



St Jude's News

OCTOBER 2017

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The School of St Jude is a project of The East Africa Fund

Fighting poverty InStyle—education and cultural pride



Laura Brown, InStyle's Editor-in-Chief, is a proud new sponsor!

Story page 3



Student selection 2017 opens a world of opportunity.

Story page 4



Jonas is an Academic Leader with an artistic eye.

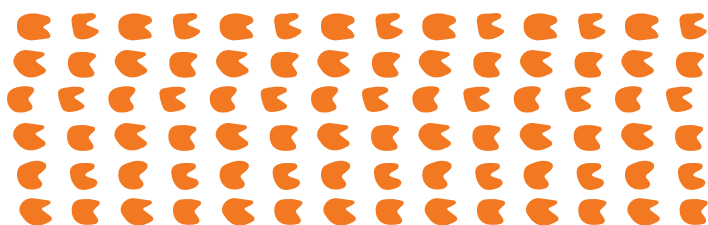
Story page 7



- **Future leaders:** Laura inspired
- her sponsor student Alice (left),
- Grace and budding designer/
- Beyond St Jude's intern, Miriam,
- with her work.



- **G'day mate:** Gemma and Laura
- were so excited to finally meet
- at St Jude's earlier this year.



St Jude's is InStyle

Laura Brown's visit to St Jude's has a life-changing impact

When Laura Brown and Gemma Sisia were growing up as farmers' daughters in country New South Wales, it's unlikely either could have predicted where their lives would lead.

Both women were motivated by a sense of intrigue and adventure to seek challenges and opportunities.

"For me, it was big dreams and curiosity! You just have to turn up. I wouldn't be able to live with myself if I didn't try," Laura said.

Laura Brown is an international publishing icon, fashioning the runway as InStyle Magazine's Editor-In-Chief.

Gemma Sisia, Founder of The School of St Jude, provides a free, quality education to 1,800 of Tanzania's brightest and most disadvantaged children.

Both women are fiercely passionate about their work, securing their status as Aussie powerhouses making a global impact.

This month, they've joined forces to fight poverty through education.

Laura literally swept our students off their feet when she visited St Jude's in late July 2017, and couldn't resist signing up to sponsor an academic scholarship for two of Tanzania's youngest leaders.

"We can thank Liam Bartlett from 60 Minutes Australia for introducing me to Gemma!" Laura said.

"I told him I was going to Tanzania on vacation and he told me about her and the School. It was fate."

"What most impressed me about St Jude's is how incredible the mission is and how effective the team are at achieving it."

"I also love the Australian animals on the school's walls, obviously."

Laura now supports the education of two girls at St Jude's; Alice in Standard 3 (Grade 3) at Sisia primary, and Hadija in Form 1 (Grade 8) at Smith secondary campus.

"It's so wonderful to have the support of a successful international leader like Laura. She shows our female students they can achieve anything they set their mind and heart to," Gemma insisted.

In July, Laura's warm and engaging presence lit up the playground and entertained swathes of excited St Jude's students!

"I loved meeting two spunky young boys in Grade 3 named Saad and Yusuph. They were so funny and told me not to give away any answers [in class]!"

"I just couldn't not sponsor. You have to help where you can, and this is so immediate and tangible. I love being able to track how a student grows. I'm thrilled to be able to contribute anything at all."

Her advice to Alice and Hadija?

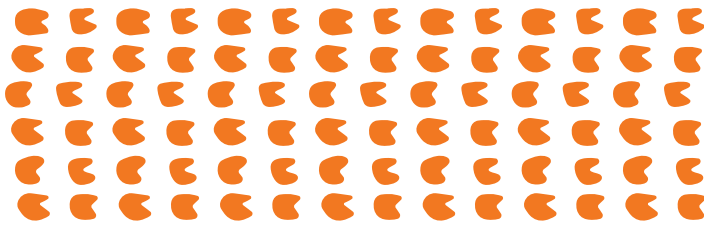
"Absorb everything you can, learn everything you can, meet everyone you can."

"I feel passionately about supporting the education of children in Tanzania, because they should have the same opportunities as anyone. Education should be an equal playing field, globally and economically," Laura said.

