April 2012 Newsletter

Thank you for passing this newsletter on to your family and friends.

Karibu, everyone!

The students call me Mr George Stephen, and I am the Head of the Lower Primary Moshono campus. I have been teaching and working at The School of St Jude since 2005, where I started as a mathematics teacher. My current role at the school is to oversee all the day-to-day activities of over 500 students and 150 staff. I have a great team that helps me to oversee all aspects of our Lower Primary campus. It is always a very busy, but extremely fulfilling day.

Another aspect of my duties is being a member of the management team and understanding the broader issues affecting all our campuses. Through leadership training and a desire to understand The School of St Jude more thoroughly, it is my responsibility to try and think two steps ahead of every arising issue, and to offer sound guidance on how to handle them.

When I started at St Jude’s back in 2005, there were less than 500 students, only one campus and no boarding houses. It has been remarkable to witness the progress we have made over the last seven years. Thanks to everyone’s hard work – and the generous contributions of our sponsors and donors, like Denis and Helen from Melbourne (who sponsor me and are pictured above) – I am optimistic about what we can accomplish at St Jude’s over the next ten years.

I would say teaching maths is where I first realised my potential in school and I hope we provide the same inspiration to our students to become our next generations’ leaders, not only in Arusha, but in all of East Africa and across the globe.

I hope you enjoy reading this month’s news from St Jude’s and about how your support is making a big difference to our students, staff and community.

- George Stephen,
Head of Lower Primary,
The School of St Jude.
Thank you for your amazing support to our 10th Anniversary Appeal. Because of your generosity you are ensuring that ongoing necessities such as bus maintenance, student meals, IT equipment and infrastructure are supported.

Our fresh vegetable buckets (pictured) are still available for purchase. For $100 you will ensure our students have the essential nutrients to keep them healthy and focused in class.

Your support is making a difference right now!!!

Our fundis (tradesmen) making classroom chairs and tables which have been funded through your generous support.

Log onto our website today to show your support! We have achieved so much in 10 years and we can only continue to fight poverty through education if we do it together!

www.schoolofstjude.org Email: info@schoolofstjude.co.tz
For many students, having the opportunity to board at St Jude’s is exciting not only for themselves, but for their families as well. Our boarding campuses offer stable electricity - which means more time to study, less travel time to school and the chance to participate in extra curricular activities.

Muhidini is a student who has been with St Jude’s since 2002, and currently boards in our Moivaro campus. He says his favorite parts about boarding at St Jude’s are the amount of time he has to study, play football with his friends and to eat his favorite meal of ugali with mchicha (green vegetables).

Like all students at our Moivaro boarding campus, he returns home on the weekends to stay with his family. Muhidini’s mother runs a makeshift stand selling bananas and his father is a casual labourer. He has three siblings and his weekend chores include fetching water and caring for his baby sister.

Thanks to boarding room sponsors, our students have the ability to live on campus where they’re provided three nutritious meals per day, electricity and the kinship of their friends.

Muhidini is growing into such a well-rounded young man thanks to St Jude’s. See how much he has grown since his first day with Gemma!

Boarding students like Muhidini need sponsorship to ensure they are given every opportunity to succeed in life. You can make this happen!

Log onto our website (www.schoolofstjude.org) to find out how you can sponsor a student + boarding package.
SUPPORT OUR STUDENT & BOARDING APPEAL

As part of our current Student and Boarding Package Appeal, we have 417 packages still available. Read here about some of our amazing students that will benefit from your support.

Most children around Tanzania start their education in overcrowded, poorly resourced government schools. That’s why the story of Denis is such a remarkable one. Last year, Denis was one of 25 new Form 1 students at St Jude’s. Our staff were impressed with Denis’ extremely high marks on his entrance exam. Denis has been a student at Smith Campus for less than five months and he is already astonishing academic staff with his fantastic marks across the board, ranging in the 90th percentile. It’s a testament to his motivation and desire to learn that makes Denis such a talented young man.

For $120 a month you can support our students and their boarding rooms. Please log on to our website TODAY to change the life of a student.

This is Eva. She is one of many new students who started in 2012 and is yet to be sponsored. Eva is in Class 1 and is showing amazing potential. By sponsoring a Student and Boarding Room Package, you will directly be supporting some of the poorest and clever children in Tanzania.

If it wasn’t for St Jude’s, our students would be at local government schools like this. Overcrowded classes and poor teaching standards make a very difficult learning environment.

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RECREATING THE CLASSICS IN THE LIBRARY

Recently our librarians Megan and Christina ran a project with our Class 1 students asking them to recreate some of their favourite library books. Each student was asked to brainstorm as part of the group, then contribute and illustrate one page. Engaging projects like this help our students unleash their creativity while developing their literacy skills and confidence in English.

