



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

ISSUE 11, 2014



This Holiday Season Your Gift Can Change A Life

As 2014 comes to a close, we are very close to selecting the last of our new students to join The School of St Jude in January. This process is equally exciting and difficult as over 6,000 students applied to join St Jude's in June and we are down to filling the last few remaining spaces.

St Jude's is still searching for 67 sponsors to help open a world full of possibilities to our new students

The selection process involves rigorous education and needs assessments (most selected students were at the very top of their government classes), as well as a probation period where we check that the students have the desire and motivation to make the most of a high-quality education. St Jude's staff and the parent committee (a group of parents of current students who help out in running some aspects of the school) meet with every potential student's family to confirm they come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

This extensive application process means every child attending St Jude's will not only be able to make the most of their education, but will benefit the most from this opportunity and be able to help their communities. This is

important to us because we want the donations we receive from our generous supporters to have the biggest impact in fighting poverty.

The students that are selected will have the opportunity to not only get a free, high-quality education, but improve the lives of their family and the whole of Tanzania.

Over 15 million people in Tanzania live on less than \$1.25 a day, but your support ensures that, in January, each of these students will have access to a safe learning environment, hot meals, resources for learning, and amazing teachers.

We are so thrilled to have welcomed 83 new sponsors to our St Jude's family since October when we started our "World Full of Possibilities" appeal. However, we still need another 67 sponsors before January. Imagine how you can help change their lives! With an education, these students, who previously knew only a life of poverty, will have the opportunity to make choices about the life they want to live. This holiday season give the gift of sponsorship and change a life and a community forever.

**Click Here
to Sponsor
a Student
Today**

TEN FACTS ABOUT TANZANIA

1 The **world's earliest human skull** was found in the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania.

2 There are more than **129 languages spoken** in Tanzania. Most of these are Bantu languages, a category of over 535 languages and dialects that are spoken throughout Africa.

3 The Hadzabe is one of the **last communities of hunter-gatherers in the world**, living around Lake Eyasi in the central Rift valley and in the neighbouring Serengeti Plateau. Their way of life has changed little from 10,000 years ago. They grow no food, raise no livestock, and live without rules or calendars. (source: The National Geographic).

There are more than 129 languages spoken in Tanzania.

4 Elephant poaching continues to be a massive problem in Tanzania, with estimates suggesting **100,000 have been killed in just three years** and the country is the biggest source of illegal ivory (source: The Economist).

5 Freddie Mercury, the **lead singer of the band Queen**, was born in Zanzibar in 1946.

6 The School of St Jude is one of the largest charity funded schools in Africa and is leading the way in **educating Tanzanian students so they can become future leaders** in their country. Of the more than 1,800 students receiving a free, high-quality education, 58 percent are girls while 42 percent are boys.

The Hadzabe is one of the last communities of hunter-gatherers in the world. They grow no food, raise no livestock, and don't use calendars.

7 In addition to Kilimanjaro, Tanzania is home to Ol Doinyo Lengua, **one of the country's active volcanoes**. "Lava fountains will harden in midair then shatter like glass." You can also climb it!

8 Tanzania contains some 20 percent of the species of Africa's large mammal population, found across its reserves, conservation areas, marine parks, and **17 national parks, spread over an area of more than 42,000 square kilometres**. Going on safari and exploring one of its many national parks including the

Serengeti, Tarangirrie, Lake Manyara and others is an unforgettable experience as you see the amazing wildlife in their natural habitat and not in a zoo enclosure.

9 Tanzanian cuisine varies from wali (rice), ugali (maize porridge), chapatti (a

kind of bread), vegetables and nyama choma (grilled meat) to more spicy foods found along its **stunning coastline in Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Bagamoyo and Zanzibar**.

10 Time goes 'pole pole' (slowly) in Tanzania and people love properly greeting each other and spending time talking with one another to find out about the day's news. Familiar sayings that you will come across are 'mambo' (how are you), jambo (hello), habari (what's the news?) and others.

VISIT TANZANIA

Click here to learn how you can plan a visit to St Jude's in Tanzania.

Standard 7's Graduate



St Jude's is proud to have its seventh intake of Standard 7 students graduate from primary school, and start to prepare for their secondary studies beginning next year. 139 students finished their primary studies earlier this month, all receiving certificates while some others received subject awards as well. "I'm excited because this is my last day at Upper Primary. I've been studying hard and it has been wonderful as I have good teachers and staff," said Abdul in Standard 7. "When I grow up, I want to be a lawyer." It has been a successful year for the students who have performed well academically in their national exams, ranking 15th in the region. "It's exciting to have another class of Standard 7s finish at St Jude's because they have done well and have a great future ahead of them," said St Jude's School Director Jon Ford. "I'm proud of them as they are a fantastic group who are very friendly and positive."

