

# School of St Jude – February 2007 Newsletter

## **FRANTIC FEBRUARY!**

February has been a great month here at school and lots of different things have happened:-

- Our internet/ email system died for a while causing headaches to all students and staff
- We received the results of our 2006 Standard 4 students who blitzed the National Examinations
- A wonderful team of doctors came into the school to check the health of every student
- The first Matching Rotary Grant for 2 buses came through so we now have 2 more school buses to carry all the students and staff to school
- We filmed a new DVD about the school, which we will launch in April

So it's been another frantic but fantastic month - read on for the details and pictures!

### **THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS – “ST JUDES” IS COMING SOON**

We are all getting very, very excited as April 1<sup>st</sup> looms and, with it, the launch of our book “St Jude’s”.

The book “St Jude’s” will be sold for \$32.95 where all good books are sold around Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. If you would like to know what the book is all about or see the front/back cover then click on the following link:

**<http://www.schoolofstjude.co.tz/News/StJudeshitsbookshopsApril07/tabid/239/Default.aspx>**

If you would like to support this school by buying the book at one of the upcoming “Friends of St Jude’s” functions (which will be held at various cities and towns around Australia) then click on the following link to find the dates, venues and times of the events. A free DVD about the school will be given which each book sold. Actually I will be attending all the book launches look forward to doing a visual presentation to both teach prospective supporters and update our wonderful current ones.

**<http://www.schoolofstjude.co.tz/News/DatesandVenuesforStJudesBookLaunch/tabid/266/Default.aspx>**

If you can't attend one of these events or cannot get to a book shop or if you are from another country, then please email me on [schoolofstjude@habari.co.tz](mailto:schoolofstjude@habari.co.tz) and we will get you a copy by post.

### **SCHOOL EMAIL SERVER CRASHED AND BURNED!**

Some of you may have emailed us and had your emails returned. Our server crashed here at school and although everything was backed up, we had to source a new part from Daar es Salaam which took time and in the meantime, emails to the school were bouncing. However our wonder IT boys here at school have got the system up and running and so now all emails should be working. If you have not had a reply to an email you sent, then it would be great if you could re-send the email as many new emails from people were lost when the server crashed. Also please let us know if you did not get the scanned report of your sponsored child as all of the school reports were sent just before the server crashed and we are a little bit worried that people may not have received them.

### **OUR SECOND GROUP OF STUDENTS BLITZ THE NATIONAL EXAMS**

Finally we can tell you the wonderful news about how our 2<sup>nd</sup> lot of students went in the 2006 National Examinations. 123 students (almost 100 more than last year's 27 students) did the 5 official papers of Mathematics, Science, English, Kiswahili and Social Studies. Each paper was out of 50 marks and the students did extremely well. Not one student failed and in fact the 123 students had an average of 90% which puts

the school in second position out of over 200 schools in the area, so we owe a huge congratulations to all teachers and staff who worked so hard because getting an extra 100 students ready for the exams is no mean feat at all. We are still waiting from the Education office for the list of students who did best out of the 17,000 plus candidature, however below is a picture of the 5 students who did the best from St Jude's having each lost 5 or less marks out of a total of 250.

Mr Nestory, our Academic Master, standing proudly with students Elizabeth, Arnold, Jovanesta, Agnes, Blandina and Carolyn who received some of the best marks in the area.