True that, Laura. On'ya mate.



Laura's support means two of Tanzania's most disadvantaged young leaders have opportunities to succeed at their fingertips. Show your support by becoming a sponsor.



Student selection 2017

Smarts and a smile are always in style

Every year in October, hundreds of determined youngsters vie for one of 75 places in St Jude's primary school.

Across two recent selection days, more than 1,700 invited government school students lined up for a bright future at the gates of Sisia primary campus!

Their tiny fingers, wrapped around pencils, invitation letters and identity documents, grasped tightly onto a beacon of hope: the possibility of an academic scholarship gifted by St Jude's.

Successful applicants will join St Jude's cohort of 1,800 future Tanzanian leaders next January.

With access to a free, high-quality education, our students hold the key to freedom from poverty, for themselves and their families.

Community Relations Manager, Charlotte, has overseen the complex, yet vital student selection process since 2014.

"We must be sure the selected students are both bright and disadvantaged. That's how we can help families in greatest need."

It's no secret that St Jude's academic scholarships open the gateway to possibilities and are competitively sought. Our Community Relations team is well-versed in overcoming challenges.

"There are always surprises on selection days. This year, we had a 10-year-old trying to sit the test meant for six-year-olds. People will go to great lengths to come to St Jude's."

Tales of joy and triumph however, outweigh tricks and challenges. For staff, selection days are a chance to see the immediate impact of St Jude's.

Beyond St Jude's Coordinator, Vivian, has helped with student selection for three years, and considers selection days a career highlight.

"My job this year was to supervise thousands of parents waiting at the gate."

"Some parents waited for eight hours. At the end, when students who progressed finally came out, they were scooped into the arms of loved ones, cradled like babies, thrown in the air, and they wept tears of joy."

"Seeing such pride was one of the best experiences I've ever had. I really understood the effect St Jude's has on people in my own community," Vivian explained.

Out of hundreds who underwent academic and document tests, 253 students have progressed to the next selection stage: poverty checks.

St Jude's staff will crisscross the Arusha region until December, assessing prospective students' homes against strict selection criteria. Poverty checks help us to ensure academic scholarships are reserved for severely underprivileged students.

When 75 excited new students step through the Sisia primary campus gates again in January, they'll know the pencil they grasp is their beacon of hope; that, because of St Jude's, they can write the future of their dreams.

October 2017



Open the gates to a bright future for new St Jude's students.
Become a sponsor today!



- **Holding onto hope:** Academic Deputy, Sebastian Gitbang, assists hundreds of determined students.



- *top right*
- **Lining up for a bright future:** The stakes are high for St Jude's applicants.



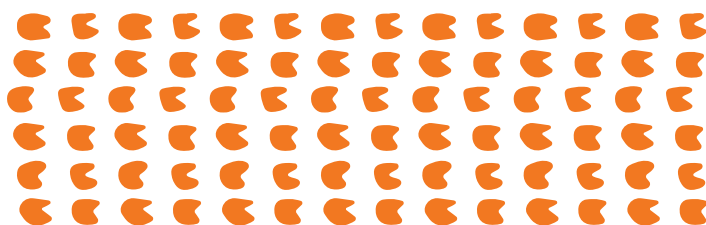
- *bottom right*
- **Pride and joy:** Many parents waited all day for good news.



- Reaching new heights: Jonas
- encourages his students to strive
- and persevere.



- The helper's high: Jonas believes that
- serving the community makes for
- a happy life.



Bringing fashion into compassion

Jonas: the Academic Leader with a flair for helping others

If you spotted Jonas, an Academic Leader, strolling around Sisia primary campus, you could be forgiven for thinking he had glided straight off a fashion runway.

The reality is almost as exciting! When he's not moulding the minds of our talented students, the teacher-turned-visionary-designer is likely to be found at Arusha's fabric markets, fashioning stylish outfits for himself and his friends.

"I have a vision and idea about the clothes I'd like to wear, so I draw the design and purchase the materials. Then, I take them to a tailor and share my idea with him and the tailor brings it to life."

This process, Jonas says, is similar to Gemma's early dream for The School of St Jude.

