



THE SCHOOL OF ST. YARED

FIGHTING POVERTY THROUGH EDUCATION

St Yared Newsletter

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FEEDING PROGRAMME

In the heart of our community, a beacon of hope shines bright through our feeding program initiative. As we continue enriching our feeding program, we are driven by the unwavering commitment to support our students facing food insecurity in more and more impoverished households. Originating from the urgent need to address the nutrition challenges hindering some of our students' ability to attend school and concentrate on their studies, this programme stands as a testament to our collective resolve to uplift the most vulnerable in our community. Through the provision of wholesome meals, we aim to not only nourish their bodies but also nourish their minds, empowering them to thrive academically and beyond.

The enrichment of our feeding program has been a beacon of hope for many students like Yabsera Engdawork and Haimanote Tengo (both in Grade 9), who once faced hunger and absenteeism due to not getting fed at home. The provision of regular meals has not only restored their confidence and alleviated hunger but has also rekindled their passion for learning.



Haimanote's journey is one that resonates deeply with the transformative power of kindness and support. Despite facing immense challenges, her resilience and determination have shone brightly through the darkness she endured. As a young student with an unwavering passion for learning, Haimanote has always strived to excel academically, setting ambitious goals for herself. However, the harsh realities of hunger and homelessness weighed heavily on her spirit, casting a shadow over her once-bright future.

Struggling to concentrate in class and plagued by the constant gnaw of hunger, Haimanote's academic performance began to suffer, eroding her confidence and dimming her hopes. The only time she would have food was when she was attending school. There was no food at home.

The toll this took on her health and well-being were evident as she found herself losing weight rapidly. But then, a ray of light pierced through the darkness in the form of a feeding assistance that offered Haimanote the sustenance she and her family so desperately needed. With regular meals becoming a reality, her outlook began to shift, and a renewed



sense of hope blossomed within her. The simple act of having food every day became a lifeline, reviving her strength and allowing her to once again focus on her studies with renewed vigour.

Now, Haimanote stands tall, her spirit unbroken and her determination unwavering. The nourishment she receives has not only fed her body but also her aspirations and dreams. No longer held back by hunger and hardship, she is back on track, her eyes set on the bright horizon of possibility. With each meal enjoyed, each lesson learned, she is reclaiming her place among the high achievers in her class, a testament to the power of compassion and resilience in the face of adversity.



MEDICAL CHECK UP OF STUDENTS

With the support of our Nurse Abeba Taye

Over two weekends in February, all SSY students received comprehensive health checks at a local clinic. We are very happy with most of the results but of course there were several cases needing urgent attention.



Amanueal Biruk (Grade 11) unknowingly suffered from a contagious skin condition. Unaware of the issue, Amanueal inadvertently spread the condition to his classmates, causing worry and concern among the school community.

Fortunately, during our routine medical check-up, Amanueal's condition was discovered and treated promptly. The school authorities swiftly took action to ensure that all those who had been affected by Amanueal's condition received proper care and treatment.

We also had a group of students with different symptoms caused by parasites. Recognising the importance of health education, our organisation invested time in educating these students and parents (during house visits) about parasitic infections and how to prevent them effectively.

Our commitment extends beyond mere assistance, as witnessed in our health education programs. "By providing essential health education, medical check-ups, and preventive measures, we have succeeded in enhancing the well-being of our students and preventing the spread of contagious



ailments that students were not even aware of. Through these initiatives, we ensure a safe and healthy environment conducive to learning.” Abeba Taye, nurse.

In a proactive move to safeguard the well-being of all students, the school implemented precautionary measures. Students were provided with access to preventive medication, aiming to shield them from potential health threats and promote a safe and healthy learning environment for all.

Through awareness, timely intervention, and preventive measures, HFC and school partners banded together to overcome these health challenges, fostering a culture of care, support, and well-being for everyone within our care.

ICT Programme

“By investigating the effects of the program on students' self-esteem, engagement, and enthusiasm for learning, we can see the empowering effects of technology. The program provides students with the tools and resources to develop their digital skills, which in turn helps them feel more confident in their abilities and motivated to succeed.” Yealmzewd Tamrat (ICT Teacher).

The Information and Communication Technology program proved to be instrumental in boosting confidence and motivation among SSY students.