For those of you who sponsor one of our 123 Stand 4 students, I have inserted below their marks so you can find your child's result. ALL the children did really well as the lowest mark that any of them received was 79% (which is still really good) so if you would like to send a congratulatory letter/email or gift to your child, then I am sure that they would be thrilled.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>Kiswahili</b>	<b>Maths</b>	<b>Overall %</b>	<b>Position</b>
	<b>/50</b>	<b>/50</b>	<b>/50</b>	<b>/50</b>	<b>/50</b>		<b>in group</b>
Blandina Allen	48	49	48	50	48	<b>97%</b>	<b>1</b>
Elizabeth Jonas	50	48	46	48	48	<b>96%</b>	<b>2</b>
Carolyn Vitalis	48	48	48	48	48	<b>96%</b>	<b>2</b>
Arnold Nahamu	48	48	46	50	48	<b>96%</b>	<b>2</b>
Jovanesta Emmanu	48	48	48	50	46	<b>96%</b>	<b>2</b>
Agnes Bonaventura	48	48	48	46	48	<b>95%</b>	<b>6</b>
Lubango Gervis	48	47	50	46	44	<b>94%</b>	<b>7</b>
Erick Wilfred	48	47	46	50	44	<b>94%</b>	<b>7</b>
Alexander Demetro	48	47	44	48	48	<b>94%</b>	<b>7</b>
Agatha Andrea	50	47	48	48	42	<b>94%</b>	<b>7</b>
Erick Lucas	48	47	48	50	42	<b>94%</b>	<b>7</b>
Hosiana Jonas	48	47	48	48	44	<b>94%</b>	<b>7</b>
Grace Juma	50	47	46	48	44	<b>94%</b>	<b>7</b>
Weema Obedi	48	47	50	48	42	<b>94%</b>	<b>7</b>

Gladness Zachari	50	47	48	44	46	<b>94%</b>	<b>7</b>
Jeska Meliaki	48	47	46	48	46	<b>94%</b>	<b>7</b>
Godfrey Elias	48	47	46	46	48	<b>94%</b>	<b>7</b>
Daudi Boaz	46	47	44	48	48	<b>93%</b>	<b>18</b>
Asha Mohamed	48	47	44	50	44	<b>93%</b>	<b>18</b>
Robinson Erasto	48	47	48	46	44	<b>93%</b>	<b>18</b>
Herman William	48	47	46	44	48	<b>93%</b>	<b>18</b>
Joise Msafiri	48	47	44	48	46	<b>93%</b>	<b>18</b>
David Simon	48	47	46	48	44	<b>93%</b>	<b>18</b>
Sitty Hamisi	50	47	48	48	40	<b>93%</b>	<b>18</b>
Emmanuel George	50	47	44	46	46	<b>93%</b>	<b>18</b>
Esuvat Kephasy	50	47	44	48	44	<b>93%</b>	<b>18</b>
Edna Lomayani	48	47	46	50	42	<b>93%</b>	<b>18</b>
Lawrence Raymond	46	47	48	46	46	<b>93%</b>	<b>18</b>
Hilda Kimaro	50	47	44	48	44	<b>93%</b>	<b>18</b>
Athumani Miraji	46	47	48	48	44	<b>93%</b>	<b>18</b>
Margreth Augustino	50	47	44	48	44	<b>93%</b>	<b>18</b>
Godson Joseph	48	47	44	48	46	<b>93%</b>	<b>18</b>
Sifuni Harrison	48	46	48	50	38	<b>92%</b>	<b>33</b>
Jacklyn Salvastory	48	46	46	48	42	<b>92%</b>	<b>33</b>
Dorcas Alfred	48	46	46	46	44	<b>92%</b>	<b>33</b>
Boniface Eliapenda	48	46	44	46	46	<b>92%</b>	<b>33</b>
Shedreck Elineema	48	46	46	48	42	<b>92%</b>	<b>33</b>
Fidilisi Filomon	48	46	48	44	44	<b>92%</b>	<b>33</b>
Violet Loth	48	46	44	48	44	<b>92%</b>	<b>33</b>
Innocent William	50	46	46	44	44	<b>92%</b>	<b>33</b>
Ibrahim Bakari	48	46	44	48	44	<b>92%</b>	<b>33</b>
Angela Bazili	42	46	46	48	48	<b>92%</b>	<b>33</b>
Godson Emmanuel	48	46	48	44	44	<b>92%</b>	<b>33</b>
Maurine Ayubu	48	46	48	46	42	<b>92%</b>	<b>33</b>
Mercy Wilberd	50	46	46	44	44	<b>92%</b>	<b>33</b>
Irene Elibariki	48	46	46	44	44	<b>91%</b>	<b>46</b>
Rhoda William	46	46	46	42	48	<b>91%</b>	<b>46</b>
Felista Yohana	48	46	44	48	42	<b>91%</b>	<b>46</b>
Jeska Jeremiah	50	46	46	48	38	<b>91%</b>	<b>46</b>
Warida Mussa	46	46	46	48	42	<b>91%</b>	<b>46</b>
Olarip Tomito	48	46	48	48	38	<b>91%</b>	<b>46</b>
Baraka Festo	48	46	44	46	44	<b>91%</b>	<b>46</b>
Queen John	50	46	44	46	42	<b>91%</b>	<b>46</b>

