



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

ISSUE 10, 2013



Start a Ripple

We're so excited to let you know that so far, as part of our Start a Ripple Campaign, over 44 new sponsorships have begun—that's 44 new ripples across Tanzania!

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in finding new sponsors for the 150 Standard 1 students who are starting in January.

Each year, the St Jude's team goes out into the community in search for the brightest children in the Arusha region who have the potential to utilise their education to make a big impact in their community. As you can imagine the parents and guardians of these children are over the moon when they find out that their son or daughter has been accepted and will receive a free, high-quality education. It is a life changing opportunity that will ensure they have a chance to escape the poverty cycle and go on to be leaders in their community.

But it's not only the new students whose lives are changing because of St Jude's. Think of the 400 plus Tanzanians who now have employment because of

St Jude's, and then on top of that, all of the suppliers and members of the community who benefit from St Jude's supporting the local economy.

Become a St Jude's sponsor today and start a ripple!
www.schoolofstjude.org/Donations/sponsorships.html

Watch our latest video that features two of our local teachers talking about how working at St Jude's impacts their life.

<http://bit.ly/1fgBdkC>



Message from Jon Ford, School Director

As I wrote for the newsletter last month I was looking forward to St Jude's Day when staff dress-up in St Jude's kangas as part of the celebration. My wife, Sandra, made me a graduation outfit with hood and mortar board. After a whole school photograph (try to imagine organising 1,660 students aged from 6– 20 into a single photo) we celebrated mass in what was a beautiful service. The School Choir was magnificent and I found it moving to see students who have so little themselves bringing gifts to be distributed to others who are in need. You can read more about the day on page 10.



I presented the outfit that Sandra made for me to Shean as he graduated from his time at St Jude's.

It has been great to see our Form 4 students taking their National end of Secondary exams - their so called "O" levels. The name comes from England where I took my "O" levels in 1976. The "O" actually stands for Ordinary Level as opposed to Advanced Level or "A" level - I remember thinking that ordinary was not really a fair description as I found that they were actually pretty hard exams and that remains true to this day.

I asked one Form 4 student what he would do in his holiday time and he said he would continue to study to prepare for Form 5. I asked if he would do some tuition for

other children in his village and he looked surprised that I asked and replied, "Of course I will, I already do when I am at home." This is part of the "Ripple Effect" of St Jude's.

Last week we welcomed members of the Board of the East African Fund to St Jude's for a series of meetings with The School of St Jude Ltd and stakeholders throughout the school including students, academic leaders and parents' committee representatives. Great discussions were had and more news of the plans that came from those meetings will be announced in due course but we are all excited about this new phase in the development of our fight to tackle poverty through education and create leaders for the future of Tanzania.

Finally I would like to say a special thanks to Shean Gannon who has been here for three years and the last two as Acting School Director as well as Business Manager. We said farewell to him last weekend as he flew home to Australia. His impact on the school has been immeasurable and as someone accurately said to me, he is a hard act to follow. I am grateful that he has been here to offer me advice and support over the last three months and I am reassured that all his wisdom, experience and knowledge is only an email or skype call away. The School of St Jude will miss him and will remain grateful for all he did in his time here. To borrow one of Gemma's favorite phrases, "Good on you Shean!"

With thanks,
Jon

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We Love Visitors

St Jude's has been a buzz with visitors from all over the world. We love welcoming our guests and showing them our school. It's particularly great to see our older students giving their very own tours of the school to visitors, as was the case with our friends from Captain's Choice. Thank you to all of our visitors for travelling to Tanzania to see first hand how together, we're all fighting poverty through education. Enjoy a snapshot of their visits over the next two pages.

Captains Choice

We loved welcoming the group from Captain's Choice who stopping into the Smith Campus as part of their African tour. With 188 guests as part of the group, our Secondary students loved showing them around their campus on individual tours.

Thanks for fitting us into your itinerary guys!



