

THE SCHOOL OF
ST. YARED

St Yared Newsletter

Issue 41, February 2022

The School of St. Yared News

Ms. Ayanna Narine



During the past couple of weeks, The School of St. Yared instigated an interclass competition and participated in an external academic event – the latter an initiative by Woreda #1.

Academic Event

A Q&A was held in early January, where teams of two students were chosen to represent the school, i.e. 2 Grade 4s and 2 Grade 8 students. This was quite an achievement as the competition

encompassed all Primary Schools under the jurisdiction of Woreda #1, i.e. eight schools in total. Three teachers accompanied the students in a show of support.

We celebrated a victorious result as The School of St. Yared won in both categories! Winners received

storybooks and certificates were awarded to the School. Afterwards, a ceremony was held at St. Yareds to acknowledge and thank the students for their hard work, accomplishments, and a fantastic job done in representing the School.



Q. & A Session

Interclass Sporting Competition

In January, Grades 5 and 6 boys played a friendly football match on the School's compound. The game was refereed by Mr. Hailemariam. Both sides were teeming with energy, which was equally matched by the enthusiasm of the onlookers of students who



The Football Teams

boisterously cheered for their classmates. It ended in a 5 to 1 landslide victory in favour of the Grade 6 boys, where celebrations erupted with screams of joy.

We, The School of St. Yared, continue to encourage our students to not only achieve their best academically but also physically and socially as an holistic approach to education.

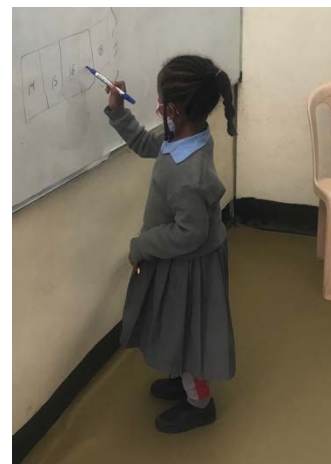


The game and supporters

In the Classroom



Grade 1 Maths Class



Grade 6 Social Studies



Grade 6 Girls HPE Class

THANK YOU



ParsonsGroup

A huge Thank You to Kerry Parsons and his associates for their on-going financial support to provide leadership and educational framework in support of academic excellence at The School of St Yared.

They continue to help us Fight Poverty Through Education

2021 Christmas at St Yareds

by the Deputy Principal

The School of St. Yared provides regular opportunities for parents to see and celebrate their children's achievements in sport, science, and art through various open days. Our collaborative mix of parents, staff and students also join together for cultural events, such as Flag Day and Ethiopian Christmas, creating strong relationships among members of the School's community, as well as enabling students the opportunity to develop their talents.



Ethiopian Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and in doing so family members and friends gather to share food, conversation, laughter and merriment in song and dance.



At The School of St. Yared we celebrated Christmas on campus in tandem with our Annual Parent Day on January 5. For two weeks prior to the event, teachers facilitated students to practice different activities. Selected students from each class rehearsed

tirelessly during break and lunch times, as well as in their Home Group time.

Our Christmas program is coordinated primarily by the Literacy and Mini-Media Clubs, who took up the responsibility of decorating the stage area and organizing seating for the event.



We warmly acknowledge all of our staff for making this year's event memorable and successful and send a special 'Thank you!' to Mr. Melaku, Ms. Hamlet, Mrs. Ferewoyini, Mrs. Shewaletaresh, Ms. Beteha, Ms. Rahel, and Ms. Bethlehem for their hard work, contributions, and dedication.

Pride shone on the faces of parents as their children beamed on stage commencing with the very popular Christmas song, 'Rapapampam' accompanied with role-play. This was quickly followed by a poem recital in Amharic, a fashion show, dramas, a monologue, and traditional dances.



Parents thoroughly enjoyed themselves being fully engrossed in the drama and

other performances, where their occasional laughter might erupt during acts and lively applause rang out at the end.

The program was well-attended by parents and students alike and started with an opening speech traditionally given by The School of St. Yared Co-Founder, Mr. Yared Wolde. The 4-hour long program culminated with a traditional coffee ceremony, with cookies, chocolates, and traditional holiday bread served.



Around the Grounds / Break Time



Just Hanging Out



Teachers Relaxing



Peer Mentoring



Imaginary Cooking

Grade 12 Gallery – then & now.



Kalkidan (2011)



Sena (2009)



Abebech (2009)



Eyob (2009)



Bethlehem (2011)



Tsion (2009)



The School of St. Yared House System

This school year, The School of St. Yared has introduced a 'house' system where the entire Grade 1-8 Student Body was divided arbitrarily and placed in one of four houses, i.e. Red Diamond, Peace, Ethiopia, and Star.

Houses were created to allow our Student Body to interact and assist each other in areas of team building, social mentoring and to create positive ties of friendship. Through mixing from junior to senior students, as well as staff, all can feel more connected to and involved with their school community with mutual respect created among students.

To find names for houses, the theme 'Space' was chosen mainly as a starting point to support the awareness of STEAM. House Leaders soon returned with their names chosen by unanimous vote. However, as irony would have it, only one house came up with a name that was related to the theme, 'Space'. With the intention of empowering students and teachers, it was decided that houses would keep names chosen based upon their rationale.