Upendo Kisiuki	44	46	46	48	44	<b>91%</b>	<b>46</b>
Omega Edgar	46	46	46	42	48	<b>91%</b>	<b>46</b>
Margreth John	48	46	46	44	44	<b>91%</b>	<b>46</b>
Katherine Elinami	48	46	42	50	42	<b>91%</b>	<b>46</b>
Gloria Jeremiah	48	46	44	46	44	<b>91%</b>	<b>46</b>
Athumani Juma	48	45	44	48	40	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
Josephine Mboyo	50	45	46	48	36	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
Riziki Fred	48	45	44	44	44	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
Jazmin Azaeli	48	45	40	48	44	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
Cypriana Philipo	48	45	40	48	44	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
Dora Jemsi	50	45	44	46	40	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
Amani Huruma	48	45	46	44	42	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
Aisha Athumani	48	45	48	50	34	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
George Allan	48	45	46	44	42	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
Frida Fanuel	50	45	42	42	46	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
Meshack Dickson	48	45	44	44	44	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
Katherine John	48	45	44	46	42	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
Njumali Merikinoi	48	45	44	46	42	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
Margreth Jackson	50	45	42	44	44	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
Mary Petro	48	45	46	46	40	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
Neema Philemon	48	45	46	46	40	<b>90%</b>	<b>59</b>
Tumaini Chacha	48	45	44	48	38	<b>89%</b>	<b>75</b>
Stella Stephano	48	45	46	44	40	<b>89%</b>	<b>75</b>
Innocent Felix	48	45	44	46	40	<b>89%</b>	<b>75</b>
Viktoria Gideon	48	45	42	44	44	<b>89%</b>	<b>75</b>
Prisca Sanga	48	45	44	46	40	<b>89%</b>	<b>75</b>
Adelaide Alexander	48	45	50	44	36	<b>89%</b>	<b>75</b>
Omega Nelson	50	45	46	44	38	<b>89%</b>	<b>75</b>
Miriam Emmanuel	48	45	46	44	40	<b>89%</b>	<b>75</b>
Jeska Japhet	48	45	40	46	44	<b>89%</b>	<b>75</b>
Catherine Loth	48	44	44	42	42	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Elinami Naftari	50	44	42	46	38	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Aloyce Augustino	48	44	46	42	40	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Siangicha Moshi	46	44	44	44	42	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Anna Lucas	48	44	44	46	38	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Irene Gaspar	46	44	46	40	44	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Beatrice Raphael	50	44	44	44	38	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Yasinta Gaspar	48	44	46	42	40	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Hawa Hamisi	48	44	48	44	36	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>