OUR BUDDING JOURNALISTS

The newspaper industry might be on the decline, but you wouldn’t be able to tell at St Jude’s Smith campus. Over a two-week period, four students put their journalist caps on and produced a newspaper, complete with bylines, headlines and colourful photos. Eben, Erick, Meshack and Boniface (pictured above, left to right) – all Form 3 – found inspiration by studying local press articles and emulating them. Stories they wrote included features on the festival for The School of St Jude, and profiles of staff and faculty.
One of the benefits of boarding at St Jude’s is the interesting extra-curricular activities the students can partake in. Our Smith Campus recently welcomed members from the a local choir who taught them how to make traditional Maasai mud ovens. These environmentally friendly cookers reduce the amount of firewood used for cooking, while eliminating harmful gases that damage our atmosphere. Using a simple mixture of sand, dirt, water and termite mounds, the students molded this substance around a banana trunk to form the cooker. After they are dried for three weeks, they’re ready to use! These simple techniques were studied by our students so they can pass them along to their families as well.
HARNESSING REUSABLE ENERGY TO FEED OUR STUDENTS

At St Jude’s we strive to make progress in limiting our carbon footprint. At our Smith Campus, the biogas and waste water project will remove the waste and food scraps from 1,000 student and staff boarding on campus and turned into reusable energy. How does it work? Any waste is processed into reusable gas, which is fed through underground pipes back into our kitchens to power the cookers required to feed the students and staff! Not only does it eliminate our need for wood fire stoves, but the reclaimed water will eventually be used to irrigate the school grounds and the plantations. With your support, you are helping St Jude’s build a sustainable campus for our boarding students.

WE LOVE VISITORS

We were thrilled to welcome the Uechtritz Family to St Jude’s in April. They have been supporting the school for several years and this was their first visit to see for themselves what a big impact their generosity is having on our students’ lives.

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NEED A CHANGE OF SCENERY?
JOIN OUR TEAM IN TANZANIA!

Our international volunteers are an amazing group of people who come from various walks of life all for the same purpose.... A strong belief in St Jude’s mission to help Fight Poverty Through Education! Our long term volunteers assist us to train and mentor over 400 Tanzanian staff. Could you be bound for Tanzania to join our family?!?!

Current staff vacancies include roles in our administration teams, primary and secondary teacher mentors, ESL specialists and PE teachers.

To find out how you could be living and working in Tanzania go to the 'job vacancies’ section on our website.
Have you ever thought about how you might be able to contribute to the wonderful work of St Jude’s? Why not take a leaf out of Paula’s book? She recently made three presentations to her friends, network and local Rotary club in New South Wales. Not only did Paula raise funds for the school but she helped spread the word about the wonderful achievements of The School of St Jude.

St Jude’s have made presentations a breeze with our speakers kit and PowerPoint presentations that are available on our website. We also have DVDs, brochures and other materials that we can provide you in the lead up to your event.

Do you have a local club or school that you could speak at? We rely heavily on our fantastic supporters to spread the word about St Jude’s.

If you would like more information on making a presentation, please contact our team by emailing—  
info@schoolofstjudge.co.tz
10th Year Anniversary Book

The School of St Jude’s 10th Anniversary Book is ON SALE NOW!

It has taken the amazing efforts of so many people to achieve so much in just 10 years. This book is a celebration of the beautiful people, the challenging times, the very touching times and the celebratory times—all of which have contributed to St Jude’s success.

Jump online to buy your copy today!

10 Days for 10 Years Celebration Tour

Join in the celebrations at St Jude’s in Arusha Tanzania!
Join our 10 days for 10 years celebration tour during October 2012!

Journey to the world’s most diverse and richly cultured continent for ten days – one day for every year St Jude’s has been Fighting Poverty Through Education. Get to know the students and experience day-to-day life at the school; participate in extracurricular activities with primary and secondary students; visit a student’s home; sample traditional Tanzanian food; explore the local area; meet our amazing staff; go on a two day safari and heaps more!

Don’t miss out — email visitor@schoolofstjude.co.tz for more details.

Mt Kilimanjaro awaits you!

Have you ever thought about what it would be like to reach the summit of the highest peak in Africa? Now imagine that in the knowledge of raising money to fight poverty through education with The School of St Jude.

Don’t miss out on this once in a lifetime challenge! Limited spaces are still available for our Mt Kili Challenge which takes place in September 2012.

For more information log on to our website or email info@schoolofstjude.co.tz