tanzanian culture, tasting local delicacies, spending time with students and experiencing a safari!

"Going on safari was a great way to break up the visit and to see some of the amazing landscapes within Tanzania, but certainly spending time at St Jude's was the highlight." Group leader and MLC staff member, Lauren, shared.

"For most of us, the home visit was a true highlight. When you see the students on the playground in their neat school uniforms, it's easy to forget where they come from. So, having the chance to go to their home and experience how welcoming their families are was very special for us," Year 10 students, Georgia and Mimi, said.

"Although the youngest children are so cute and it's beneficial to have a connection with them for 12 years or more if you sign on for sponsorship, we think it's equally beneficial to sponsor a scholarship for students in Form 1 or Form 5, because they have shown their resilience for 10 years at underfunded government schools."



Reasons to smile: Spending quality time with our students was an immersion highlight.



Servings of joy: Some 29,000 hot meals are prepared per week at St Jude's.



Join MLC as they explore St Jude's.

"They are students around our age group, so we can develop a peer-to-peer bond with them," the students added.

St Jude's students certainly benefited from meeting MLC's bright leaders. The visiting students helped to serve hundreds of meals at Sisia Primary Campus, and on the final day of their visit, performed an excellent repertoire of Australian songs at the primary school assembly!

Beyond their singing and dancing talents, MLC brought thousands more reasons to smile.

Incredibly, the students raised more than AUD \$14,000 for St Jude's before visiting us. Their very generous donation has been allocated to the

The MLC students knew they were in for the journey of a lifetime before they'd even landed on Tanzanian soil, yet Alice's final words convey the ripple effect a visit to St Jude's can have.

"We are so happy to have had this experience. It really makes me consider coming back to Africa and volunteering in the future, and ways I can make a difference for St Jude's in years to come."

Would you like to see
St Jude's in action?
Find out how to make a visit!

