



St Jude's News

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St Jude's Inaugural
Cultural Competition

[Story page 2](#)



A Start of a Promising
Chapter

[Story page 4](#)



Staff Spotlight:
Mr Tsingay

[Story page 6](#)



A Helping Hand
at St Jude's

[Story page 8](#)



Celebrating Culture: Commitment to culture and diversity forms a crucial part of St Jude's holistic approach to education.



Our Australian fundraising partner is registered as The School of St Jude Ltd and is responsible for all funds raised in Australia.

St Jude's Inaugural Cultural Competition



A celebration of culture, diversity, and creativity for emerging artists at St Jude's and schools around Arusha region.



Celebrating Culture: Commitment to culture and diversity forms a crucial part of St Jude's holistic approach to education.



Bringing Out The Best: As an art teacher, Mr Kephass, ensures the next generation of Tanzanian professionals is both creative and culturally mindful.

The School of St Jude is made up of a vibrant, culturally diverse community. This is demonstrated by its student body which makes up 66 of the 120 Tanzanian tribes. The love for culture and creativity is evident as almost every major and minor event held at the school involves a creative blend of the two.

“Whether it’s a graduation ceremony or Science Day, you can always guarantee there will be some elements of culture in our students’ presentations,” observes Mr Kephass, an art teacher at St Jude’s. “I think this is because our students take great pride in their culture and use their creativity to express it,” suggests Mr Kephass.

The school’s love and appreciation for culture are complemented by St Jude’s proactive approach to ensuring cultural creativity is easily accessible and encouraged among students. This holistic approach ensures that students not only excel academically but also remain deeply connected to their roots and traditions.

“St Jude’s is probably one of the few schools in Tanzania that recognises and invests in culture to such an extent,” analyses Mr Kephass. “We have plenty of traditional attire, from clothing to beads, and even body paints – all representing Tanzanian culture. Over in the music rooms, we have plenty of traditional musical instruments that students can use to bring their own cultures and traditional tunes to life,” he adds.

Over the years, the initiatives taken by St Jude’s blending cultural creativity have grown exponentially attracting local and international recognition. A most recent example is the success of the school’s art program which has inspired the launch of the first-ever art gallery at the school, a virtual gallery on the school’s website, and the first international art feature in Australia. Like art, other elements of creative cultural expression have also been gaining recognition, most notably, traditional dances and songs which are popular expressions of culture and traditions for most Tanzanian tribes.

“In recognition of these talents, St Jude’s is launching a one-of-a-kind interschool cultural competition with other schools in the region,” explains Mr Kephass. “The competition aims to stimulate the passion for culture and creativity for our students whilst also allowing students from other schools to merge their creative passions with the traditions of African music, art, or dancing,” he adds.

The St Jude's Interschool Cultural Competition seeks to invite talented singers, dancers, artists, and musical groups to participate in any of the five categories; Solo Acapella, Art Painting and Drawing, Traditional Instruments Band, Traditional Dance Group, and Traditional Singing Group competitions. Competitors from all categories are required to come up with an African or traditional-themed presentation whether it's art, song, or dance.

"The competition would be student-centric, so all participants would be schoolchildren registered in private or government schools," explains Mr Kephas. "We have made the application process as simple as possible. Applicants can register online through WhatsApp from anywhere. There is also an informational page on our website where interested applicants can learn more about the competition and register," he adds.

One of the early applicants for the competition is Lydia, a talented singer and student at St Jude's Secondary School. Lydia will participate in two competition categories: Solo Acapella Singing and Traditional Singing Group competitions.

"When I heard of this competition I was very excited," Lydia says happily. "As an aspiring singer, I have always wanted a platform where I could present my talent to an audience and learn from others. A competition like this does exactly," she adds excitedly.

Lydia believes competitions like these are crucial for emerging artists like herself who hope to develop and refine their talent into something bigger and better.



Her Happy Place: Lydia performing on stage at St Jude's Secondary School.



Watch and Learn: Ms Maria with students during a music class.

The exposure and opportunity to learn from other emerging artists in the same field have the potential to incentivise and challenge her to improve her talent.

"Music and dancing are one of the oldest and most common ways to express culture and traditions," says Maria, a music teacher at St Jude's Secondary School. "The evolution of cultural music today presents the potential for artists to earn and even make a living off their creativity. So, a competition like this may present students with the vast opportunities of cultural music and inspire them to both embrace their culture and develop their talents," she adds.