Gloria Julius	48	44	44	44	40	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Emmanuel Daudi	50	44	42	44	40	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Amari Hussein	50	44	42	40	44	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Hans Robert	46	44	48	44	38	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Joyce Gerald	50	44	40	50	36	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Lovenes Yeruselum	50	44	46	42	38	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Winnie Nemes	48	44	44	44	40	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Mariam Hassan	48	44	38	48	42	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Clara Nestory	50	44	40	48	38	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Mariam Abdi	48	44	42	44	42	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Juliana Emmanuel	42	44	44	46	44	<b>88%</b>	<b>84</b>
Onike Loth	48	44	44	46	36	<b>87%</b>	<b>104</b>
Davis Onesphor	48	44	44	48	34	<b>87%</b>	<b>104</b>
Rukia Jumanne	48	44	46	40	40	<b>87%</b>	<b>104</b>
Vumilia Oshumaa	48	44	44	42	40	<b>87%</b>	<b>104</b>
Winifreda Frank	48	43	46	42	36	<b>86%</b>	<b>108</b>
Kadada Samunge	50	43	46	36	40	<b>86%</b>	<b>108</b>
Innocent Dionizi	48	43	42	44	38	<b>86%</b>	<b>108</b>
Sophia Merikinoi	48	43	44	42	38	<b>86%</b>	<b>108</b>
Ally Hussein	48	43	40	46	38	<b>86%</b>	<b>108</b>
Jeni David	50	43	46	44	32	<b>86%</b>	<b>108</b>
Hulda Meseyeki	50	43	36	44	40	<b>85%</b>	<b>114</b>
Hans Zebedayo	48	42	44	46	30	<b>84%</b>	<b>115</b>
Starr Remy	48	42	42	42	36	<b>84%</b>	<b>115</b>
Ruth Thomas	48	42	34	46	40	<b>84%</b>	<b>115</b>
Michael Emmanuel	46	42	46	46	30	<b>84%</b>	<b>115</b>
Kefa Timothy	38	42	42	44	44	<b>84%</b>	<b>115</b>
John Mathayo	46	42	40	44	38	<b>84%</b>	<b>115</b>
Debora James	41	42	40	46	40	<b>84%</b>	<b>121</b>
Daniel William	38	42	44	44	40	<b>83%</b>	<b>122</b>
Martha James	46	40	42	36	34	<b>79%</b>	<b>123</b>

**THE CLASS HAD AN AVERAGE OF 90% WHICH AGAIN PLACES THE SCHOOL IN THE TOP FEW SCHOOLS OF THE OVER 200 WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS IN THIS PART OF TANZANIA.**

### **MEDICAL CHECKS**

Every year, the Tanzanian government requires us to check the eyesight, height and weight of EVERY child in the school and this year was no different. However with 850 students, this is a job of enormous proportions - especially when volunteer trainee doctors have less than a week to do it! Not only did they work non-stop whilst they stayed at the school but they also added extra checks such a hearing and general body check!

(Below) Miss Keren and Mr Ryan weighing each student from one of the new classes of sponsored children who started school here this year.



This was the first year we had the resources to check the ears of every student. We actually discovered that more than 75% of our students have blocked or partially blocked ears due to too much wax. We are now educating parents and guardians about the need to clean their child's ears out gently a few times each year. We also discovered that lots of our new students need glasses and many have skin infections. Many of these problems would typically go undetected in a Tanzanian home and make concentrating and learning so much more difficult.

(Below) Mr Ryan checks a Kinder student's ear.



85 students were found to require glasses and so over the coming month the school will help them to see an eye doctor in town for further investigation.



Keren, one of our office staff who is the "Friends of St Jude's" Co-ordinator came on board to help organize the health checks and below took one step further by actually helping out by taking the height of each student in the school.



Due to problems with worms, the wonderful group of doctors helped to source worming tablets for not only each student, but also 3 other people in their own family. The school has purchased thousands of doses and will be educating the families of our students how to take the tablets etc.

**A very big thank you to PFIZER AUSTRALIA for donating thousands for worming tablets. Our children and their families greatly appreciate it!**



A BIG thanks goes to Mr and Mrs Ryan, Miss Davina, Miss Sarah-Beth, Mr Gurj who came from America, Australia and the UK and also to our Irish volunteers Miss Rebecca, Miss Niamh and finally to Mr Jacob from Australia.

