



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

ISSUE 11, 2013



This year we have been so fortunate to be blessed with amazing support from all over the world. From visitors, volunteers, people fundraising on our behalf, young people making presentations at their school and so much more. We really are fighting poverty through education here at St Jude's and our students are a testament to that. They are inquisitive, creative, intelligent and making great strides in their education.

We're preparing to welcome a new group of students to St Jude's in January. These children have been chosen because of their families financial hardship teamed with academic potential. We are sure that they will go on to do great things in their community.

These 150 new students need sponsors. We are currently seeking supporters who are willing to sign up as a St Jude's sponsor, or tell their friends about what a great gift sponsoring a student is.

Read more about the Start a Ripple Campaign on page 4.

These are some of the new students starting at St Jude's in 2014.

150 new students need sponsorship.

Start a ripple. Visit our website to find out more.

www.schoolofstjude.org

Message from Jon Ford

The school year is now over and students have gone home for the Christmas break after a week dominated by Awards Days on each campus. As School Director I was asked to make a speech at each Awards Day and I chose to talk about change.

The mission of St Jude's is to bring about change – especially for those who face the daily struggle to provide for their families. The school is changing lives of the students and in the future these students will become leaders in their fields in a fast changing world. By providing a quality education we are preparing and equipping the students to embrace the changes that are already happening in Tanzania. The Chairperson of the School of St Jude Board spoke at Graduation of her dream that a St Jude's student will one day become President and lead the country through the changes to come.

This is only possible thanks to the generosity of thousands of supporters around the world and the dedication and hard work of local staff and international volunteers.

Although lessons for our existing students are over for the year we still have classes taking place for possible new students in to Class 1 and Prep (kindergarten). This is the final stage of the extra round of student selection that began at the end of October. Hundreds of students turned up each Saturday morning over a four week period to try out for a place at the school. The process involves many St Jude's staff working together to make it as least stressful as possible for the students. The gardeners and askari (gate staff) escort the students and make them welcome, teachers sit and talk to the students and conduct

the initial test, later after the written test, volunteers entertain the children with songs and games while they wait for their results and various clerical checks are carried out. Meanwhile other staff visit the homes of the students and eventually the names of the successful students emerge.

All in all it is a great team effort and the outcome is 150 new students who will benefit from a high quality education that they could never have had without The School of St Jude. The effects of this will be seen in their families and their communities in the future. Who knows? One day one of these tiny cute children may be the President of Tanzania.

In the meantime may I wish everyone connected to St Jude's wherever you are a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year in 2014.

With thanks,
Jon

PS—Below is a photo of me with members of the EAF board who were here last month. More on that on page 9.



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Announcing Gemma and Kim's St Jude's Tours

St Jude's is lucky to have a passionate and dedicated group of staff, volunteers and supporters who are constantly trying to spread the word about fighting poverty through education.

In 2014, Gemma and Kim will once again take the message around the world. See below for details.

Gemma will be in Australia for the month of March 2014.



Kim will be in Europe, United Kingdom, North America, New Zealand and Australia from April 2014.



We rely on the hospitality of our many supporters all around the world to help Gemma and Kim spread the word.

If you are interested in hosting an event with either of these amazing women as your guest speaker, then we would love to hear from you.

Contact us at australia@schoolofstjude.co.tz with the following details:

- Your name
- Your location
- Your contact details
- Your preferred date to host an event

150 new students to create their very own ripples

We're getting very excited to welcome our new 150 St Jude's students next year. This week we will be giving them their very own uniform. It will be a great day of celebration with their families.

Each one of the new 150 students represent a new ripple effect that will be created. The ripple goes far and wide to positively impact not only that student, but their family, community and country as well.

Yasini is one of our newest students who will be starting Standard 1 at St Jude's in January. She is very excited to start her new education and on 12 December she will receive her very own brand new St Jude's uniform.