St Jude's Now Offering Short-term Volunteer Program!



The School of St Jude is happy to announce that we are now accepting applications for our short-term volunteer Holiday Program commencing in August 2015. If you are passionate about volunteering to support the vision of St Jude's but unable to commit to a long-term volunteer placement this is the perfect opportunity for you! Our 4 week program gives you the opportunity to get involved with exciting projects at the school, share your skills with our students, meet like-minded people and explore Tanzania and beyond!

APPLY TODAY!

Space is limited! For full program details and to fill out an application, please [click here](#)

A Maasai Student Dreams of Becoming a Doctor



Form 5 student Elias' remote Maasai village has already started hailing him as the doctor. They hold faith in this promising young man and his determination to work in the medical field to help his own people.

"My aim of becoming a doctor is to help myself, to help with my society, to help Tanzania and to help the world," said Elias.

As a young boy he lived in a boma, a traditional Maasai mud dwelling in Ilkurot, an area outside of Arusha, with his father, mother, sisters and a brother. Growing up in that community, he became aware of the issues it faced.

"In my community there are so many challenges, mainly because of a lack of education, especially health education," he said. "Sometimes it is very hard to get the transport to go to town or the hospital, and many people especially in my village don't know the importance of visiting the hospital or using modern drugs."

"In my community there are so many challenges because of a lack of education, especially health education."

He began his studies at a local government school but his heart was set on getting the best education so he could one day provide medical services to his village. He applied to study at St Jude's and, in Form 1, started his free, high-quality education at the school.

When he moved to Form 3, he shared with St Jude's his great ambition to become a doctor and the strategies he had to help his community. He was allowed to move to

Science and obtained Division 1 (the highest grade) in Physics, Chemistry and Biology, the subjects he's currently studying in Form 5.

"My aim of becoming a doctor is to help myself, to help with my society, to help Tanzania and to help the world."

"I hope society will be inspired by me and from there they can follow me," he said. "I see so many people who don't get an education because of poverty."

Education, however, is currently lifting 1,852 impoverished students at St Jude's out of poverty. Right now, Elias feels blessed that he is able to study the science subjects he is passionate about and is keeping an eye on his dreams.

Encouraging him along the way are the people in his village who see him as a sign of hope for the future and someone who will bring about meaningful change in health and education in their community.

"I'm happy and appreciate so many people calling me Doctor, as they motivate me and I'm already doing a lot to help them by seeing them, doing work and getting them help when they need it," he said.

SPONSOR A STUDENT

To learn how you can help a student like Elias accomplish his dreams and help his community, please click here!



Form 4 Student Shines in Prestigious UNESCO Essay Competition

Form 4 student Denis Ignas, who wrote an essay about his desire to see Africa and his country prosper, ranked in the top 25 for the UNESCO essay writing competition. He received an honourable mention in the youth category. Read an excerpt of his essay below:

Don't Wait for Tomorrow

I am from Arusha, Tanzania. My country is known worldwide due to its wild beauty and as the only country with tanzanite minerals. When I was young (10 years), I had a dream of being



a doctor but as I grew to a sense of knowing well my country and continent, I saw the need to be more than a doctor.

With each part of Tanzania that I have visited, I fell more deeply in love with my country and continent at large, and with this love came a strong desire to see Africa prosper. And so I kept asking myself the question "what will it take to make

Africa prosper?" To answer this question, I looked at how other societies had come to enjoy widespread peace and prosperity. What I realised was those societies had come to prosper because people in those societies had developed new ideas—some of them simple, some of them revolutionary—and implemented these ideas.

I realised that if we are to sustain and accelerate Africa's development, however, we must be more systematic about cultivating these entrepreneurs. We must be proactive about increasing the number of individuals who can conceive important ideas and implement them. Through the African Youth Entrepreneurship Academy, I hope to create a powerful new system to support and grow these young entrepreneurs of Africa.

I am currently looking for ways to support the African Youth Entrepreneurship Academy. Our goal will be to identify young people across the continent — 100 each and every year — which we believe have the potential to develop and implement important new ideas that can transform Africa. We will bring these young people to the academy for a two year program, as a sort of "scholarship" for Africa's most promising young entrepreneurs. This will begin a lifelong process of nurturing these amazing people to bring about the change that our continent so desperately needs.