Bemnet exclaimed, "I've realised once again that in addition to my educational strengths, the computer can truly aid me in the future. That's why I've been giving it my absolute best!"

Eyoel's journey into the world of ICT has been nothing short of transformative. What once seemed like uncharted territory filled with mystery and awe, has now become a familiar landscape where he confidently navigates with newfound skills and knowledge. The allure of the computer, once a distant fascination, now holds the key to unlocking his potential and opening doors to a world of possibilities.

Encouraged by his friends and teachers who regaled him with tales of the joys of using a computer, Eyoel embarked on a journey of discovery that has forever changed his perspective. The thrill of exploring new applications and programs, of delving into the endless realms of information at his fingertips, captivated his imagination and fuelled his curiosity. Eyoel's enthusiasm knows no bounds, as he often finds himself lingering long after his allotted time has passed.

Spending his afternoons at SSY computer Lab, Eyoel has found a sanctuary where he can

immerse himself in the exciting world of computers, refining his skills and expanding his horizons. What was once a foreign

landscape has now become a second home, where he eagerly absorbs every lesson, every challenge that comes his way. His dedication and passion for learning shine through as he devotes himself to mastering the intricacies of the computer, pushing himself beyond his limits to unlock its full potential.

The joy of discovery, the thrill of accomplishment, drive him to explore further, to learn more, and to embrace the endless possibilities that ICT offers. With every moment spent in front of the screen, he grows more confident, more adept, and more inspired to continue his journey of self-discovery through the power of technology.



HOUSE VISITS

A new way to live!

The testimonies shared by Yared and Sister Abeba illuminate the profound impact of our house visits program. From addressing health concerns to providing immediate assistance to families in crisis situations, these visits not only keep us connected to the challenges our students face but have deepened our understanding of their needs and struggles. Through these encounters, families have expressed their gratitude for the holistic support offered by HFC.

One poignant example is the uplifting journey of Haimanote, whose family found solace and shelter due to the swift action taken during a house visit. These personal connections have led to invaluable outcomes, allowing us to provide tailored solutions and support to those in need. Haimanote with her mother and brother are so grateful for what HFC has managed to put in place for them. In short, a few years back, Haimanote's mother found shelter in an unfinished building, guarding its secrets underground for a time. When the building's owner resumed construction, Haimanote's family was swiftly evicted, leaving them stranded on the streets. Fortunately, as soon as HFC became aware of this situation swift

assistance was provided. We are very proud to say Haimanote and her family are now living in their own simple house, away from the uncertainties of the street.



Through another home visit, we have uncovered the recurring challenges faced in Luele's family. Luele had been clashing with his father over breaching household regulations, often tied to late arrivals. With our intervention, Luele and his father engaged in constructive dialogue, setting expectations and implementing regular check-ins to monitor his growth. Witnessing significant positive changes, Luele's father now proudly acknowledges his son's improved behaviour, marking yet another successful tale of transformation and harmony.

Yared reflected on the positive outcomes of regular house visits, highlighting the increased trust and familial bond that parents now feel. Through our visits we build stronger relationships which leads to more open communication and mutual understanding. Additionally,

the visits served as a wake-up call for students, prompting positive changes in their academic performance and behaviour.

Another notable success story involved Amen, whose challenging study environment at home (her room transformed into a makeshift liquor store) was hindering her education. With our intervention, Amen gained access to a suitable study space at our office, providing her with the resources she needed to excel academically.

Yared emphasised that these house visits not only address immediate needs but also offer valuable insights for adapting services to changing circumstances in the city. These cases underscore the importance of understanding and responding effectively to evolving community needs, showcasing the crucial role of proactive interventions in improving the lives of those we support.



KIDS HELPING KIDS

Nhulunbuy Christian College conducts regular Free Dress Days as a way of raising funds for and awareness of The School of St Yared. Recently they made another generous donation to support the students in Ethiopia.



**NHULUNBUY
CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE**

This continues a tradition spanning many years of demonstrating their ethos of Serving Others and Changing the World.

The School of St Yared is grateful for the donation and ongoing support from our friends in Nhulunbuy.