A special thanks to Miss Davina (in the yellow t-shirt) who was responsible for collecting tons of medical goods including bandaids, disinfectant for all those cuts and scrapes - and of course painkillers for all the staff!



### **Our Rotary Matching Grant for 2 buses comes to Fruition!!**

In 2005, the following Rotary Clubs and districts came together to help fund a Matching Rotary Grant for 2 more reconditioned buses for the school:

- Taree Rotary Club (Australia)
- District 5610 (c/- Rushmore of Rapid City Rotary Club, South Dakota, USA)
- Grapevine Rotary Club (Texas, USA)
- District 9550 (Queensland, Australia)
- Rotary Club Golfo di Genova (Italy)
- Thuringowa-Central Rotary Club (Australia)
- Mt Meru Rotary Club (Arusha, Tanzania)
- Cashmere Rotary Club (Washington, USA)
- Taree North Rotary Club (Australia)
- Lake Arrowhead Rotary Club (California, USA)
- Wingham Rotary Club (Australia)

The grant was valued at \$25,000US. We bought two second hand buses (pictures below) and welded them back together and fitted them out with some new parts, brand new tyres and a lot of love.





After welding them all back together, they needed a new paint job and so for an extra few hundred dollars we got them painted purple and pink and put the Rotary symbol onto the driver's door of both vehicles. The kids and staff LOVE them and already the buses are getting a good workout with each vehicle bringing over 60 students and staff to and from school each day.

Below are our drivers George and Henry - proudly standing near their new buses.



We thank our local Rotary Club here in Arusha - the Rotary Club of Mt Meru for their support in this project. Below is the treasurer of the club, Bhavesh Gohil and immediate past president of the club Ashik Nanabhai.



### **Join a Working Team at the school in August!**

In August a working team will be coming from Australia to help us build furniture for our new boarding school and the secondary campus at Usa River.

The team leaves Australia on 18th August and will fly back on 11th September. They will be spending around two weeks working at the school, going on a safari for 5 days and heading to Zanzibar for a few days rest.

The team still has a few spaces, so if you would like to be part of a really enriching and rewarding experience, now is your chance. Don't worry, you don't need to be a carpenter or even a rotarian to join - just hardworking, willing and enthusiastic !

To find out more, contact Kelli Williams on [kelliraew@gmail.com](mailto:kelliraew@gmail.com)

### **Another attempt to find water!**

As you know we are having chronic water shortage problems over here – a situation that our many Australian friends can empathise with. Our current village supply/borehole no.1 combination is starting to buckle on the demand of 850 students and 170 staff (not to mention the building projects going on every day as well!). As our school continues to grow, so will our need for water. We are now drilling and praying that we will find a new borehole because without another water source, running the school will be impossible!

