



St Jude's News

SEPTEMBER 2021



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Above Young Artists: Primary students enjoying their art class.



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Thank you for sharing our newsletter
with your family and friends.

Cultivating Young Talent

Meet St Jude's teachers who are dedicated to nurturing young talent to become future leaders.

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Cultivating Young Talent

Meet St Jude's teachers who are dedicated to nurturing young talent to become future leaders.

Art and music are integral parts of St Jude's curriculum, helping to deliver a holistic education that allows students to develop real-world skills and self-confidence. Our teachers' dedication in every lesson contributes to this ethos.

Inside Art Class

"Grab your soap and let's get carving!" Mr Kephas says to his students.

To demonstrate the process of sculpting, he turns on a projector and monitors each student.

"Today's lesson is about carving with soap. Soap carving inspires creativity in students, especially younger ones," explains Mr Kephas.

"I teach Standard 1 to 7 in primary school and Form 1 and 2 at our girls' secondary school. I am, however, always available to assist older students in their spare time," says Mr Kephas.

Having begun his artistic journey at a young age, Mr Kephas understands the importance of nurturing talent at an early age.

"I have loved art since I was a child. I would go through my brother's school books, drawing on them. I remember I would get in trouble for that," chuckles Mr Kephas.

"But, my parents noticed my talent and supported me by giving me papers and pencils that I could use for drawing," he adds.

"Students learn soft skills such as time management and teamwork through art. It helps them develop social and emotional skills as well. We can develop well-rounded individuals by cultivating these qualities from an early age," emphasises Mr Kephas.

George, a Standard 5 student, is thrilled with today's lesson. "I'm carving a boat today," he says.

"Art lessons are so much fun for me. I get to learn how to make things in different ways," George adds with enthusiasm.



Above Come on, Let's Carve!: Mr Kephas shows his students carving techniques.

Below Whittling Away: George, a Standard 5 student carves a boat during an art class.





Above Drum Roll: Mr Beda teaches students how to play the drums.

Inside Music Class

In the music classroom, more laughter and excitement can be heard. Mr Beda has been a music teacher at St Jude's for 13 years.

Like Mr Kephas, Mr Beda is passionate about inspiring students' innovative spirit and watching their imagination come to life.

"Coming from a musical background, I love music. The art of music goes beyond singing... it's about learning sounds, the music language and the instruments."

"I help my students develop their talent by practising. I teach them how to play both traditional and modern instruments."

"Music stimulates creative thinking. Even if students don't pursue music careers in the future, they learn how to be expressive and gain the confidence to try new things without fear of failure," explains Mr Beda.



Above Learning New Instruments: Joan and Joshua, Standard 4 students, learn how to play the drums in a music class.

Learning how to play the drums are Joan and Joshua, Standard 4 students. "Music helps us learn about our traditional dances and culture. We also learn to dance, play instruments, and sing," says Joan.

"Mr Beda is teaching us how to play the national anthem on the drums," describes Joshua.

Joan hopes to one day be a music teacher, "I want to pursue teaching music after I complete my higher education."

St Jude's encourages students to express themselves through art and music, transforming their creative energy into beautiful works of art and empowering them with skills to help them thrive in the future.

Help teachers like Mr Beda and Mr Kephas continue to cultivate young talent by donating today!



Meet our Supporters

Our creative supporters think outside the box to help fight poverty through education.

Fundraise, donate, sponsor or share our story – those are four main ways you can support St Jude's. Yet, time and time again, our supporters find the most creative ways to help St Jude's.

There are 3,407 St Jude's supporters which means there are 3,407 ways to support the school. These creative supporters challenge themselves to perform athletic feats, put their craft skills to the test, make speeches, bake cakes and host trivia evenings in order to help St Jude's fight poverty through education.

Today, we'd like to introduce you to two of our super supporters. These are people who get particularly creative to spread the word and raise funds for St Jude's.

Chris and friends: A winning hand for St Jude's

Chris and his friends visited Tanzania and St Jude's in January 2020, just before COVID-19 turned the world upside-down. "We met the teachers, students and some of the families and it highlighted how important the school was in changing the lives of many, as well as for the future of Tanzania," he says.

When the group returned home to Australia, they knew they wanted to fundraise to help St Jude's. After some discussion, Chris, Jayson and Dan came up with a unique idea. "One of the guys is a part owner of a local brewery and we all liked playing poker so we thought it would be great to combine the two – a poker tournament in a brewery," Chris remembers.

So far, Chris and his friends have held two poker fundraisers. A portion of each player's entry fee is a donation to St Jude's and on the day of the tournament there's an auction to raise further funds for St Jude's.

"We have approximately 40 players who progress through a series of rounds to a final table," Chris explains. "We sent the message around to all of our friends and from there word of mouth has spread."

The tournaments have been a huge success, both in terms of fundraising and spreading the word about St Jude's. "Before we start the tournament we always explain to everyone our experience at St Jude's and why we are doing this... Everyone has been really supportive and many have dug deep in their pockets to donate more. It's great to see," Chris says.

