

Centro Educativo

# FUTURO VERDE

June 4, 2017

## 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Inspiration. Dedication. Innovation.

## Mission

We are a bilingual, international school where students are encouraged to be reflective learners who – through processes of inquiry and critical thinking – develop the knowledge needed to address global issues related to social justice, intercultural relations, and the environment.

## Vision

To be a progressive, international, and bilingual institution with a dedicated, supportive, and humanist community that strives to peacefully promote a harmonious world.





# From our Director

Lural Ramírez



"Educational decisions must always filter through a lens of context. Futuro Verde is such a unique contextual environment- what works elsewhere could not be taken as a whole and expected to work here. Futuro Verde staff understand this and use their unique experiences, combined with a deep commitment to our school educational philosophy, to make magic happen each day at Futuro Verde!"

## What is special about learning at Futuro Verde?

Futuro Verde is a unique school within Costa Rica and throughout the world; with a diverse and experienced staff of educators, students whose families come from around the world and a strong and committed relationship with our Costa Rican roots and the nature that surrounds us. But, how do we take such diversity and optimize it as a college preparatory, IB candidate school in the remote jungle of Costa Rica?

## Educational Philosophy at Futuro Verde:

### Bilingual

At Futuro Verde we strive to deliver a top-notch dual language program that produces linguistically competent citizens of the world because bilingualism is no longer a plus, but a necessity! With several employees at FV with masters degrees in bilingual education, we are fortunate to have a well-developed and thoughtfully planned dual immersion program.

### Holistic

Futuro Verde believes that each child is unique and that their learning process should provide them with ample opportunity to explore multiple subject areas, to feel grounded in their natural surroundings and to be committed to the well-being of themselves and others. We maintain this commitment with a broad curricular offering that exposes our students to a range of disciplines and ideas and inspires students to find their own unique path in life.

### Sustainable

Futuro Verde continues to innovate in our commitment to the environment, further solidifying our leadership in multiple areas of sustainable thinking, living and learning on the peninsula and around the world.

- Costa Rican Bandera Azul- Green Certification
- A recycling center located on the FV campus and open to the community
- Frequent beach, river and town clean-ups in our surrounding communities
- School paperless initiatives and policies to reduce our paper consumption and printing

These are the central pillars of a Futuro Verde education that inspire innovative thinking from a dedicated community of students, parents, teachers, administrators and local and global supporters. Thank you for your support of Futuro Verde now and in the future!

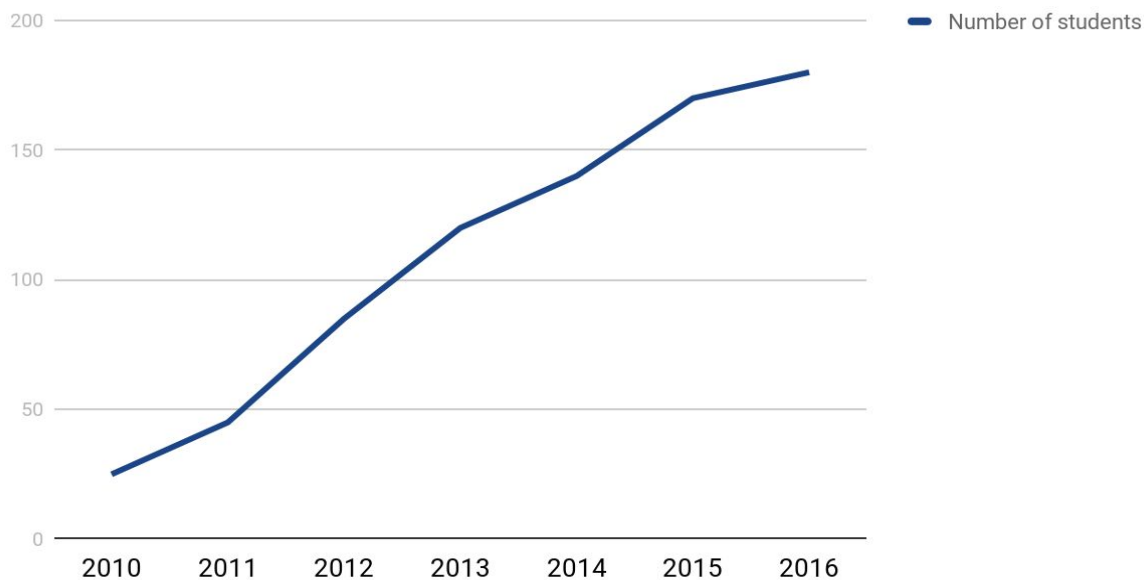
Lural Ramirez  
Director

# 2016 Highlights

## → Increased enrollment

- ◆ From 2014-2016, student enrollment has nearly doubled

### Student Enrollment



## → Successful IB candidature

- ◆ Teachers are IB trained and course descriptions have been written
- ◆ Verification visit rated very successful

## → Bandera Azul

- ◆ 5 out of 5 stars granted!