"The inspiring thing about Gemma is how she had a vision. She has kept the vision close to her heart, shared it with other people, so it could grow. Gemma is an inspiration to me."

"There is a big tree in Tanzania called the baobab tree. It starts small, but with some rain, it grows to be very big. The dream for our school is the same."

"To see how St Jude's has grown from three children to 1,800 is a miracle."

Jonas knows a thing or two about crafting a dream and overcoming challenges. He started working at St Jude's in 2012 as a physical education teacher. Before this, he'd been a Headmaster at two private primary schools.

It was a desire to fight poverty through education, spurred by his own humble beginnings, and devout faith, that inspired Jonas to join St Jude's.

"I attended government primary and secondary schools. I was selected to attend a government teaching college, and then I was sponsored

by generous people so I could go to an English Medium teaching college."

"Teaching is a calling in my family. Both my parents are teachers and I saw how they helped people to become good leaders and professionals in society."

"Many leaders in Africa are corrupt and do not have integrity. Moral leaders are not corrupt; they use their position to benefit others."

"My dream is to identify students' potential. Some want to be teachers, doctors, nurses. When I know their goal, I can give them the right knowledge to help them perform well. Students need to be passionate and have a good character, because that will ground them as good leaders."

Generous Jonas doesn't stop caring when the school gates close at the end of each day. He is so committed to the work of St Jude's, that he sacrifices a portion of his monthly salary as a donation to our cause.

A study conducted by the United States National Institutes of Health concluded that altruism activates the brain's social connection, trust and pleasure regions, creating a 'warm glow' effect.

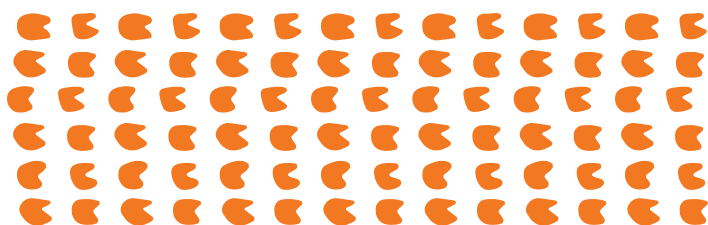
It's no wonder Jonas's radiant smile lights up the whole schoolyard!

"At St Jude's, we are a centre of excellence. We help children who come from very poor families. By doing this, we will help Tanzania, and take the students from a low place, to a high place. These students will do great things."

Like the growth of a baobab tree, it takes a little rain and a lot of perseverance to fight poverty.

Passion is in fashion at St Jude's, and in the creative, capable hands of teachers like Jonas, the future is bright for our students.





Jenifa's Sky High Hopes

Meet Jenifa: gender equality advocate and world-ready leader of tomorrow

Intelligent, determined and articulate, Jenifa represented St Jude's at Nelson Mandela University's 'Women and Girls in Science' workshop.

The Form 4 advocate hopes to empower African girls by defying gender stereotypes and advocating for education rights.

"I was in physics class when my teacher, Mr Mcharo, told me I was nominated to attend the workshop. The motto was 'Say No to the Kitchen', which I loved."

"We met young women working in many industries. They were very inspiring, encouraging us to pursue our career paths in the future," Jenifa enthused.

"My favourite subjects are physics, chemistry and mathematics. Many girls in Africa are kept inside the house instead of attending school. It was really wonderful to meet girls at the seminar who are being educated."

According to New African Woman Magazine, it will take 80 years for workplace gender equality in Africa to be achieved.

Jenifa, the only daughter among three children, is adamant she won't conform to gender stereotypes.

"I want to be an aeronautical engineer when I finish school. I want to be a leader."

● "My favourite memory of all time was scoring the highest mock exam results out of all the girls in Arusha. I was not expecting that!"

● In addition to her academic gifts, Jenifa enjoys public speaking and knows she can use her voice to make a difference. "I am still so young, but I am passionate and excited. I would like to be a strong woman, like Mama Gemma or Oprah Winfrey. They have both started schools in Africa. They definitely said no to the kitchen!"

● "I have admired Oprah since first learning about her in Standard 7. She makes people feel like they can be successful and study anything, despite their background," she said.