Let me tell you a bit about Yasini. She lives with her Mum and Dad and two younger brothers. They rent a one room cement block house with no electricity. The room is in a compound where another 13 families live.

The only appliance they have is a small, old radio. Each night after cooking their food with charcoal, Yasini shares a bed with the entire family. Sometimes one family member sleeps on the couch to make more room.

When we asked what her favorite subject is she couldn't choose between maths, Kiswahili and English. She also enjoys eating rice and beans and really loves elephants.

Her dad is a laborer, finding work wherever he can, and her mum stays home to look after the children. Yasini wants to be a doctor when she's older so she can fix people and so that she has money.

Yasini's life is about to change. She will now have lots of learning resources and amazing teachers to support her in becoming a leader.

We are still searching for sponsors for our 150 new students. So far we have 50 new sponsors and for this we are truly thankful. If you, or someone you know, would like to sponsor one of these new students please let us know!



St Jude's purchases locally so we positively impact the community.

Watch our latest video to show just how.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUTBLwS_968



Celebrating Christmas in Tanzania

The school year has wound down for another year and it is a time when students return to their homes and villages to spend quality time with their families during the Christmas break. Family means everything to Tanzanians. While they battle poverty daily, many of them do not let it affect their festive celebrations. Presents are few but their joy is in seeing grandparents, dadas (sisters), kakas (brothers) and relatives they have rarely seen throughout the year.

We asked some of our Upper Primary students about how they will spend their Christmas.

Queen – Standard 6

"My favourite thing about Christmas is I get the time to enjoy with my relatives and so many things, like dancing, eating and sharing Christmas cake. We go to church and pray and then start cooking a special lunch. We usually eat bananas, chicken, chips and so many things. We cook and dress in good clothes and later we go out for a walk in town with our family, friends and neighbours."

Peter – Standard 5

"My family spends Christmas Day in Moshi and I help my grandmother in feeding the goats and the cows. I love it because she tells me stories about the Chagga tribe. I enjoy Christmas because it is a day to celebrate when Jesus was born. For lunch, I have pilau (meat and rice), bananas, soda and other food and drinks."

Kelvin - Standard 5

"At Christmas, I travel with my family to my grandparents' home at Manyara and go to church. I love it because I spend time and get to ride a bicycle with my friends. Sometimes, I get gifts, sometimes I don't."

Below from left: Peter, Queen and Kelvin



Highlights of 2013...

We welcomed 150 new students who are now receiving a free, high-quality education.

Our first **Form 4 exam results** were announced in March with St Jude's ranking 1st in the region and 10th in the country.

We hosted amazing events with our school community including Science Fair, ECA Day, Parents Day, St Jude's Day and the inaugural Careers Fair.

We welcomed over 1,000 visitors from all over the world.

Our medical check team spent two weeks assessing the health and wellbeing of our students.

We welcomed Jon Ford, our new School Director in September.

You helped us raise over \$1million as part of our annual fundraising appeal.

We had the helping hands of 60 volunteers throughout the year and over 450 local staff.

Our East African Fund Board and School of St Jude Board met to discuss our strategic direction and future.

Gemma, Kim and Felix all travelled across the globe from Tanzania to spread the word about St Jude's.



Form 4 Students Shine at their Graduation

Thousands of Form 4's across Tanzania are a step closer to adulthood after graduating at the weekend.

More than 130 graduates from The School of St Jude received their certificates at a special ceremony on Saturday, November 23rd. It is the second lot of students who have completed Form 4 at St Jude's and they recently sat the national exams, which determines if they can go on to do their A levels.

Many of the students have been studying St Jude's since close to when it began in 2002. They receive a free, high quality education and learn a wide range of subjects including Maths, English, Science, Kiswahili, Social Science and Music. Next year, they'll choose to study specialist subjects, as they prepare for university.