## → Addition of Global Studies

- ◆ Now offered in ALL grade levels

## → Huge student success

- ◆ In the Arts Festival
- ◆ At the Science Fair
- ◆ In all areas of our Sports Programming

## → Increased staff retention

- ◆ High quality staff members remain from year to year

## → Parent community

- ◆ Involved and supportive parents



## Board President

### Enrico "Rico" Reolon

Having been a part of the Futuro Verde community for so many years now I am often amazed by the achievements we've had in our nine short years of operation. But, perhaps the most rewarding part throughout all of the change is exactly that which has not changed at all. *The heart of our school is the same as it was when the school was founded: a strong focus on the environment, a desire for our kids to grow up bilingually and a commitment to them having a rich education with learning in the arts, STEM, languages, global and local studies and physical education.*

As the board president, I am proud to say our kids continue to be the same strong, resilient, curious and thoughtful human beings they've always been. As the leader of our Board of Directors, fortunate to work twice monthly with our wonderful board members, I am confident that the future will continue to be bright for Futuro Verde. As changes come, we will embrace them and mold them to the Futuro Verde context. We thank you for your continued commitment to our school and we hope to have you with us for years to come!

Rico Reolon  
Board President, Asociación Escuela Futuro Verde

## Board Members



Cristiano Bonfigli (2016) Vocal III, Nohelia Hidalgo Montero (2016) Secretary, Sonya Danchick (2013) Vice President, Georges Lefebvre (2013) Vocal II, Enrico Reolon (2013) President, Tandy Demarchelier (2015) Treasurer, Brad Shaw (2013) Vocal I [unpictured: Daniel Jiménez Grimás (2016) Fiscal]



# Our investment in an IB education

Stuart Millar, IB Coordinator (designate)



**The process:** Application for IB Diploma Program certification started at the beginning of 2015. This process involved multiple stages including the consideration phase, the request for candidacy, the candidate school stage, and finally the application for authorization. During this time an action plan has been developed, course outlines for our planned subject offering have been submitted, an IB-appointed consultant has worked with the school, and multiple IB workshops have been attended. The application process culminates in a two-day visit for verification, which was conducted at the end of May, 2017. Should Futuro Verde be successful in its application, the IB Diploma Program will start in February 2018, with the first class graduating in December, 2019.

**Professional development:** Futuro Verde understands that student success comes from supporting and training all our staff, regardless of whether or not they will teach IB diploma subjects. School-wide professional development has focused on approaches to teaching and learning and the IB learner profile. Prospective IB teachers have attended IB workshops in their areas of speciality, participated in regular IB committee meetings, and have visited La Paz Community School in Guanacaste to observe IB teachers there.

**Infrastructure to benefit all:** During the application stage Futuro Verde has invested in new infrastructure to satisfy IB requirements, but which will benefit all students. These include: a renovated art room, a dedicated music room, a purpose-built science lab, a computer lab, and a new library with a computerized cataloging system.



# Student Profile

**Kira Patterson**

*10th grade student*

I moved here to Futuro Verde a little less than a year ago. When I first arrived everyone had their arms open. They were curious about me. Since it is such a small school there is so much one-on-one interaction between everyone; it is very much like a family which is what we were looking for.

My dad and I were also looking for an environment where I could develop myself. One of the classes that is helping me do this is CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) where we work with the community. I decided for my project I would create a program where I teach the little children on my street English. This isn't the first time I have taught English to children, but it is the first time I am planning, advertising, organizing, and responsible for a project all by myself. It was a fantastic idea to give us this responsibility.

In all the traveling my family has done I have come across different ways of thinking and ways to be. This school also has that international feel. There are so many different nationalities represented. Because of my experiences moving to so many places and being with so many cultures having a international diploma was so important to me. Now the school has come up with a solution so I will be able to have that type of diploma once we are recognized by IB.

In the future, after I graduate, I want to travel to Africa and visit different tribes. I want to live with them as part of their village, try to feel what they are feeling, and learn to help them. It is a very big world to try to get my message across to everyone, but I definitely want to help as many people that are struggling that I can.



