



THE SCHOOL OF  
**ST. YARED**

# 1st Quarter 2018 Newsletter

Issue 32

## Meet Our New Headmaster

We are thrilled to introduce to you our new headmaster at The School of St Yared, the wonderful Dawit Mamo who joined the St Yared's family in September at the start of the school year. Dawit joins us with an extensive background in education and a passion for teaching. After graduating with a Bachelor of Education and Masters in Human Resources and Organisation Development both from Addis Ababa university, Dawit has worked for 10 years in both the public and private education sector.

*"Education is a novel profession, I am very happy to be a teacher".*

He is ready for a new challenge, and is excited to be joining St Yareds, a project which he says helps fight poverty through a collaborative and dynamic curriculum, with our talented and ambitious students as the core focus. Dawit is determined to contribute to St Yareds by working hard to help change the lives of the students by supporting



them to achieve their highest goals. Dawit is married to Yanet, and they have one four year-old daughter.

## The School of St Yared has a new look!

Over the past 18 months the team have been working with a graphic designer to overhaul our branding. The initial brief was that we needed a logo! We needed something that represented who we are and that would speak for us on the global stage. We students, teaching team and support staff are all proudly Ethiopian, we have quality education as our primary focus and we support our students and their families by ensuring the children in our care have everything they need to succeed. We are so grateful to Brad Stapleton has been working out of Sydney, Australia, to create the new branding for our school and we are finally in the position to launch our school logo and new look for our communications.

Ethiopia has a long cultural tradition of using lions to represent power and pride; in artwork, design and language. The School of St. Yared builds pride by delivering a creative, holistic and experiential education to the poorest and brightest children of Addis Ababa. We created a logo to fight for the children and staff of St. Yared. To give them pride and the strength they need. Introducing the lion of St. Yared. A strong graphic icon that symbolises both the fight of the school and of each child that attends it.



The blue sapphire colour strikes the right balance between the grays and blues of the city of Addis Ababa and the lush greenery which surrounds it. The 14 pages of his mane represent the years of education each child receives at St. Yared; the open book showing the creative thinking encouraged at the school. Just as a lion fights for his pride, so the lion of St. Yared protects the children and staff; bringing them pride every time they walk through the doors.

For those of you wondering how this captures Ethiopia, we invite you to check out the brief video Brad put together: <http://bit.ly/2GR288f>

We hope that you, like us, love our new look!

## **We wish you well, Desu.**

After 7 years of dedication, enthusiasm and creativity, we are very sad to be saying goodbye to our ever energetic Art and Sport teacher, Mr Desu. Leaving St Yareds has been a very hard decision for Desu, who has grown to love his students like his own family, but he feels it is the right time to move on and is looking forward to starting his own business. Desu has made an invaluable contribution to the school by managing the art, sport and music program during his 7 years, as well as coordinating interschool sport competitions in Addis. We will always welcome him back, especially if he wears his signature cowboy hat!



## **Great results from AcceleratED**



After a summer break St Yareds students are back and working very hard already. Recently, Grades 1, 2 and 3 had their learning efforts tested by AcceleratED, a social enterprise that partners with school leaders and teachers to make learning fun and effective in classrooms across Ethiopia. The results and proficiency levels in fundamental skills in Mathematics and English were then compared to other Ethiopian schools, both government and private. Our students performed very well, there was significant progress from Grade 1 to Grade 2. Our Grade 1 students' performance was average, which was expected since our students come from very disadvantaged background. Thanks to St Yared's teachers efforts and the hard work of our kids, Grade 2 students outperformed other schools. Our Grade 3 was the best in Maths out of all schools tested. We are very proud of our students so far! Let's see how the other Grades will perform in upcoming months.

## Caring for Abel



Abel recently lost his beloved mother. He was very close to her and after she passed away his Uncle offered to take care of him and put him in a Private School, Abel chose to stay with St Yared as it is his family not just his school. He said, "there is no school greater than St Yareds, I want to finish my education here where I learn best." Abel remains in

his mother's house and is cared for by the community.

## Kids Helping Kids!

At The School of St Yared, we believe we are all global citizens and that no matter how young or old we are we can all be catalysts for change. Which is why it is always a highlight to receive a donation from a school or youth group. We are encouraged by these young people who want to break the poverty cycle, just like us, and who believe in the transformative power of quality education, just like us! And we thank you! Thank you for believing in us and for giving what you have in order to change the lives of others.

We would like to give a great big shout out to the following schools and their students for their creative fundraising initiatives: Nhulunbuy Christian College, Northern Territory, Orana Primary School, Perth, Roseville College – Juniors, Sydney, Santa Maria College, Perth. Thank you for helping us raise the much needed funds to fight poverty through education.