"I'm hoping that most of them will complete their secondary education and then go on to university, to great careers or into different fields, and they are then in a position to give back to their country," said St Jude's School Director, Jon Ford. "They have great potential. Some will be great engineers, some will be great doctors and some will be great businessmen and women. What's really important is that they remember where they came from and that they give back to their families and to their communities."

St Jude's students are focused on their academic studies but they also love doing community work like visiting orphanages and tutoring younger children in their community.

"I feel proud of myself as a Form 4 graduate and I thank the school for supporting us from the time we started O level up to now when we're finished. I'm just proud to be a graduate," said Olavip, a Form 4 student. A highlight of the event was when the students gave out awards to St Jude's staff that inspired them, which included teachers, cooks and drivers.

*"I feel so happy to graduate
because I was really waiting
for this day,"*

- Queen, Form 4 student

Thank you to our Form 4 sponsors who sent their best wishes to their students and those who were able to be here for the celebration!

Your support means the world!



A Taste of Tanzania in Australia

Tanzanian cuisine is a mix of spicy foods and is influenced by Indian and Arabic cultures, with a large number of immigrants across the continent. A Tanzanian diet includes wali (rice), ugali (maize porridge) nyama choma (grilled meat), fish, pilau and many others. Volunteers and visitors at St Jude's are quickly introduced to an African diet and have the opportunity to try hot, nutritious school lunches or local food at various places in Arusha.

The rich, diverse foods made an impression on Grade 10 student Aimee from Australia who visited St Jude's with her family in 2010. For her assignment, she had to cook a traditional dish from a foreign country and write a pamphlet about it and where it came from. Aimee chose to cook the Tanzanian bean stew with cous cous from a recipe out of the St Jude's cookbook. It was part of a buffet that her class had prepared.

For her efforts, Aimee received top marks! We congratulate her for experimenting with African food and really showing her appreciation for East African culture.



St Jude's Students Excel on the Sporting Field

We're proud of the St Jude's secondary students who recently competed in the interschool sports carnival held at ISM in Arusha.

Our students performed very well in the track and field events, discus, javelin and high jump. Overall, St Jude's picked up 7 gold and 2 silver medals.

The students are keen to compete in interstate and national competitions as it is a chance for them to develop their confidence and skills



A general donation to St Jude's can support a range of activities at the school, including our sports facilities and involvement in sports carnivals.

To make a donation, visit

www.schoolofstjude.org/Donations/donate.html

Thanks for visiting!

The year is winding up but visitors keep on coming to St Jude's. Recently we've been lucky to welcome students from Pymble Ladies College in Sydney with their two teachers—one who was a volunteer here last year. It was great to welcome Kate Howie back with her students.

We also loved welcoming board members from the East African Fund. While they were here to talk future strategy with our School of St Jude Board and senior managers, they still managed to squeeze in some activities at school and on safari.

Our good friends, the Weily's, visited us again and this time, through brought with them their four nieces Alex, Estelle, Jessica and Hannah and friends Margo and Tina. We had a great time with them and are so appreciative for the continued generosity. This time, among many other things, the brought with them sunglasses for all of our bus drivers!

Form 4 Graduation was a very special occasion as you read on page 7. It was made even more celebratory thanks to our sponsors who joined us for the occasion. Meurig Jones, Anne Rogers, Andrew Partos, Bill Dangar, Denis and Helen Weily and Maria Kiernan were all here to witness their sponsor students graduate.



Above: Students from Pymble Ladies College with St Jude's students in the art room. Below: Visitors and special guests at our Form 4 graduation.



Top left: Tina and Helen Weily; Bottom left: Margo giving our drivers their sunglasses; Below: John Bailey, Mark Cubit and Heather Barton from the East African Fund Board



Do something remarkable in 2014!

- Visit us
- Spread the word about St Jude's
- Become a volunteer
- Make a lasting donation
- Become a sponsor

visit www.schoolofstjude.org

Every little bit counts at St Jude's.

Thank you for fighting poverty through
education with us!