We Love Visitors

October Cultural Tour

You can tell from the smiles on Ju Lee and Jo's face that they loved every minute of their October tour. The two women travelled from Australia and experienced the very best of St Jude's with class and home visits, drumming lessons, learning more about Massai culture.

Our 2014 Cultural Tours will run in June, July, September and October and are a great way to show your support for St Jude's while immersing yourself in Tanzanian culture.

Visit our website at www.schoolofstjude.org/VisitUs/tour.html for all the details.

*We have just introduced our Family Tour for October 2014—be sure to check it out for a once in a lifetime experience for you and your children.



Imberhorne visit St Jude's and their former School Head



School Director Jon Ford loved showing a group from his former school in the UK around his new home at St Jude's.

Imberhorne Secondary school is based in East Grinstead, West Sussex in the UK and were able to fit a visit to St Jude's in as part of their annual Tanzanian cultural trip.

Rebel Wilson talks about her ongoing commitment to St Jude's

The Australian actress who has risen to fame in *Bridesmaids* and *Pitch Perfect* is a very loyal supporter of St Jude's, sponsoring a student and a boarding room. We asked Rebel a few questions.

What inspired you to get involved in The School of St Jude?

I first saw a documentary on ABC about the school, and I just thought it was such an amazing idea and Gemma was really inspiring. I, myself, was a Rotary International Youth Ambassador and lived in South Africa for one year. During that time I got to travel to rural areas in Swaziland, Malawi, and Mozambique. I visited villages where the kids had no education or resources. I was lucky enough to have a brilliant education, and I think that St Jude's is offering kids who never have any education a chance to learn and grow into leaders of tomorrow.

What do you like about being a St Jude's sponsor?

I like that my donations are going directly to helping individuals at the school. I have been sponsoring Winnie for a number of years and I love receiving her letters and now e-mails. I think the school does a great job in sending through your sponsor child's school reports and a photo when you send packages to your sponsor child.

What advice would you give to St Jude's students who have come from adverse backgrounds and are now making strides in their education and deciding what to do beyond secondary school?

Education is your key to opportunity. I know I come from Australia, but I didn't grow up with much. I just believed in myself and tried to always improve. My advice would be to try your absolute hardest at school. Study hard and try different activities so that when you finish secondary school there will be lots of opportunities for you to pursue. Even though I now work in the entertainment industry and get to make people laugh; when I was at school I tried hard in all my subjects and my final exam results got me into the top law school in Australia. When it comes time to decide what to do with your life I would say choose what you're passionate about and then work out a way to profit from that. Becoming an actress was the most risky path I could have taken, but it's been such a fun path and the risk has more than paid off.

Why is philanthropy important to you?

Now that I am in a fortunate position it feels good to give back. I think the work that St Jude does is important and amazing, and I am so happy to support the school. I look forward to visiting in person in the future.

"I think the work that St Jude's does is important and amazing, and I am so happy to support the school."



Creative Writers Win Big

We're extremely proud of two of our secondary students who have performed well in national writing competitions.

Wenseslaus, a Form 3 student, won third place in the International Youth Day Essay Competition run by the African Leadership Academy, a Johannesburg-based institution providing leadership programs for secondary students. He was the only Tanzanian among the winners.

For the competition, students were required to write an essay of up to 1,000 words about the topic: "How can governments, businesses, non-profits, individuals and the youth collaborate to maximize Africa's youth potential for the continent's development and prosperity?" According to the African Leadership Academy, "259 young people from across 20 countries in Africa, including two Africans living in the United Kingdom and the Czech Republic participated in the competition."

In his essay, Wenseslaus identified five major areas that need to be developed in order for youth to have a chance: providing quality education and vocational skills; teaching science and technology, including empowering women to study scientific subjects; creating jobs; making books and digital technology available to youth; and providing business and student loans.

"We have to start trusting youth and give them a chance to show their worth," wrote the St Jude's student.