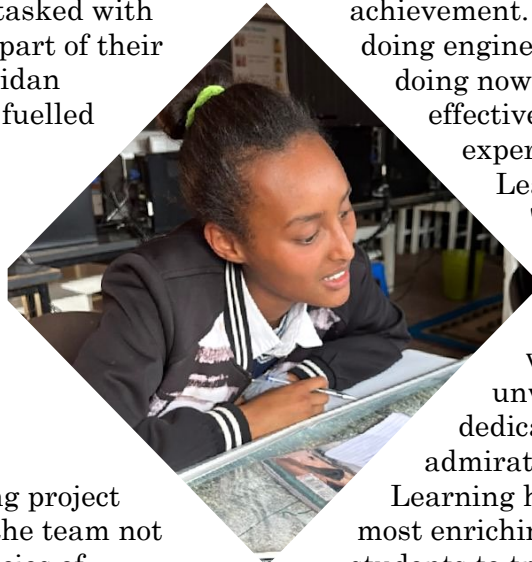
Many thanks for all your efforts!!

PROJECT BASED LEARNING Design of a Model School

In a remarkable display of collaborative learning, students thrived under the innovative Projects Based Learning activities introduced this year. By designing and executing projects collectively, students not only improved their skills but also fostered teamwork and creative thinking.

One standout example featured a group of Year 11 students tasked with creating a model school as part of their project. Among them, Kalkidan emerged as a shining star, fuelled by newfound motivation to outshine their peers and ensure the success of their project. Kalkidan's approach shifted, igniting a fresh perspective and determination to push boundaries in pursuit of excellence.

Through this engaging project experience, Kalkidan and the team not only delved into the intricacies of planning and design but also cultivated a deep sense of ownership and pride in their work. The drive to excel and win over their peers propelled Kalkidan to think differently, showcasing the transformative power of Projects Based Learning in inspiring students



to reach new heights of creativity and achievement. "I never knew that I would be doing engineering work at this level like I am doing now and also learning how to plan effectively." - Kalkidan, reflecting on her experience with Projects Based Learning.

"I firmly believe that our students possess boundless potential and are capable of remarkable achievements through hard work. Witnessing their unwavering commitment and dedication each day fills me with admiration. Implementing Project Based Learning has undoubtedly been one of the most enriching initiatives, allowing our students to transcend the confines of traditional classrooms and explore their capabilities to the fullest." – Amani Jonathan, reflecting on the impact of Project Based Learning activities.





WE LOVE VISITORS

We had a very special visit at the beginning of March; Iain Fraser, sponsor of Frewine Birhanu visited our Addis Ababa office and spent a day with Yared and his sponsored student.

Both Iain and Frewine had an unforgettable time, meeting face-to-face for the first time. Iain left highly inspired by the resilience of our students and the wide-reaching impact of SSY. Thank you Iain.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS YEAR: 2024

This academic year has brought its fair share of challenges with the education system undergoing significant changes. Despite these obstacles, our resilient students have persevered, demonstrating unwavering determination in overcoming their hurdles.

One shining example is Bemnet, a dedicated student in Grade 8, who has admirably represented our school in numerous academic competitions. Through her exceptional performance, Bemnet has not only brought prestige and pride to our organisation but has also secured additional accolades for the school. Recently, at a prestigious competition in the nearby Woreda, with 81 schools competing, Bemnet's outstanding performance gained her first place and a special award and recognition from the school.

Congratulations, Bemnet!!

On the other hand, Henok, a talented student in Grade 11, has proven to be a mathematical prodigy, achieving a perfect 100% score in Mathematics, a feat unmatched by his peers. His teachers and the school administration have lauded his dedication and hard work, noting that Henok's commitment serves as a beacon of inspiration for all. In his own words, Henok attributes his success to his relentless practice, stating that he invests most of his time in his notebook, with his hobbies transformed into reading and mastering mathematical tricks—that's his recipe for success.

Through the dedication and resilience of students like Bemnet and Henok, SSY continues to uphold its commitment to academic excellence, nurturing a generation of brilliant minds poised for success in the face of any challenge. Exciting new initiatives are on the horizon as we unveil additional plans to enhance our students' academic success. Among these initiatives are specialised tutoring programs and targeted support systems designed to assist students who may be facing challenges.

