



THE SCHOOL OF
ST. YARED



December 2018 Newsletter

Issue 35

BACK TO SCHOOL

The new school year officially opened on October 1st and so far we are off to a great start! The teachers and staff completed the school's strategic plan and annual lesson plans and we hosted volunteers from Australia to provide pedagogical training to the teachers and review last year's results. All school supplies were also distributed to the students so they have everything they need to focus on the year ahead.



10 YEARS OF CHANGEMAKING

This year marks ten years since the initial seeds for The School of St Yared were planted. Over the past decade, St Yared's has changed the trajectory for hundreds of underprivileged children by providing access to *quality* education. What began as a seemingly impossible dream to challenge the notion that a child's future is predetermined by poverty has become a movement to support a new generation of changemakers, and their families. This is only made possible by YOUR belief in the transformative power of education. We are extremely grateful for your unwavering support.

"It's been 10 years since The School of St Yared was founded and it would be impossible for us to be where we are today without the generosity, kindness, thoughtfulness and love given freely by our supporters from around the world. You form the foundation blocks of the school and represent the values that we instill in students."

- Yared Wolde



OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.

- Aristotle

During the past school year we faced several major challenges. Our team remains as committed as ever to providing the best possible education to our students despite these difficulties, and always works to find creative solutions to the often-challenging landscape of operating a non-profit school. While we initially struggled to



get permission to build the required classrooms to meet government requirements, we are very pleased to have finally been permitted to start construction of these new facilities in October and expect everything to be completed by mid-December. We look forward to sharing more photos and updates on the construction project.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

At St Yared's we provide regular professional development for our teachers to ensure that our teaching methods are always innovative and interactive. In



September, Shainaz Jussa from India led a two-day workshop for teachers on Jolly Phonics, a fun and child-centred approach to

teach literacy through sounds and motions rather than the alphabet. Our classrooms are undoubtedly more lively thanks to Jolly Phonics!

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Hamlet. Hamlet has been a teacher at St Yared's from the very beginning. She is a star teacher and is loved by all of her students.

Unlike in a typical Ethiopian classroom, Hamlet's lessons centre on student-centred learning through games, collaboration and conversations. She exudes positive energy



and works to install the importance of kindness and confidence in her pupils. Hamlet always infuses humour into her classroom and asks her students to explain why they think a certain way. She can often be found monitoring the students during break times and is a natural leader in the school.

During one of Hamlet's recent lessons, she had her students sit in a circle. She left two empty chairs and called on a student to sit in one of them and tell the class what she loves about the classmate beside her. She emphasised that all of the students have different talents and that we should appreciate one another.

When students noticed Hamlet's photo on a phone screen, they passed it around to give their "best teacher" a kiss. Clearly the love is contagious.

MEET YABSERA

Yabsera is a curious grade 4 student at St Yared's. She loves English and drawing and dreams of becoming a doctor to help her community and better the life of her family.

Yabsera brings what she is learning in school back home and proudly announces that she "washes her socks every day" after learning about hygiene in Science Club.



She eagerly shares what she is learning with her family and now advises her mom on everything from family planning to nutrition, even regularly making fruit salad for her family.

Yabsera knows that her family would not be able to afford the quality of education she receives at St Yared's without assistance.

If you would like to sponsor the education of a child like Yabsera, please get in touch with us at sponsorship@schoolofstyared.com.

YARED WOLDE'S HEALTH

As many of our supporters know, when Yared Wolde was a young boy he required open heart surgery to replace a faulty valve in his heart. 11 year old Yared travelled to Israel to receive this life saving treatment and has been a picture of good health ever since. Fast forward 20 years to August 2018 and Yared was exhibiting signs that it was time to replace the artificial valve. Yared travelled to India to once again have open heart surgery; this time at Narayana Cardiac Centre. Jacqui Gilmour met Yared in India and continued to be an incredible support to Yared throughout this time.

We are pleased to report that the wonderful doctors in India and the consultants in Addis have given our main man the tick of approval and he is well and truly on the road to recovery and getting back into the old rhythm again. Yared has been told that the new valve will be good for 100 years – plenty of time to reach his goals.



We wish Yared a speedy recovery and welcome him back to work.

Kids Helping Kids – September Fundraising

Nhulunbuy Christian College held an Art Exhibition and Auction along with a Celebration Evening.



Lara Hvala reports:

"We always love raising money for St Yareds. It's the only organization our school ever fundraises for and we are passionate about supporting the fabulous work the St Yareds team do.

We would also like to thank all the families who contributed to the stalls, bought art work at the auction, helped bake and cook yummy food and who also helped during the evening.

We are excited to announce that we raised **\$2,739.15** for the School of St Yared – Ethiopia."



Roseville College in Sydney continue to support St Yareds with an annual Knitted Blanket Raffle held in the Junior School. This year they raised **\$600**.

With a second-hand toy sale and rice day Orana Catholic School in Perth raised just over \$1000 and an anonymous donor has bumped it up to **\$1500!** Isn't that great?



Many thanks for all the effort and continued support from all three schools. Any amount raised, no matter how small, will help in our ongoing crusade to Fight Poverty through Education.

A Huge Thank You.

None of the work that we do would be possible without our incredible community of donors! We are so grateful for people like the McCaul family who not only generously offer funding but also take the time to visit the school to see our teachers and students in action. This then provide a greater understanding of the ongoing areas of need.



They are pictured here together with Yared Wolde during a recent visit to the school.

