



THE SCHOOL OF
ST. YARED

St Yared Newsletter

Issue 40, December 2021

Meet Our New Principal

Ms. Ayanna Narine



My name is Ms. Ayanna Malaika Narine, and I am the new Principal this year at the School of St. Yared. I have been involved in education and production management for the past 20 years. I previously worked in the USA and United Kingdom before journeying to Ethiopia. Here I was introduced to an eclectic mix of cultures, especially being of Caribbean descent and now a permanent resident of Ethiopia.

My experiences during my 15 years here in Ethiopia have enabled me to become socially diverse and develop rapport with individuals of various levels, ages, gender, and backgrounds. I love and totally enjoy the interchange and synergy with students, colleagues, and parents. I strongly believe that only through education can we truly ensure a bright and promising future for all.

Education remains my passion and facilitating positive change in youths through education to empower them is one of the noblest acts one can accomplish. As an educator, it gives me great pleasure to join The School of St. Yared Team because it affords the opportunity to contribute to and be a part of its development in accordance with the vision, mission, and core values of the School.

My main objective is to be able to work in tandem with staff to ensure that all students progress in a conducive learning environment and develop consistently through collaborative, constructive and inquiry-based learning. Students are taught to think “outside-the-box” and become tomorrow’s agent of change both locally and internationally

Additionally, I would like to enhance the internal community atmosphere through interclass events and parent-teacher interactions, and also establish and foster a sense of external community through collaboration with other schools.



This year, four Houses have been established to facilitate among students, collaboration, a 'buddy' system, and community bonds within the School. Students will get the chance to earn Brain



Bucks to reward positive behaviour and academic growth, and these Bucks equal House points! The House with

the most points at the end of the semester will be rewarded.

This Academic Year, the school has embarked on a journey of advancement, which we started on a great note. In preparation for a successful year, we've created and implemented a whole-school approach to behaviour management, as well as integration of the International Primary Curriculum across subject areas to engage students through a hands-on approach to learning.

Students returned to school with sheer excitement and a curious yet positive attitude to learn. Orientation included administering COVID tests to all students, measuring students for new uniforms, and several activities focused on the School's expectations, rules, core values and team building

Furthermore, to enable our teachers to meet requirements, share best practices, and to equip and support them with the opportunity of growth in their teaching career, the school also hosted staff to eight days of Professional Development prior to the start of the school year, with intentions of follow-up sessions throughout the year. Presentations were met with enthusiasm and participation was high as teachers were engaged during sessions.

Our student body comes from an impoverished and overly challenged life. Our primary campus has expanded, and this year we will celebrate our first high school graduation from our 12th Graders. These students are the pioneers of the School of St.

Yared and have set a great example for others to follow. We tip out hats to them and their great



accomplishment, with warm wishes and expectations of the greatness that will follow.

I look forward to providing you with regular updates on the progress of these initiatives, the students and The School of St Yared in the months ahead.

Morning Workout
2021



2020/2021 End of Year Wrap-up

The School of St. Yared ended the 2020/21 Academic Year with several activities to wrap up our year. In June 2021, an all-inclusive Staff Reflection was held at the Mongolia Hotel, with around 38 employees in attendance, with a final focus on preparing for the next academic year.

The program entailed identifying major gaps last year and future plans of the School. Points raised included academic setbacks caused by the onslaught of the COVID 19 pandemic, possible improvements in teaching methodologies and time management, staff fulfillment of duties and effects of a late start to the school year, and the effectiveness of reporting. The program also featured the introduction of Teachers' Individual Learning Plan (ILP) and Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) by Human Resources, forming a strong basis to teachers' yearly appraisals.

Also, teachers were directed to observe and consider students' results, effort, skills, and overall social and behavioral development and attitudes towards learning. Moreover, a

schedule was created to facilitate and ensure timely preparation of students' letters to sponsors.

Additionally, a close follow-up was conducted in the performance of the School of St. Yared High School students with the intention of rewarding individuals who have exhibited academic achievement.

As the year came to a close, to promote and foster a sense of community, the School of St. Yared hosted its Annual Parent Day, with all members of staff, students, and families present. It was a memorable and joyous event, with various performances, such as a Class Drama in Amharic, a cultural dance and poem recitals, culminating in an Awards Ceremony for our Grades 2-11 Student Body.

Despite obstacles faced, we have ended the year on a promising note and eagerly look ahead to the next academic year with optimism and in anticipation of a successful journey!

2021-2022 Grade 8 cohort with teachers



Grade 12 Gallery – then & now.

As this is the final year for our original cohort, we will, over coming months, reveal the stories behind some of the characters and high achievers within this pioneer group.

Our first student is Hannan Demalesh.

Hannan was an outstanding student right from the start, always in the top three in her class. Sadly, in September, Hannan passed away suddenly as a result of complications arising from a pre-existing and known health condition.

Out of respect for the family and due to cultural sensitivities, we acknowledge Hannan's passing, but no further details will be published.



Dagim & Bezawit (2011 – 2021)



Alazar & Betty (2011 – 2021)



Photos
from 2012



COVID-19 Update From Yared Wolde

Last year, The School of St. Yared experienced several hitches due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities that failed to facilitate social distancing were halted, such as the flag ceremony during Morning Assembly and interschool sports meets. There was also an academic impact because of the delayed start to the school year.

In August 2021, the Ministry of Education mandated that all teachers returning to their workplace be vaccinated against COVID-19. All staff members attended an awareness program at the local health centre, focusing on advantages and possible effects of being vaccinated. In collaborating with the health centre, 32 members of staff were vaccinated before the start of the teaching year, in accordance with the MoEs guidelines.



local health centre for testing upon their return. By the end of the week, our entire student body was tested, totaling 163 students. Students' temperatures are checked daily and hand-sanitizer used upon entry on campus.