If we fast forward 50 years, what do we hope to see? By then, the African Youth Entrepreneurship Academy will have developed over 5000 change agents for Africa. Let's say 200 of these have helped bring about peace and stability as ethical and effective political leaders. Another 200 have contributed significantly to solving Africa's most pressing health problems, 1500 have become entrepreneurs-transforming people's lives, creating jobs and bringing prosperity to the continent. Others will have be central bank governors, university presidents and

"A beautiful world ... a world of peace and prosperity is nowhere, but on the hands of earth's citizens..."

teachers. And maybe a few will have launched the Microsoft's and Google's of Africa. Ultimately these remarkable individuals will work together in teams to make things happen. These are people who will transform Africa into a peaceful and prosperous continent over the next century and hence make the world a better place.

Now I am 19 years old, I am full of potential, my heart is full of passion, my eyes are filled with confidence I am doing something for my continent and the world, through growing these young entrepreneurs, through which Africa will prosper and make the world a better place.

A beautiful world, with no conflicts, poverty, a world of peace and prosperity is nowhere, but on the hands of earth's citizens,



playing personal roles as the citizens of earth. With power of unity we can make it and bring all our visions for a better world, into existence.

2014 EAF Chairman's Report

By Mark Cubit, Chairman, East Africa Fund

2014 has in many ways been a landmark year for The School of St Jude and The East African Fund (EAF), which represents the Australian supporter base of St Jude's. Here are some of the highlights from a very busy year:

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY

Tax deductibility has been an ongoing project for the committee of The East African Fund (EAF). Treasurer Joe Hockey visited the school five years ago when he climbed Mt Kilimanjaro, and was able to see with his own eyes the achievements of the school and announced that tax deductibility would be granted in March.

For us it is recognition from our government for all that has been achieved over the school's twelve years, and of the widespread support that we have received from the Australian population.

SCHOOL OPERATIONS

Jon Ford joined us from England as school director and has provided exemplary leadership and ideas to the three Tanzanian headmasters who run the three campuses. Student numbers are now over 1,800 and the efforts of the staff are starting to be recognised externally as students win awards and short term scholarships to schools as far away as South Africa.

TERTIARY

Much research and travel has been undertaken by our Tertiary Team and others to ensure that graduates can make the most of their St Jude's education. An innovative 'Community Service Year' will be requested of all graduates before they move on from St Jude's to tertiary education.

TOURS

We have hosted visits to Australia by Gemma Sisia, Kim Saville and Felix Mollel throughout the year. There were 131 presentations and 70 one-on-one meetings throughout the year, as well as over 30 media interviews. Donors have responded with their amazing generosity and in some cases travelled huge distances to hear the St Jude's story.