The St Jude's Intercultural Competition will be the first of its kind, an interschool competition celebrating culture, tradition and creativity among students. The event is slated to take place on September 4, 2023, at St Jude's Sisia Campus.



Taking On The Stage: Traditional dances, colourful attire and decorations forms a major part of Tanzania's cultural expressions for its 120 tribes.

Your support enables St Jude's to invest, promote, cultivate, and celebrate Tanzania's diversity and rich cultural heritage through special programs and initiatives.
Donate Today.

A Start of a Promising Chapter

A closer look at what it means for students to start their next academic adventure at St Jude's.



Loving It: Saumu (second from right) on her way to class at St Jude's Secondary School.

Every July, St Jude's Secondary School is graced with new students eager to start their A Level studies. Sporting their new, brightly coloured school uniforms and typically walking in clusters, they stand out from their seasoned schoolmates. Among them is Saumu, an ambitious Form 5 student whose dreams and ambitions have found their perfect home at the school.

"Coming to St Jude's was a dream come true for me," Saumu says passionately. "I have been hearing good things about the school for many years. So, being here means a lot to me and my family," she adds excitedly.

In Tanzania, there are two key stages to secondary schooling; the first four years of secondary school are called Ordinary Level (O Level) studies; from Form 1 to Form 4 and the final two years of secondary schooling are called Advanced Level (A Level); from Form 5 and 6.

Every year, St Jude's awards full academic scholarships to the highest-performing primary and secondary school students from disadvantaged backgrounds through a fair and thorough selection process.

Hundreds of potential candidates from government schools across four regions in northern Tanzania are invited to apply for a scholarship at St Jude's and subsequently go through a series of written and oral examinations and poverty assessments.

"The first time I applied for a scholarship at St Jude's was in 2019 when I had just completed my primary education," recalls Saumu. "I was the top performer from my school in the national exams and was pleasantly surprised when I also got invited to apply for a scholarship at St Jude's!" she adds.

Unfortunately, Saumu didn't get a scholarship on that occasion. Undeterred by the setback, she worked hard in school and four years later, she was invited again to apply for a scholarship at St Jude's.

"You don't always get second chances in life," reflects Saumu. "So when I came in for my second attempt, I gave it my all and passed through all the stages!" she adds excitedly.

Saumum is among 66 students who joined St Jude's Secondary School for the first time in July. She is still adapting to her new school



Always Available: Mr Elia catching up with some new Form 5 students.

and has so far joined a public speaking club, and is excited to improve her English with the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at St Jude's.

"Coming to a new school like this can be an overwhelming experience," says Mr Elia, a teacher at St Jude's Secondary School. "So, we have a system that guides and helps new students settle in and cope with the environment," he adds.

Mr Elia is the Level Coordinator of Form 5. In this role, he looks after all aspects of the class; from academics to non-academics, to discipline matters, and how they cope in the new environment.

"Soon after reporting to school, we organise a one-week orientation for all students joining our campus," says Mr Elia. "During this week, we introduce them to the entire school leadership structure, including

teachers and student leaders. We also show them around the school and all the important places," he adds.

The supportive environment at St Jude's coupled with the school's huge resources helps new students settle in quickly. In only a matter of a few months, most students would have already found their favourite sport, extra-curricular activity, and favourite subjects.

A good example of this is Nuhu, a Form 1 student who joined St Jude's from a government school in January this year. In just a few months, he is now one of the top performers in his class, has secured a starting spot on his class football team and performed in a cultural competition earlier this year!

"When I first came in, I was blown away at how big the school was," says Nuhu. "I thought it was going to take me a year to find my way around!" he adds with a smile.

Both Nuhu and Saumu are the first members of their family to reach secondary school. Prior to getting a scholarship at St Jude's, they were both at risk of not continuing with advanced secondary education due to cost demands. With a scholarship at St Jude's, their future is now secured thanks to the generous donations of sponsors around the world.



Blending In: Nuhu (left) at a performance at a recent St Jude's Secondary School Cultural Day.

Every year, St Jude's awards hundreds of primary and secondary school students with academic scholarships to lift their families out of poverty.
Sponsor today!

Staff Spotlight: Mr Tsingay



St Jude's acting Headmaster opens up about his role and his passion as a teacher.



A Headmaster's Speech: Mr Tsingay address St Jude's Secondary School assembly.

One of the most influential places on campus is the Headmaster's office. It is here that all decisions, both major and minor about the campus are made. Needless to say, the Headmaster is one of the busiest people on campus.