# Teacher Profile

**Alejandro Ramirez Urias**

*Physical Education and Swim Teacher / Athletic Director*

I'm in my fourth year working at Futuro Verde, after having moved to the school with my wife Lural and our three elementary aged children. We came here after a short stint teaching in Monteverde, Costa Rica and after a decade working with at-risk youth at a low-income, bilingual school in Oregon in the United States. I have never worked at a school like Futuro Verde and I thoroughly enjoy the challenge and the rewards that teaching here bring.

I used my degree in classroom instruction for years as an elementary classroom teacher, but am so happy now to be using my bachelor's degree in Physical Education and Sports Science as the school's Athletic Director and PE and Swim teacher. There is such fulfillment in seeing our students love an active life, discover a new passion and find strength and perseverance within themselves as they compete in any of the many sports teams Futuro Verde offers.

I am especially proud of our basketball and swim teams. Despite not have a basketball court nor a pool to train in, we have competitive teams every year in both swim and basketball. It takes a true athlete to excel when coming up against teams who are fortunate enough to have access to high quality training facilities. But, we always say that the jungle grows our kids strong and that strength of spirit leads them to unbelievable success nationally and at Central American wide tournaments.

As I look toward the future, I am confident that our athletic department will continue to support all students in a healthy and balanced life, with habits of mind, body and spirit that assure a holistically healthy life in the long term!

# Futuro Verde in a nutshell

## 2016 Enrollment:

180

## Student Teacher Ratio:

8 to 1

## Financial Aid

Percentage of students who receive some form of financial aid (33%)



## Students:

### First to second generation familial countries of origin (30):

Costa Rica, Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, England, Ethiopia, France, Guatemala, Germany, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Peru, Puerto Rico, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, Venezuela, USA

### Languages spoken in the home (9):

English, Flemish, French, Hebrew, Italian, Mandarin, Spanish, Swiss German, Bulgarian.

## Staff:

### Total number of teaching and administrative staff:

29

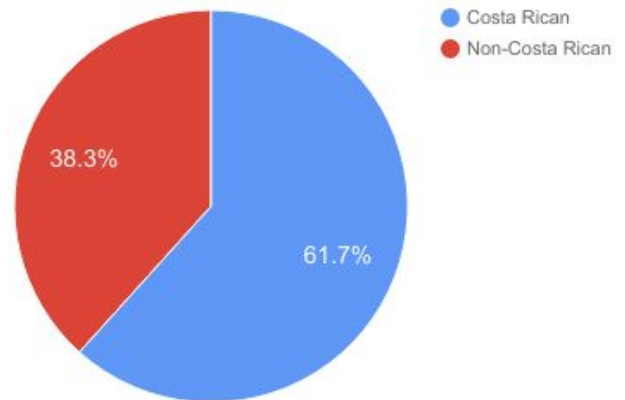
### 13 countries of origin:

Costa Rica, US, South Africa, Chile, Puerto Rico, Belgium, Mexico, Scotland, Argentina, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic and Colombia

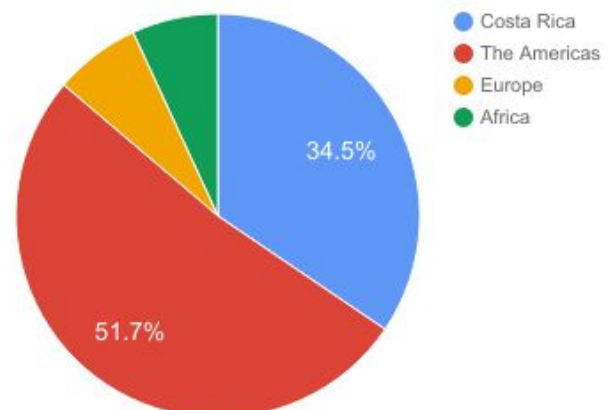
### Percentage of teaching staff holding either a Master's or Doctoral Degree