Meanwhile, another Form 3 student Ebenezer made the top 10 in the 2013 Standards Day Essay Competition for his essay on the topic of 'Standards ensure positive change.' In his essay, Ebenezer wrote about how standards ensure expertise in the world and enable people to become experts in various fields such as engineering, information and communication technology, electronics and other fields.

There were around 200 entries in the competition and 46 came from St Jude's. Ebenezer and a friend were taken to Dar es Salaam for the award ceremony and although he didn't get one of the major prizes, he was awarded a merit certificate and prize money. He says he plans to use the money to enlarge his chicken house so he can keep more chickens.

"We are so proud of their achievements," says Jon Ford, School Director at St Jude's. "It shows we are on track to meet our goal of educating future generations of leaders in Tanzania."



Mr Kephas and Nuhu

Our students love creating amazing pieces using everyday objects and learning more about traditional forms of African art, including Tinga Tinga. Nurturing their talent is our gifted Upper Primary art teacher Mr Kephas. He lives and breathes art and thrives when he is sharing his knowledge with his students.

Mr Kephas started teaching at St Jude's earlier this year and the walls and spaces in his room are filled with the students' colourful art pieces. He is proud to display them because it represents his passion. "I feel art living within me. The pupils are so talented and are keen to learn new skills in different subjects, extra curricular and other areas. They're ready to be leaders of tomorrow," said Mr Kephas.

He often likes to inspire the children in his classes by showing them art and artists from around the world. Mr Kephas cites one of his main goals is to help the talented children to reach their dreams. He hopes for more specialist art colleges in East Africa for budding young artists and also for art studies to be more prominent in Tanzanian schools. "I want to advise the government to introduce art and design in A-level," he said.

Both Mr Kephas and Nuhu are unsponsored. By signing up as a STUDENT + TEACHER SPONSOR for \$110 per month, you can support members of the St Jude's community just like them.

www.schoolofstjude.org/Donations/sponsorships.html

Away from school, you can find Mr Kephas in his studio at home creating his next art piece. Someday, he aspires to become a professor in art and design.

Nuhu is one of Mr Kephas' art students who really enjoys learning. He is in Standard Six and has been studying at St Jude's since 2008. He is a strong student who has passed all of his subjects last term with flying colours. Sadly, Nuhu's mother passed away when he was young and he is looked after by his father, grandfather and grandmother. They live at Ngongongare near Arusha where his father works as a casual labourer and his grandparents are farmers. They don't earn much and they have a little farm, called a 'shamba', where they grow their own produce like maize, potatoes, vegetables and fruit for them to eat.

Nuhu is studying hard so he can one day help support himself and his family. His favourite animal is the cow because it gives his family milk and meat. Nuhu's favourite subjects are science and maths and he has his heart set on becoming an engineer or doctor one day. "It's because in Tanzania, these jobs don't have many workers," he said.



Meet the Team: Liz, the donations queen!



Liz Benedict, our Donor Relations team member, is the friendly, warm face behind many of the emails that our supporters receive. She plays an important role in sending out regular messages of thanks to the wonderful people who make donations to St Jude's. She has been in the role for the past year and a half and it is one she truly loves. "It's great being able to say thank-you to our supporters everyday, exchanging emails with them, getting in contact with people you haven't met before and sometimes I meet them when they come to visit the school," said Liz.

Liz finds her job rewarding. She loves working with the Donor Relations team to come up with creative ways to pass on thanks to the many people who generously give to St Jude's. "I'm very happy to be in this role because I get to do new things everyday and have to come up with new ideas," she said. Liz has worked in several other departments, including in Purchasing and Reception, since she started at the school in 2011. She recently got promoted within the Donor Relations team and feels excited in her role and where it might lead. Outside of the office, Liz loves being a mother to her two young children, CJ and Trinity. In her spare time, she is a talented baker and loves cooking cakes and sweet treats for her family and the St Jude's staff.