● Jenifa dreams of meeting the philanthropic media mogul in the future, and thanking her for inspiring young African women.

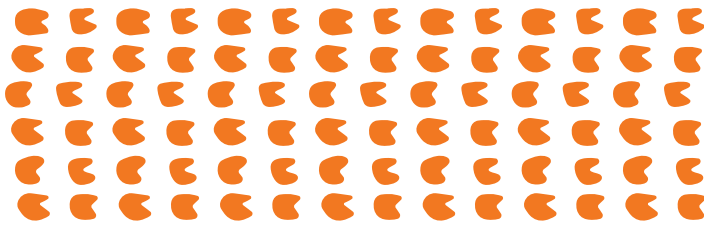
● "Just imagine if I saw Oprah walking towards me right now... I would be so excited! I would like to tell her to keep on with the same spirit; to keep empowering young girls to create a better world."

● Indeed, with a St Jude's education behind her, Jenifa is in the position to craft the future she desires for herself and her community. Already, she's flying high.

●



Do you want to work to empower young leaders like Jenifa?
Browse our job vacancies.



Careering towards success

All the action from St Jude's Career Day 2017!

October 2017

St Jude's aspiring engineers, doctors, scientists and entrepreneurs gathered in the Smith campus hall, bursting with anticipation on Career Day 2017!

Students, staff and visitors erupted in applause as Bibiana Mardai, Chairperson of The School of St Jude Board Ltd, opened the fair with words of wisdom for Tanzania's leaders of tomorrow.

"St Jude's students are already innovators and inventors..." Bibiana began.

"...You are appreciated in Arusha and Tanzania. Today, you will see things that inspire you to be who you are. Always ask questions. Always stay curious," she advised.

Bibiana's opening remarks echoed the sentiments of Career Day's theme: "Personal goals may be satisfied through a combination of work, community, social and family roles!"

Invited professionals representing Tanzanian industries drew on this theme, encouraging students to pursue their passions.

Honoured guest, Mr Rod Gomez, General Manager of Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge at Usa River, spoke with conviction about decisions which led to his success.

"We need to surprise ourselves sometimes. We need to know our abilities and potential, and our limitations, so we open opportunities for a successful life," he emphasised.

After official proceedings ended, the lively crowd eagerly heeded Bibiana's advice, 'asking questions'

of invited professionals and showcasing their personal projects.

Form 3 student, Shamsia, shared her enthusiasm for business and economics.

"I have wanted to be an entrepreneur for many years. I am working hard at school now so that my dream comes true!"

"I would really love to start working in my own community and build up our people. I also want to learn to address challenges."

"Career Day is great because we can learn and be creative!" Shamsia said.

St Jude's Tembo Club certainly showcased their creativity, motivating students to take action against elephant poaching, promoting animal welfare and sustainability.

According to the World Travel & Tourism Council, more than 470,000 people are currently employed in Tanzania's tourism industry. This number is expected to double by 2027.

Alphonse, a guest presenter from one of Tanzania's major elephant conservation projects, inspired students to be proud of their country's contribution to global tourism, and to champion the anti-poaching cause. Our promising wildlife rangers were more than impressed!

Career Day tore down faculty walls: scientists mingled with writers, artists mixed with mathematicians, and economists networked with graphic designers.

It proved to one and all that curiosity, determination and achieving success go hand-in-hand.



Would you like to guide our students towards the life of their dreams?
Making a donation means making a difference!

***St Jude's is grateful to Benson & Company and Kase Book Stores Arusha for their generous sponsorship of the event.**

Express yourself

Fashion at the forefront of St Jude's annual Cultural Day celebration



- *top*
- **Stomping around:** Dozens of student-led performances stunned the audience.
- *bottom*
- **Cultural flair:** Students designed and made costumes for the fashion parade.



- top
- **Tanzania nakupenda:** We love you Tanzania.
- above left
- **Mama C:** Cultural and spiritual leader, Mama Charlotte O'Neal, captivated the audience with insightful words and powerful songs.

- above right
- **Roars of applause**
- Students could barely contain their excitement!



Would you like to see one of our annual events?
Pay a visit to St Jude's!