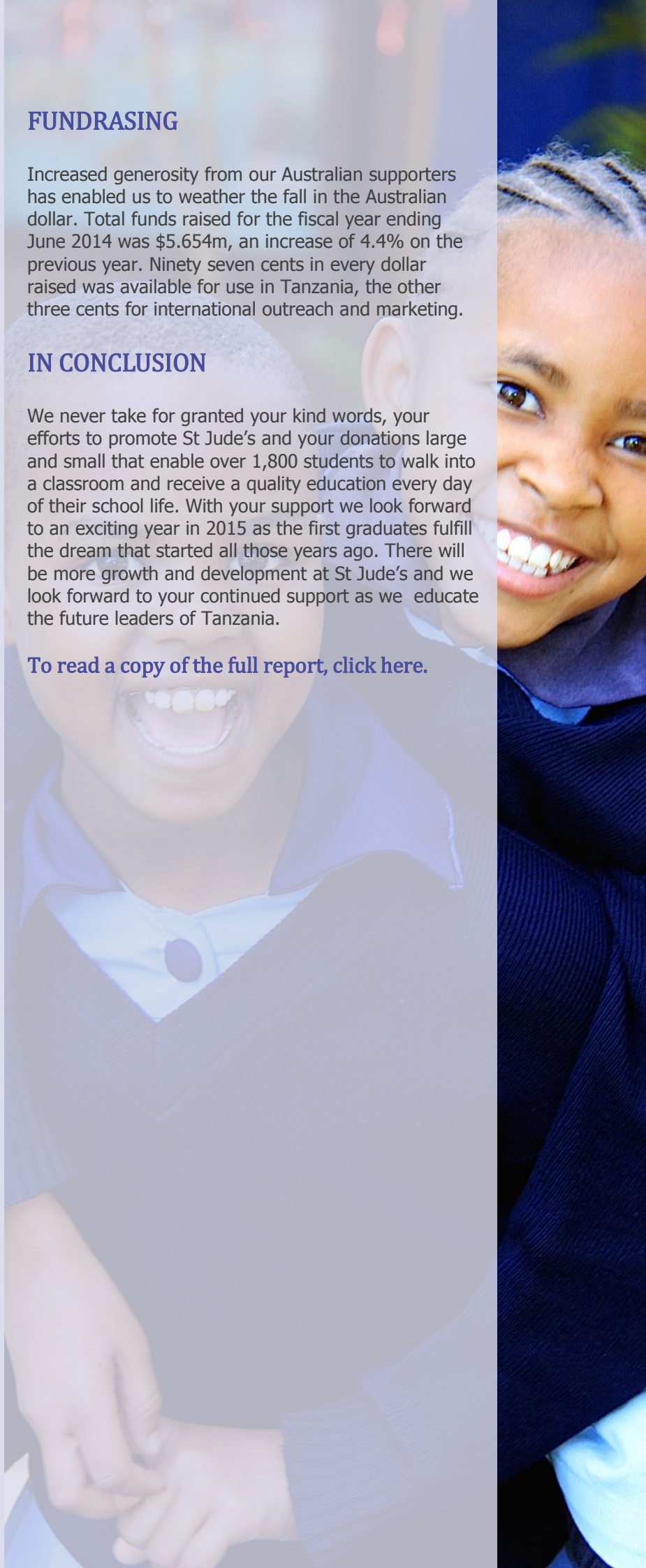
FUNDRAISING

Increased generosity from our Australian supporters has enabled us to weather the fall in the Australian dollar. Total funds raised for the fiscal year ending June 2014 was \$5.654m, an increase of 4.4% on the previous year. Ninety seven cents in every dollar raised was available for use in Tanzania, the other three cents for international outreach and marketing.

IN CONCLUSION

We never take for granted your kind words, your efforts to promote St Jude's and your donations large and small that enable over 1,800 students to walk into a classroom and receive a quality education every day of their school life. With your support we look forward to an exciting year in 2015 as the first graduates fulfill the dream that started all those years ago. There will be more growth and development at St Jude's and we look forward to your continued support as we educate the future leaders of Tanzania.

To read a copy of the full report, [click here](#).



A Day in the Life of Our Sponsor Relations Team



Our Sponsor Relations team is the biggest team in the business office at St Jude's. We have are made up of people from all over the globe; Australia, America, Ireland, the UK, working alongside eight fantastic Tanzanians.

St Jude's Sponsors provide some of the much-needed support to ensure that each of our students has the resources needed for a high-quality education. Our team is responsible for all communications and correspondence with this amazing family of sponsors!

Here is a typical day in our office:

8:30 – 9:30: Since our sponsors are from all over the world, emails come in around the clock. Our mornings are often spent replying to our sponsors who have inquired through the night. We love hearing from all our sponsors!

9:30 – 10:00: By mid-morning, our Sponsor Communications Team is busy keeping our wonderful sponsors up to date with all the exciting things happening at St Jude's and with their sponsored students, teachers, buses and boarding rooms.

Our Sponsor Correspondence Team is hard at work corresponding with our fantastic family of international sponsors. From sending report cards and awards to answering general queries and requests, this is definitely the best part of the day.

10:00 – 10:20: After the morning work is nearly done, the team have a quick tea break. Sipping hot chai tea and telling stories with the students who are also on morning break puts a smile on all our faces.

10:20 – 12:20: As well as working together in our team, we also have a lot of engagement with our students. Students love writing letters to their sponsors, and we help arrange for students to come in and have all the writing paper, colors and stationery they need to create lovely letters to be sent out.

Another wonderful part of our school activities is Awards Day. We have weekly awards assemblies where the children get a chance to have their efforts acknowledged in front of their peers and teachers.

12:20 – 13:00: Lunchtime in the primary school dining hall. On the menu rice or ugali, with different green vegetables, and a spot of salad on the side.

13:00 – 17:00: During this time, our Sponsor Correspondence team is busy arranging the end of the school year 2014, and all the preparations for the Christmas break.

This includes finishing off trips to the post office with sacks full of beautiful Christmas letters for around the world, end of year assemblies and MORE awards, this time for our incredible teachers, and arranging the reports for all the students to be sent to their sponsors.