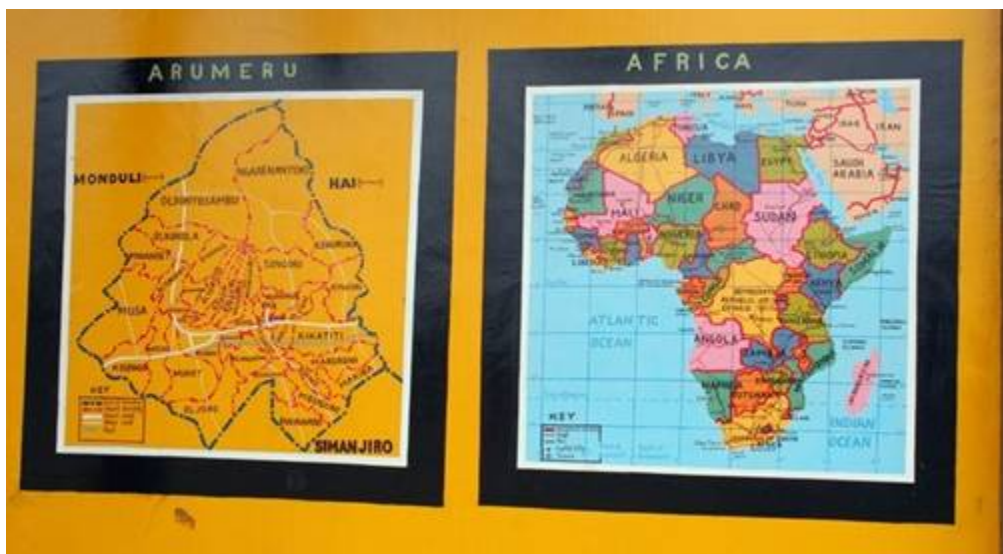


### **Education Security wall is built!**

Because our little village here is no longer a village, but instead a suburb of Arusha city with over a million people in it, there is an increasing security problem. With 850 students we have had to build 4 computer labs to cope with the timetable needs of computer classes. We also have over 40 accommodation units/rooms for staff and visitors and so we need to make sure that temptation of theft is removed.

So thanks to a wonderful family in Melbourne we have been able to build a security wall around the school campus. However in the primary section of the school, we have tried to use the wall as a learning opportunity as well. Months ago I met a lovely local boy who is also a very talented artist in need of money and so I gave

him the job of making our security wall into an outdoor classroom! He has done a great job and below are some pictures of just some of the works of art he has done.



### **Staff Profile – Miss Genofeva**

Each newsletter from now on, I am going to profile one of our staff members and so let me introduce to you, Ms Genofeva.

Ms Genofeva has been a part of our teaching team at The School of St Jude since 2004. During the past few years, Genofeva has mainly taught our younger *Kinder* and *Prep* students. This year however, Genofeva is the homeroom teacher for Class 1F and teaches Kiswahili to our 7-to 9-year-olds in Standard 1 and 2.

Genofeva is also a member of the "Girls' Affairs" committee that helps our female students address issues that specifically affect them. In addition, Miss Genofeva is part of the "staff support" committee that provides peer support to teachers. She lives in an area called *Mbauda* on the other side of Arusha town with her husband *Linnus*, their 1-year-old daughter *Joan* and her 4-year-old niece *Paulina*. When Genofeva's sister passed away, Paulina was left orphaned and Genofeva has since taken little Paulina under her wings.

In her spare time, Genofeva likes to read novels and the Bible, as well as watching Tanzanian soap operas on TV. On weekends, she often visits local orphanages with friends from her local parish. Genofeva told us that she is proud to be working at The School of St Jude because she understands the importance of educating fellow Tanzanians who, due to poverty, haven't been blessed with the opportunities she has enjoyed.

*Ms Genofeva enjoys lunch with some students*



### Visitors

In the photo below is Ms Belinda (Head of the Science Department) talking with Gordon Brown (a Classroom sponsor from BC, Canada). Gordon was kind enough to bring us a variety of teaching resources for English, Science and Social Science and explained them to Belinda. Gordon has worked for many years with teachers in Africa and he loved having the chance to talk to and work with the almost 60 local teachers we currently employ.



## Thank you Mr Brian!

We were extremely lucky to have Miss Maria's brother, Mr Brian, come over here for a couple of weeks in February. Miss Maria is our recruitment coordinator from Ireland (the Irish contingency is really growing over here). In addition to climbing and summiting Mount Kilimanjaro with Miss Maria, Mr Brian also managed to film over 30 hours at the school; in classes, in the playground; on the bus; at children's houses and much more. At this very moment, Mr Brian is now at home in Ireland, frantically cutting and editing the 30 hours into a 45 minute DVD so that it can be ready on time for my trip to Australia next month.

People who buy a copy of the St Judes book at the *Friends of St Judes* events will get a free copy of this DVD.

Thank you so much for giving us **so** much of your time and help Mr Brian! We really appreciate it!

*Below: Brian visits his family's sponsor child Lucas and his family.*



Thanks so much for all the support that you give to this school and I hope that things move well for you as we go towards Easter.

Lots of hugs! Gemma