45%

Student country of origin



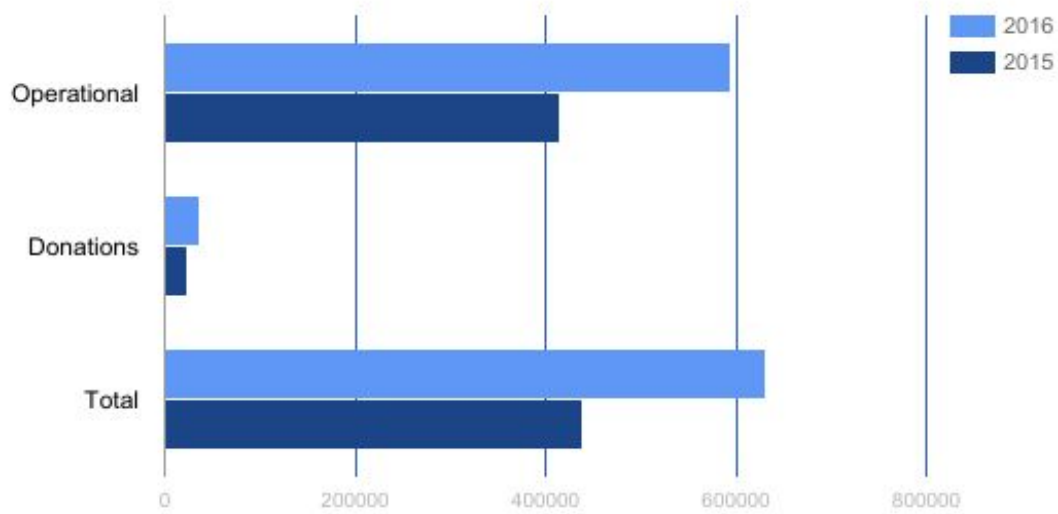
Staff Country of Origin



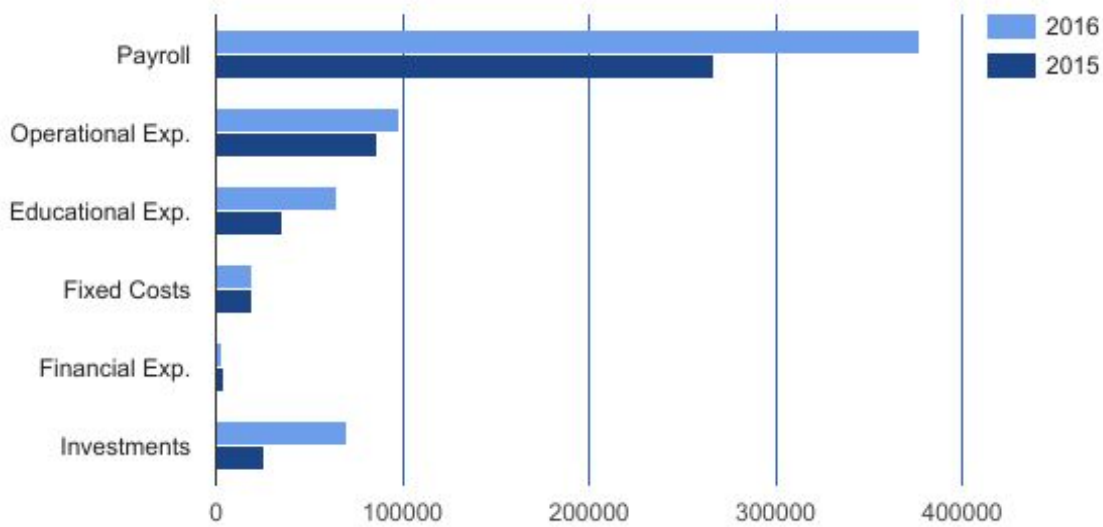


# Financials

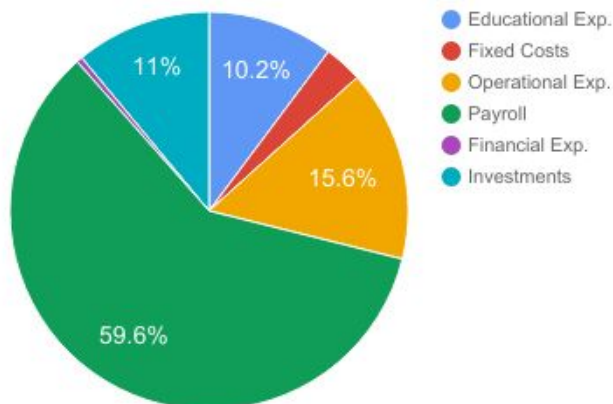
**Income 2016 vs. 2015 (USD)**



**Expenses 2016 vs. 2015 (USD)**



**Expense Distribution 2016**



# Fundraising

## Fundraising Events



### Skate Jam

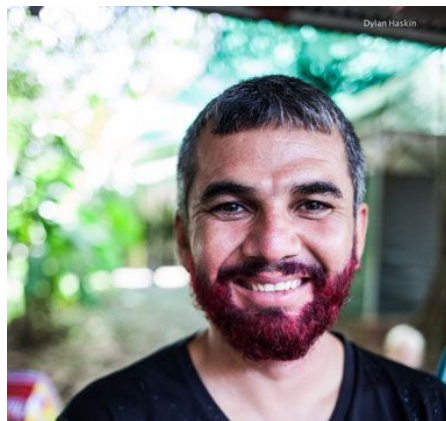
Amount raised: \$750

### Beard Challenge

Amount raised: \$1015

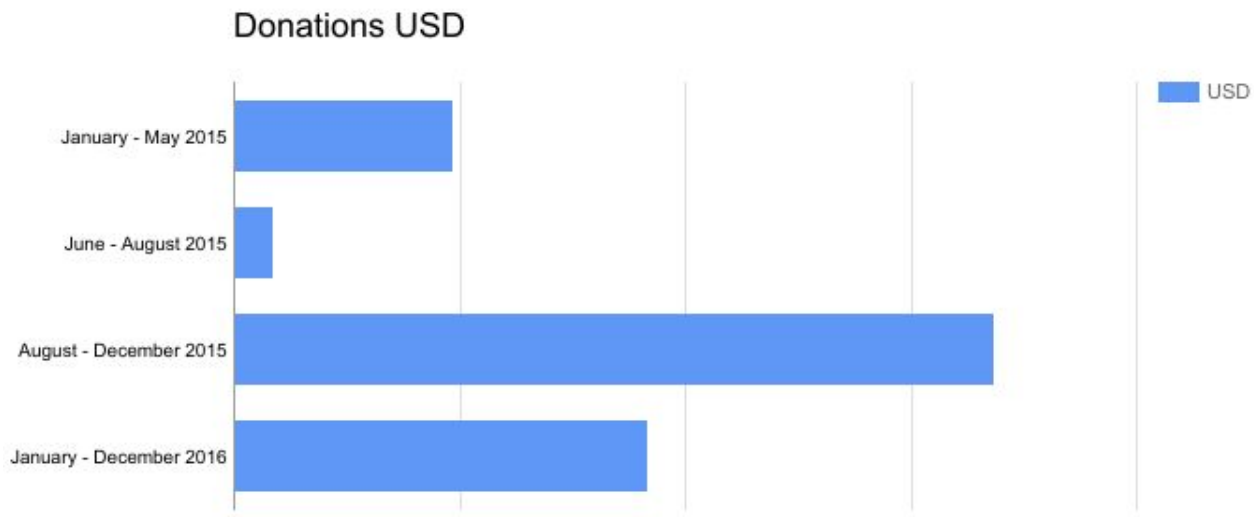
### Christmas Bazaar

Amount raised: \$850



# Donors

## Donations At-A-Glance



## Individual Donors

<b>\$10,000+</b>		
Tom James and Sarah Galloway		
<b>\$5000-\$10000</b>	<b>\$1000-\$5000</b>	<b>\$500-\$1000</b>
Daniel Snyder	Frank Katz Michael Olson	Marlaine Lockheed Stephen Goldstein Leonardus Van Thoor
<b>\$200-\$500</b>	<b>\$50-\$200</b>	<b>\$10-\$50</b>
Sarah Dodge Dahlia Nahome Donna Sanderson	Kathryn Strine Stacey Scholten Soft Star Shoe Store (US) Hope Hahn Lisa Jourdan Trevor Hollenbeck Jane Ekhurst Anna Olson Rafael Dubon	Jaymie Prindiville Barbara Hannon Melanie Alexandre



# Scholarship Fund

## John Dolan Memorial Scholarship Fund for Futuro Verde



**John Dolan** believed in the power of education in the life of a child and he was committed to helping his sponsor student, Josue, thrive at Futuro Verde! Having fully sponsored Josue's education up until his passing in February of 2017, John's family made the decision to continue giving in John's name in benefit of the local children from humble, local families who make up over 30% of the Futuro Verde student population each year. In 2017, John's family made two significant donations: one donation nearly fulfilled our school's yearly fundraising goal for our scholarship fund and the second went toward encouraging others to contribute toward next year's goal of \$140,000 dollars raised.

With these funds raised, Futuro Verde is able to assure that all scholarship students who meet our program requirements can keep their scholarships and that investments can continue to be made in the high quality resources and experiences Futuro Verde students deserve.

Please consider the John Dolan Memorial Scholarship Fund for Futuro Verde in your yearly giving. Tax deductible donations can be made through our U.S. fiscal sponsor Green Wave. In country donations can be made via wire transfer.

Donations like yours are life changing for students like Josue, who are filled with potential and need the support of others to have the quality of education that will assure a future full of choices and opportunities.



*For more information on the John Dolan Memorial Scholarship Fund for Futuro Verde, its real impact on students or ways to give and support today, visit: [www.futuro-verde.org](http://www.futuro-verde.org).*