To date, the friends have donated over AU \$5000 to the school following their poker tournaments.

We're so grateful for the way Chris and his friends have used their creativity to help St Jude's and excited to hear that they're planning another fundraising tournament for February 2022.



Above No Strangers to a Challenge: Left to right are Chris, Pedro, Dan and Matt at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in January 2020. All four friends were involved in the poker tournaments.

Below A Poker Tournament and Fundraiser: Players at one of the fundraisers.





Above Before and After: Maddie shaved off her trademark locks in order to raise fund for St Jude's.

Maddie: The long and short of it

Maddie, a Communications and Editorial Specialist at St Jude's for the last four and half years, has always had long, beautiful, curly hair.

Or she used to, anyway. In May 2020, she shaved her head to raise funds for St Jude's and today she has short, beautiful, curly hair.

"When I told people, 'I'll shave my head if I can raise this amount,' I got so many laughs because my hair was almost like my trademark. I had long, waist-length, massive, curly hair. I'd never had short hair," Maddie recalls.

Despite the trademark status of Maddie's hair, she considered it a small price to pay in order to help St Jude's. "I knew I wanted to do a big fundraiser of some sort. I was supposed to go home last year for a visit in May, but then with COVID-19 I couldn't and I knew I would be staying here (in Tanzania). So I thought, well, people could use a bit of a giggle!" Maddie laughs.

Maddie created a GoFundMe page and shared it from her Facebook and Instagram accounts to encourage donations. Overnight, she hit her fundraising goal and her friends encouraged her to increase her goal. Soon, Maddie had raised \$4,600 and decided it was time for the big shave.

"I borrowed some clippers but I forgot to put on the attachment to do a number six length. So I botched it completely and my hair was down to the scalp, as bald as you could go. It was so, so cold! But, there was also the feeling of elation, because I'd done something good for the school which was beyond just giving time and it'd brought a smile to people's faces," Maddie says.

Not everyone needs to shave their head in order to fundraise for St Jude's, but Maddie has a few words for people considering any sort of fundraiser, "Put yourself out of your comfort zone. Do something different and wacky if you can and try to link in stories of the people here at St Jude's. More than anything, the stories of our Tanzanian staff, students and graduates will convince people to donate and support. Put yourself out there, be brave and have a go," she says.

A creative challenge

Coming up in November, we have a chance for you to flex your creative muscles while fighting poverty through education like Chris and Maddie.

The **St Jude's Challenge** is on again!

When you join the St Jude's Challenge you can choose a reading challenge, a steps challenge or get really creative and design your own challenge. Register your challenge, create a fundraising page and then share your challenge with friends and family and encourage them to donate. Individuals, families, clubs and schools are all welcome.



St Jude's Challenge

Join the St Jude's Challenge and get creative to
support St Jude's.



Paying it Forward

Students find creative ways to help others using the resources they have.

St Jude's students come from families who don't have many material things to share, indeed, many are struggling to make ends meet. Despite this, our students are always looking for ways to give to others.

A group of kind students from St Jude's Girls' Secondary School have made it their mission to visit local orphanages during their school holidays. While the students don't have money to donate, they give staple foods, help with homework, play with the children and help with chores around the orphanage. With compassion and creativity, the students have found a way to make a difference in the community with few resources.

Salome, Form 2, and Caroline, Form 4, are two students who have taken it upon themselves to volunteer their time in orphanages during school holidays this year. They are members of the YOTA (Youth of Tanzania) Club – its current and former Presidents respectively. One of the core purposes of YOTA Club is to serve the community, which is what drew both students to the club.

"Instead of just staying at home during the holidays, we can help people," explains Salome. "We can contribute to the children at the orphanage by volunteering and bringing items to help them, like sugar, soap, rice and pencils."

"Our goal is to help our society. We also want to create a spirit of thanksgiving and hard work among our members," says Caroline.

The YOTA Club, like all clubs at St Jude's, has a staff mentor to guide its activities. Ms Kimori, a lab technician, is the YOTA Club mentor. While she offers a guiding hand, she has found the students very capable of planning their own activities.

"The students proposed the volunteering and asked me if they could visit orphanages," Ms Kimori recalls. "Once they had permission, they organised it all themselves."



Above Give what you can: Salome (in yellow) gives donated goods to the children at the orphanage.

Below Ready to Serve the Community: Caroline and Salome with their mentor, Ms Kimori.





Above Fun and games: Salome leads a game for the children.

Below The Spirit of Volunteering: Caroline and Salome both plan to continue their volunteer work.



On the day of the visit, the students make their own way to the orphanage using public transport or on foot.

“When we arrive, we help them to get ready and with activities in their house,” begins Salome. “Then we teach them games, feed them and wash their clothes for them,” continues Caroline.

At the orphanage, there about 50 children, from babies to 17 year olds.

“Most orphanages in Tanzania depend on contributions from donors, so it can be difficult. Often, they will have just two or three staff caring for all the children,” explains Ms Kimori.