No rest for the weary! With the coming of the new school year, our entire Sponsor Relations team is busy assisting with our annual Student Selection, helping select the next 150 bright students who will earn a spot here at St Jude's this coming January.

Once students are accepted into our school, it is our job to make sure that we have all their information and we can start looking for generous sponsors to support them through their time at The School of St Jude, and help continue our fight against poverty through education!

Melbourne Speaker Inspires Students to Become Leaders

Steve Brunskill, the Program Director and Founder of Live Out Loud, has turned his talents to inspiring hundreds of young, Tanzanian students at The School of St Jude to become future leaders in their communities.



Steve has been an educational speaker for more than 20 years, specialising in offering innovative and stimulating workshops aimed at inspiring youth to stand up for what they believe and make positive choices and changes in their lives.

"My belief in this world is that we don't have enough leaders who stand up, stand strong and take a stance on something non-negotiable; and that's what we need to do on some issues, if we really want to create some change," said Steve.

In November, Steve worked with numerous primary and secondary students at St Jude's employing dance, music, games and drama to call them to action, stand in front of their class and present an issue that they feel passionately about. In the process, participants learnt to respect each

other's opinions while learning a new confidence to face life's challenges.

Form 5 student Erick Lewis, who set up his own NGO at the age of 15 as a call to Tanzanian youth to make a difference and contribute to their communities, attended one of Steve's workshops. "I was inspired by his talks because he spoke about how a leader should be committed and how you have to take risk," said Erick. "I'm passionate about encouraging youth and making changes in my country and that is what I have been focusing on for a couple of years."

While at the school, Steve met Abduli, his St Jude's sponsored student, for the first time and went and visited his family at their home in a poverty-stricken area in Arusha.

"We don't have enough leaders who stand up, stand strong and take a stance on something; and that's what we need to do if we really want to create some change."

"I watched Abduli sit in his school uniform on the small double bed that he sleeps on with four people in a very small home and then I see him playing with kids in the school environment, and I wonder what he must be thinking as he goes between two different places every day – it keeps him very balanced and grounded in life," he said.



Your Support has the Potential to Save Lives

By Sandra Ford

Last week I went into a remote village to visit an extraordinary St Jude's family.

Bringing up an extended family is challenging enough, but this family has had the extra challenge of providing for the additional needs of 3 children with disability. Tragically, one of these wonderful children, a bright and caring boy, died earlier this term.

"Supporting students to become future doctors will quite literally be supporting them to save lives."

I was humbled by the warmth and love of the greeting that I received from a family whose grief was tangible. Later, as I reflected on my time with them, I wondered how such a family is able to meet healthcare costs and thought back to the motivational speech given at Form 4 graduation. East African Community (EAC), Hon. Jessica Eriyo told the students that many rural Tanzanians lack the ability to access basic healthcare.

With 20 of the current A-level students hoping to study medicine after their graduation from St Jude's, I couldn't help thinking that their success in reaching this goal could make a significant difference in future healthcare provision in the region.

Supporting students to become future doctors will quite literally be supporting them to save lives.

One of those 20 St Jude's students hopes to become a doctor because of the struggle his community has in obtaining healthcare provision, with the nearest doctor located a 30km walk away.

For me, my recent home visit was truly inspiring, sharing in how one remarkable family was dealing with loss. But it was also a reminder of what a privilege it is to be part of seeing a generation of young people who, with the continued support of sponsors, could make a real difference in the on-going fight against poverty.

California School Runs To Fight Poverty



Our friends at Merryhill Elementary in San Jose, California recently held the St Jude's Marathon. The entire school, 150 students along with several parents and faculty members participated by running laps around the school. The students were sponsored by their friends and family. The proceeds of the event were generously donated to The School of St Jude and went towards the sponsorship of a student.

Fifth grade teacher Elizabeth Ellison and her class coordinated the event. Ms Ellison first learned about St Jude's as a student of La Jolla Country Day School, another California school that has been long time supporter of St Jude's. Ms. Ellison's class is currently studying Tanzania for a yearlong project, where they will dance, sing, bring in food, learn and share facts, and decorate their classroom as Tanzania.

Merryhill is planning on throwing another fundraiser for St Jude's in January. Students will participate in a school-wide garage sale to learn more about advertising and work on math concepts and handling money.

**HOST
A FUNDRAISER**

**Interested in hosting your
own St Jude's fundraiser?
Click here to get more
information!**