"I have been in this role for three months," says Mr Tsingay, St Jude's Secondary School acting Headmaster. "And I can already tell it is an experience like no other!" he adds with a smile.

Mr Tsingay is based at Smith campus, the largest of St Jude's three campuses. Smith campus houses classrooms, dormitories, a school farm and livestock-keeping projects, and sports facilities for more than 900 secondary school students and around 112 staff. As Headmaster, he looks after all aspects of the campus and ensures everything runs smoothly.

"I work closely with Deputy Headmasters and Heads of Departments in various divisions and coordinate with other school leaders to stay on top of things," shares Mr Tsingay. "So, a typical day as a headmaster involves quite a bit of consultation and meetings with fellow leaders," shares Mr Tsingay with a smile.

Although his current role presents new challenges, Mr Tsingay is prepared for all of it. He credits his passion and the impact of his work on future generations as inspiration that keeps him motivated.

"Having been a teacher for ten years," reflects Mr Tsingay. "I've had the privilege of seeing first-hand the impact that my work has made on many students that have passed through my classes. There is nothing more satisfying than having your students grow to become role models and professionals, helping their communities," he adds passionately.

Mr Tsingay's passion for teaching developed, unbeknownst to him, after he completed his secondary school. With a bit of time on his hands ahead of university, he naturally found himself running a small tuition class in his village where he would teach his peers who were still in school.



Always a Charmer: Mr Tsingay catching up with students during his free time.

“It all started as a hobby for me,” Mr Tsingay reflects on his teaching career. “Running the little tuition class back in my village was such a fulfilling activity that I did it for free the entire time. I only asked my students to bring chalk,” he adds with a smile.

Although he hadn’t realised it at the time, Mr Tsingay has always harboured deep admiration and love for teachers from a young age. Even as a grown man today, he confesses that he still remembers his first teacher from Standard 1.

“I think the impact that teachers have on students is far-reaching,” shares Mr Tsingay. “We may not always recognise it, but we’ve always had teachers as our role models at certain points in our lives,” he adds.

Despite his busy schedule as acting Headmaster, Mr Tsingay always tries to make time for students and indulges them in various activities. Every once in a while, Mr Tsingay would leave his office and tour the campus; visiting classes, checking on the farm and other projects, the dormitories and catching up with students. He still maintains the friendly demeanour and welcoming smile he’s had for the past 10 years at St Jude’s.

“Sometimes students forget that I am now the Headmaster and they would come into my office for issues that typically belong to the Academics office, which is where I worked previously,” explains Mr Tsingay. “I think we are all adjusting to my new role,” he adds with a smile.

Mr Tsingay’s role as acting Headmaster comes at a time when St Jude’s has enrolled new students in Form 5, the first of the final two years of secondary school education in Tanzania. He takes on the incredible responsibility of maintaining the school’s impressive academic record whilst equipping students with valuable extracurricular skills for their future lives.

Your donations helps St Jude’s employ competent, mission-driven staff to inspire the next generation of Tanzanian professionals.
Donate Today.





The Spirit of Volunteering: A parent volunteers once a week to help in the kitchen.

A Helping Hand at St Jude's

Parents' volunteerism in the kitchen sparks a culture of giving at St Jude's.

There are many reasons why The School of St Jude is a success story, including its extended community of parents and guardians.

Shabani is one of the dedicated parents who serve as an exemplary role model. He has dedicated his time by volunteering in the school's kitchen for the past five years.

Shabani, whose child, Farida, is a student at St Jude's Primary School in Class 7A, believes that volunteering is a meaningful way to express gratitude to the school for providing free education to his daughter.

"Volunteering in the kitchen to prepare meals is one way we thank the school for providing free education for our children. It is a way of collaborating with the school and staff in providing meals for every student," he shares.

Shabani and fellow parents highlight the invaluable impact of collaborative efforts between parents and the school. Their unwavering dedication in the kitchen and on the farm has ignited a spark within students, propelling them towards similar

endeavours that cultivate self-reliance and entrepreneurship.

"We want to show the way for our children, empowering them to embrace responsibility, nurture their skills, and create a thriving community rooted in shared values," says Shabani.

Parents like Shabani who embrace the spirit of giving encourage students to learn the valuable lesson of giving back to the school and the wider community... cultivating a culture of gratitude and philanthropy at St Jude's.

Your support enables The School of St Jude to support student's extracurricular activities which contribute to their academic performance and welfare. **Donate today**