“Sometimes, the children have just one meal per day,” adds Salome.

It’s clear that the children at the orphanage are happy to spend time with the St Jude’s students. By feeding the youngest children and taking care of some laundry, the students are able to help the staff, who have a lot on their hands with so many young children to care for.

But it’s not all hard work. St Jude’s students all agree that they have a lot of fun while volunteering.

“It’s so nice to spend time with children,” enthuses Salome. Caroline agrees. “I really love volunteering. I know I’m making an impact,” she smiles.

Salome and Caroline, while wonderful students, are not anomalies at St Jude’s. In fact, the spirit of volunteering is strong throughout the student body.

Despite coming from underprivileged backgrounds themselves, St Jude’s students consider those who have less than they do – including those without parents, families or homes. With creativity, our students have found ways to help others using what they have, a skill which will stand them in good stead for a life of kindness and compassion.



Your support inspires students like Caroline and Salome, to give back to their local communities through the school clubs. **Give today** so St Jude’s student can keep inspiring others!



School's Out!

Four St Jude's students share the creative and inspiring ways they spend their time during school holidays.

As the bell rings, students are excited to be heading home for their midterm break.

Half way through each term, students return to their homes to spend time with their families. As most students enjoy their holidays relaxing with their loved ones; Semu, Jessica, Andrea, and Veronica use this time to give back to the community, as one way to appreciate the free, quality education they receive at The School of St Jude.

"Charity begins at home," says Veronica, a Form 4 science student at St Jude's Girls' Secondary School.

Veronica spends most of her holidays working in different orphanages around her area. "I started visiting different orphanages in Form 2 and have been going ever since. Having access to the free, quality education I receive at St Jude's has inspired me to help others in the same way I have been helped at the school," explains Veronica.

Veronica and a few of her friends have started a campaign titled, 'Who has the Voice to Speak for a Girl', because they want to see a change in their community and see girls, like them, rise up and have access to equal opportunities. She believes that even a little bit of help goes a long way towards helping other girls.

"Girls studying in government schools face many challenges. My friends and I decided to help them in different ways, like tutoring students in the subjects they need help with and donating sanitary towels to girls in several orphanages."

Despite coming from extremely poor backgrounds, St Jude's students work hard to fulfil their academic potential and to develop leadership skills to lift their communities out of poverty.



Above Smiles on the Farm: Jessica, a Form 6 student, is prepared to take on farming, her passion project.

Below Dedicated to Doing Good: Veronica (left), a Form 4 student, is committed to improving her community.





Above Talking passionately: Semu (first from the left), a Form 6 student, enjoying a break with his schoolmates.

Semu, a Form 6 student at St Jude's Secondary School, embodies the spirit of leadership. He's dedicated to helping his fellow youth in his community who are struggling with drug abuse. He believes that transforming the socio-economic future of his family and community rests on his shoulders.

"Many of my peers in my neighbourhood suffer from addiction, and that's why I'm compelled to speak out against it," states Semu.

"I use my holiday time to talk to my fellow peers about the negative effects of drug abuse."

"I started a movement called Me Against Drug Abuse (MADA) where I speak to youth in government schools, churches, and in my community about the adverse effects of drug abuse," adds Semu, whose dream is to see a drug-free society one day.

St Jude's motto is 'Challenge Yourself'. It encourages students to strive for academic excellence, moral excellence and to develop a diverse set of skills, preparing them to become community-focused leaders of the future.



Above It takes Practice: Andrea (middle), a Form 4 student tutoring his classmates in art class.

Andrea, a Form 4 student, spends his holidays teaching art to orphans. "During the holidays, I spend my time teaching creative art to orphans and the less fortunate."

"I enjoy sharing the knowledge I gain at St Jude's with my peers, younger brothers and sisters in my community. In addition to teaching them different art skills, I also show them how to weave vases and make bracelets," says Andrea.

St Jude's students are provided with a holistic education to help them develop valuable, real-world skills and self-confidence.

"I have a farm at home, so during the holidays, I tend to the vegetables," says Jessica, a Form 6 student.

Jessica gains her agricultural know-how from tending to the school shamba (shamba means farm in Kiswahili), which is a compulsory activity for students. Through shamba activities, students increase their knowledge about crop management and techniques to improve land productivity.

Agriculture plays a major part in the Tanzanian economy with most Tanzanians involved in agriculture in some way.



Above Passion for Farming: Jessica, a Form 6 student tending to the secondary school farm.

"I engage in vegetable farming during holidays because farming contributes to feeding my family. With the farm now up and running, they'll have an endless supply of vegetables," Jessica adds.

Jessica, Semu, Andrea and Veronica don't stop learning when the school closes, they use creative ways to reach out and help their communities during the holidays. As outstanding St Jude's role models, they demonstrate that education creates hope for the future of Tanzania.

Through your support, Jessica, Andrea, Veronica, and Semu are building a pathway out of poverty for other Tanzanian youth. **Donate or Sponsor Today!**





The School of St Jude

Fighting poverty
through education



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with your family and friends.



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