Unfortunately, one student, Hiwot Berhanu in Grade 7, tested positive and was immediately quarantined before being collected from the school by her parents. As a result, Hiwot was absent for two weeks. In which time, her family members were also tested – an initiative undertaken by the School Nurse. Before returning to school, Hiwot was tested again, and the results being negative, she was allowed to attend school.

We will continue with the temperature and sanitizer routines to ensure our campus remains safe. At the beginning of December 2021 all students and staff are COVID-19 free.



As this school year commenced, on the first day of school, 150 students were initially tested for COVID-19. The remaining students were taken by the School Nurse to a nearby

Around the Grounds



Grade 3 Social Studies



Lunchtime

Mr. Andualem Getachew



Hi Everyone!

My name is Mr. Andualem, and I joined the School of St. Yared last year. I am so happy to be a part of the St. Yared family.

I teach Civics and Social Studies, both in the Amharic Language, to Grades 6-7 students.

The school is attractive with beautiful green areas. The staff are very supportive and teachers are professionals and collaborate to help our students succeed.

The school provides professional development, which is continuous, and helps me to become a better instructor. It's a pleasure for me to come to work. I feel like a true member of the team.

Thank to you my colleagues for your assistance, warm welcome, and hospitality shown.

Teachers' Awards 2020/21

Within the last five years, The School of St. Yared has experienced high teacher turnovers, some teachers left due to personal reasons, some were not suitable for our school.

Within the melee of changes, there were teachers, however, who were committed and remained true to our cause of Fighting Poverty through Education and the objectives, mission, and core values of The School of St. Yared. These individuals were held in good esteem and respected for their dedication.



Among this team were Hailemariam, Melaku, and Mesfin. These teachers have been rewarded in recognition for their loyalty, hard work, and sheer determination to ensure the success of the School. They are all well loved by our entire Student Body because of their easy-going persona, positive attitude, respect towards students, and friendly relations their peers.

Mr. Mesfin remains a dedicated Maths Teacher – akin to a father bear by most. Also, Hailemariam, who teaches P.E. is admired by his students for his dynamic delivery and laidback attitude. Melaku, on the other hand, is widely considered as a strict but patient Amharic teacher to most and giving of his time after school to assist struggling students.

We, The School of St. Yared, commend Hailemariam, Melaku, and Mesfin for overall efforts to ensure the School's success and being true role models for others. Thank you!



Grade 7 Maths Class



Grade 8 ELA Class

New Students looking for Sponsors

Muaze Bedru

Muaze is a grade 3 student at the School of St. Yared. He is 9 years old and lives with his mother Ametua and his two older brothers, Samir and Abubeker.

Muaze, his two brothers and his mother live in a very small mud-room which was rented to them by the government and it's called "the Kebele

house". The house is located in the area called Ferensay, in the foothills of Addis Ababa and by the right side of the main road, which is surrounded by many small mud houses and has no space at the outside of the house for Muaze to play.

The house they live in is dark and very small, there are two tiny mattresses on the floor, Muaze and their mother sleep on one mattress and his two brothers sleep on the other one.



Mahelet Semenke

I am Mahelet Semenke, and I am a new student in Grade 3 at The School of St. Yared. I like to solve problems. My teachers tell me that I am a clever and disciplined girl. I help my mom, which makes her very happy. I went to a government school before coming to St. Yared. I got into St. Yared because I studied hard and did great on my entrance exam. Now, I am always excited to learn in school. I play with my friends every break and lunch time. I love jump rope, playing football, and talking with my friends.



Tsega Asteray



Tsega is 8 years old and is a Grade 3 student at The School of St. Yared.

Tsega lives with her parents and her younger sister. They live in a rented house which has three rooms. As the owner doesn't live there, and he wanted someone to look after the house, he discounts the rent for Tsega's family. The area Tsega and her family lives is on the outskirts of Addis and 22km away from the St Yared school.

Her father is a daily

labourer in a private house construction. The house will be finished soon and so he must look for another job. He doesn't have any skills or education so the only work he can do is as a daily labourer or being a compound guard.

Tsega's mother is working in a local school as a cleaner.



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.

KIDS HELPING KIDS



In September, Nhulunbuy Christian College in the Northern Territory held a Twilight Fair which was well attended by the college community. As a result of the generous support NCC raised a total of \$3,171.75 which will go towards supporting their sponsor children, Helena and Abreham, in Ethiopia.

NCC said, "As a school we have had a long relationship

sponsoring these children which has had a huge impact on their education, and life in general."

The School of St Yared would like to extend a huge thank you to all those within the NCC community who continue to assist us in Fighting Poverty through Education.

HFC Corner

MESSAGE FROM HFC HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Hello Everyone:

The Human Resources Department of HFC Australia in Ethiopia aims to accomplish the mission

and goals of the organization by building and fostering a high-end professional working environment. Within this environment and employing high level services, HR hope to develop and sustain HFCs diverse community of talents.

In addition to the core HR services, the department serves as a crucial bridge between the employees and management; filling the gap by increasing their knowledge of policies, procedures, rights and obligations and other Legal requirements. The HR and Admin section is committed to providing

prompt, courteous and quality services to our employees.

We believe that people work their best when they are challenged, and when they have a clear, defined path for success. This is why we empower HFC and The School of St Yared employees to take ownership of achieving their career goals and their development.

Our goal is to provide extraordinary service in a professional manner and in order to reach this goal, We are continually looking for new and innovative ways to improve our service delivery. We believe that "to whom much is given, much is required;" and we accept the challenge.

Thank you, Martha Tolessa.



ACFID
MEMBER