Red Diamond house chose its name because students reasoned that the colour red is a sign of strength and diamonds are precious; while Ethiopia house ardently admits they love their country the most. Moreover, Peace house chose its name because students believe that if there is peace among them, then they can work together to achieve goals and be successful. Finally, Star house reckoned that a collection of stars are most attractive and always shine bright during the dark, and thus, will get through any struggles faced and be successful by helping out each other to become a star.

Commencing in the Second Semester, houses will get a chance to engage in bi-monthly activities and various competitions that will empower students and foster a

friendly competitive spirit along the way. All members will get a chance to directly earn house points.



Another initiative this year has been the introduction of Brain Bucks. The purpose is to motivate students and reward positive behavior and academic achievement. Students get the chance to earn bucks as a form of positive reinforcement in and outside of the classroom. Alternatively, students may lose Brain Bucks for misbehaving.

According to staff, students have responded positively to Brain Bucks, where they are eager to earn them. In turn, for every 5 bucks obtained, students get 1 house point. Brain Bucks are collected everyday during Home Group time by Grades 7 and 8 students. Students go from class-to-class collecting bucks from their respective house members.

Current standings are Red Diamond 41 points, Peace 42 points, Ethiopia 53 points, and Star 31 points. At the end of February 2022, house points will be tallied and the students in the house with the most points will be rewarded. Prizes will be scholastic in nature, such as colouring books with colour pencils or intangible, such as a field trip.

Lunch Break Activities



Jump rope



Grade 3 Basketball



Tennis Practice



Grade 6 Boys

Teacher / Student Football



Grade 7 Study Group



New Students looking for Sponsors

Yosef Demeke



Yosef is a 10-year-old Grade 4 student at The School of St Yared. He is creative, patient, and sometimes needs encouragement. He is good at making new friends quickly.

He lives with neighbours who act as his unofficial foster parents after his mother passed away from Tuberculosis. They were all neighbours and lived together in the same compound. His carers have two children of their own. Yosef doesn't have a bed or a room. He sleeps on the floor.

His dream is to one day become a scientist because he is curious about the world around him and is excited by the act and process of discovery.

Dawit Alene



Dawit is a Grade 3 student. He is polite, kind, and very independent, which allows him to easily make friends with his new peer group.

Dawit and his family now live in a dungy small cramped one-room structure with an old tarpaulin roof and corrugated iron walls. They sleep together in a small make-shift bed, with a tiny space allocated to store their clothing in crocus bags, and an old cupboard for dishes.

Dawit enjoys Environmental Science, primarily because his Science Teacher makes the subject interesting, and he learns new things. Dawit dreams of one day becoming an Engineer. He has said that he wants to assist with building the Abiy Dam and would like to build a house for his mother and Mr. Yared.



Markan Demisse



Markan is a Grade 3 student who is 9 years old and lives with her single mother. She is friendly and always has a smile upon her face.

Markan and her mother now live in a small one-room cramped mud house. They sleep together in a small bed, with tiny cornered spaces allocated to store their linen in a basket with an old cupboard for food items and kitchen wares. There are 11 families residing in this compound with a shared toilet.

Markan enjoys Maths because her teacher is brilliant, easy-going and makes it fun to learn. Markan loves St. Yared and feels that it is a fantastic school, where students obey the rules and are orderly and their learning expectations are met in the classroom. Markan dreams of one day becoming a Doctor. She has said that she sees long lines of sick people at the local clinic and wants to help them.



The School of St Yared strives for educational excellence which is not usually afforded to these children. With your generosity, Hope for Children and The School of St Yared are reaching out for new and ongoing support to allow these students the pathway, through education, to a fulfilling and successful life.

New Teacher Feature – Meet Ms. Dagmawit Alemayehu



Hi! I am Dagmawit Alemayehu and a new member of the teaching staff at The School of St. Yared, having come on board last year.

I was born in the eighties and live with my young daughter whom I adore. Following my Primary and Secondary education, I have been teaching for the past 6 years. During this time, I first taught Grades 1 to 4 students at a local Montessori School. I embraced this experience as I got the opportunity to gain experience in pedagogical practices working with young children.

Currently at St. Yareds, I am teaching Grades 1 to 4 English Language, Arts and am also the Home Group Teacher for our Grade 2s, which I totally love and savour every moment. My students motivate me to become a better teacher and individual.

I am very happy to work at St. Yareds because I have gotten the chance to further mature as a teacher. At St. Yareds, I get huge support from my co-workers, as well as the Principal, who have all guided and taught me several techniques that would enable an inclusive learning environment and effective teaching.

In the end, I simply wanted to become a part of the vision of Fighting Poverty Through Education and living very close to the campus does not hurt in the least!

KIDS HELPING KIDS



In early December we received \$450 from Highlands Christian College Toowoomba, Queensland, with the message –

“This is a donation from the Primary students at Highlands Christian College Toowoomba. They raised these funds selling food and drinks at their musical held earlier this year.”

The School of St Yared is grateful for the donation and support from our friends in Toowoomba. Many thanks for all your efforts.



ACFID
MEMBER