We are proud to have Liz in our Donor Relations Team. She continually puts in a great effort to maintain contact with our fantastic supporters.

Thank you for hosting Felix & Kim

The entire team at St Jude's would like to send a very big thank you to all of our supporters who hosted Kim and Felix while they were in Australia and Hong Kong.

The smiles on Felix and Kim's faces when they have been sharing their stories has been from ear to ear and they have so passionately told the team back in Tanzania what an amazing job everyone is doing in the fight against poverty through education!

To anyone and everyone who hosted an event, attended an event, billeted the dynamic duo or sent messages of support, we really thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

"The East African Fund was so pleased to arrange and host Kim and Felix's promotional tour for St Jude's. We are very fortunate to have such passionate staff members and volunteers who can share their story with people from all over the world." - Mark Cubit, Chairman EAF



St Jude's Christmas Gift Ideas



This Christmas you can make a true ripple effect while giving a gift with a difference to someone you love.

St Jude's has a range of creative options for you to show your support this Christmas. From e-cards, merchandise to donations or sponsorship on a friend's behalf. Check out the wears below or visit our website for more ideas:

www.schoolofstjude.org



St Jude's cap
\$20 incl. Australian delivery
\$35 incl. International delivery



St Jude's t-shirt
\$20 incl. Australian delivery
\$35 incl. International delivery



St Jude's Children's Book
\$15 incl. Australian delivery
\$30 incl. International delivery



St Jude's beanie
\$15 incl. Australian delivery
\$32 incl. International delivery

You can make a donation or purchase a sponsorship on behalf of a friend this Christmas.

Email us today at
info@schoolofstjude.co.tz
to find out how.

St Jude's Day

Almost 2000 people attended St Jude's on 25 October, to mark the feast day of Saint Jude, who is the patron saint of hopeless causes. Gemma named the school after the saint as she set about developing the school over 10 years ago.

The day was also about giving thanks as well as celebration. The students brought in small gifts ranging from eggs and other goods to be distributed to local orphanages and hospitals. St Jude's students value their education and we teach them about the importance of giving back to the community.

Students did creative dances, raps and performances on the day. All of the students come from impoverished backgrounds and the school has been a lifeline to them and their families who see education as key to fighting poverty. "I like the presentations. It means a lot because it has helped me. Without St Jude's, I couldn't get an education," said Frank, a Form 1 student.

Students also did creative dances, raps and performances on the day. "It was a celebration enjoyed by all students. It was great to celebrate mass with them and hear the wonderful singing by the choir in a mixture of Swahili and English," said Jon Ford, St Jude's School Director.

The school has enriched the lives of many, from its students to its staff and volunteers. "St Jude's Day is very important as what we're doing is something inspiring. We are helping children whose lives are affected by poverty to be able to get a good education," said Firmin Kiwale, Head of Religion and Vocational Skills at the Smith Secondary Campus. St Jude's also handed one of its long-serving volunteers, Shean Gannon, a graduation certificate and gown to acknowledge his outstanding contribution to the school over the past three years.

A best dressed competition for most creative use of the St Jude's kanga was held at the event and the school's much loved drivers won for the third year in a row. Well done drivers!



In Other News...

Last month we welcomed participants who were travelling through Arusha as part of the Peace Run, a global relay event that has been hosted annually for 26 years. St Jude's students lined the driveway and welcomed the runners as they travelled through St Jude's as part of their Arusha section. Our students were thrilled to welcome them and hold the torch as the guests travelled through.



A very big congratulations to all of our students who have recently sat their national exams. We will be celebrating Form 4 Graduation this month and look forward to sharing stories and photos with you next newsletter.

There are still limited spaces left for St Jude's Ultimate Kilimanjaro Challenge. You can choose to climb the iconic mountain, run the annual Kili marathon or attempt both!

For more information visit our website at www.schoolofstjude.org/VisitUs/mtkili.html or email us at info@schoolofstjude.org

