

Centro Educativo

FUTURO VERDE

JUNE, 2019

2018 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



"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful."
- Mother Teresa

Our Green Wave Partnership Grows

The relationship Futuro Verde has enjoyed with our US fiscal sponsor, Green Wave, began long before 2018, but this year our partnership has strengthened like never before. In support of our school's growth beyond the processing of US based donations for tax deductibility, Green Wave has provided generous direct financial support for Futuro Verde to become a Permaculture campus. If you have the chance, come by to see our evolving Founder's Garden, the new chicken coop and the beautiful new environmental education learning space; complete with a student-run garden, composting areas and regular classes with local permaculture expert, Adriana Pál Corrales.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lural Ramirez'.

Lural Ramirez
Director

Proud of our Strong Partnerships

Donors Make the Difference

As we celebrate our 10th Anniversary here at Futuro Verde, I am so appreciative for our entire school community. Our students, parents, staff and board are a committed and passionate group, dedicated to seeing Futuro Verde achieve its goals! And we have achieved so much in these few, short 10 years:

- ❖ MEP accreditation
- ❖ IB authorization for the Diploma Programme
- ❖ 5-star Green Certification through Bandera Azul
- ❖ Huge student population growth since 2008 with a few founding students in a house to 183 students preschool to 11th grade in 2018
- ❖ Four generations of high school graduates with our alumni boasting successful post-secondary education and work achievements!

But, did you know that 2018 stands out as the year that a broader base of external donors brought in a much needed infusion of funds and support to our rural, jungle school?

For the first time in the history of our school, a fundraiser was organized to benefit our scholarship fund and a delegation of Futuro Verde staff and collaborators travelled to New York City for the big event. It was truly heartwarming to see a new group of individuals become inspired and motivated to support our school and the positive impact of the event was felt before, during and after the event itself.

Another touching external contribution came to Futuro Verde following the unfortunate passing of longtime Futuro Verde donor, Dan Snyder. Remembering his love and passion for Futuro Verde, contributions during his memorial service were directed to the school and, in so doing, a generous group of donors funded a full scholarship for a new FV high school student!

There are many more successes to celebrate and you can read about those in the rest of this annual report. If you are one of our many direct donors to Futuro Verde this year, thank you! Please know that, like Mother Teresa says, you are doing "...small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful".



Board President

Enrico "Rico" Reolon

This year marks our 10th anniversary and, having been with Futuro Verde since the beginning, I am in awe of the growth and development we have achieved as a school! So much has changed, and at the same time, we are the same school, with the same good heart, as we were from the very beginning. My deepest appreciation to everyone who has contributed to our school during its first 10 years! We could never have made it this far without you! For those of you, like me, still sticking around for the years to come, I challenge you to increase your involvement with our upcoming plans and dreams:

- ❖ Yearly fundraising events- both our Casino Night and our Earth Day Charity Challenge are local efforts we'd love to have you participate in
- ❖ Capital Campaign- we still have six more classrooms needed to be rebuilt. Can you contribute to our Capital Campaign?
- ❖ Scholarship Fund- Futuro Verde is proud of its diverse student population. Can you support tuition for a FV scholarship student in need?

Thank you all for forming part of the Futuro Verde family!

Rico Reolon
Board President, Asociación Escuela Futuro Verde

Board Members

Enrico Reolon (2013) President, Sonya Danchick (2013) Vice President, Nohelia Hidalgo Montero (2016) Secretary, Raj Pal (2018) Treasurer, Brad Shaw (2013) Vocal I, Georges Lefebvre (2013) Vocal II, Christina Aguinalgalde (2016) Vocal III



Christina Aguinalgalde



Raj Tal



Nohelia Hidalgo



Sonya Donchick

The IB Diploma Program

Stuart Millar, IB Coordinator



After just ten years of existence, Futuro Verde successfully launched the IB Diploma Program - a challenging yet balanced academic program which will prepare our students for university, their future careers and personal lives.

Highlights: Students have been excited and challenged by new courses like Business Management and Theory of Knowledge. It has been astonishing to watch their personal growth as they accumulate new knowledge and learn to view the world, as well as their place in it, from different perspectives. The first cohort of students has embarked on their Extended Essay and will be exploring subjects such as business, psychology, film and music. The IB diploma is a rigorous course of study, but our students have a genuine sense of pride knowing that they are part of a prestigious academic program which is offered by less than 5,000 schools worldwide.

A particular highlight of 2018 was the annual visit by the IB students of Hautlieu school in the Channel Islands. During the visit the students from both schools collaborated on a science project, hiked the Cabo Blanco Reserve, and enjoyed a Theory of Knowledge class together. Futuro Verde students felt a sense of pride, security and accomplishment as they recognized that they receive and experience the same high level education as students from other parts of the world. Our visitors were so impressed by the IB uniform at Futuro Verde that they bought the shirts as souvenirs! They were also taken aback by the quality of our teachers, the linguistic ability of our students, and our school culture which they felt embodied all the attributes of the IB learner profile.

Looking ahead: In 2019 we have welcomed our first generation of 12th grade students as they embark on year two of the diploma program. The addition of a new grade has brought some changes to personnel, infrastructure and the daily schedule. These important developments ensure that Futuro Verde will continue to support all grade levels for the learning and experiences that await them in the IB DP. This change includes all middle and high school students taking part in college counseling classes weekly as we prepare our students for what can come next after their top-level education at Futuro Verde comes to an end and they head out to take on the world!



Student Profiles

Elian Gonzalez Talavera and Derlyn Dilana Campos Garcia

11th grade students, IB Generation 2019

Futuro Verde is located in one of the most rural parts of Costa Rica. A 4-5 hour journey awaits travelers arriving in San Jose to make the drive to this corner of Costa Rica and the dirt roads and traffic jams caused by herds of cows remind you quickly that you are far, far away from urban life. This rural peninsula has long been called home for two of Futuro Verde's students in our first group of IB Generation graduates and what a fascinating story they each have!

Both Elian and Dilana share something special in common- they both graduated with a MEP diploma in 2017 and decided to return to Futuro Verde, on full scholarship, in order to get the additional IB diploma and benefit from more rigorous and thorough preparation for their future in university. They have both led our first IB cohort with their maturity, perspective, open-mindedness and drive to succeed!



Meet Dilana

Derlyn Dilana Campos Garcia, IB Generation 2019

Dilana, as she prefers to be called, is an absolute ray of sunshine! Always ready with a quick smile and very eager to learn, Dilana's true passion is music. After completing the IB program, Dilana hopes to study music in university and to find a way to help music improve the lives of the communities she is in, be it within Costa Rica or abroad!

Meet Elian

Elian Gonzalez Talavera, IB Generation 2019

Elian has a curious, adventurous soul and he is up for any challenge placed before him! Passionate about fine arts and design, Elian hopes to study some form of art within Costa Rica or abroad, if he is given the opportunity!



Hallmarks of a Futuro Verde Education

Peace Practices

A schoolwide routine and practice; replete with meaning and importance

Futuro Verde Peace Practices exemplify the Futuro Verde experience and are a favorite moment each week. Full of levity, at times, and contemplative and deeply personal at other times; Peace Practice is a time for the development of self, connection with others and the strengthening of our unity as a school community.

<p>General structure of each Peace Practice:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Group mindfulness practice Group sing Activity connected to the monthly value “Announcement of the Day”, “Joke of the Day”, “Shout Out”, “News of the Day”, etc. Announcement of ‘valores’ weekly winners 	<p>Alignment to the IB Profile of a Learner:</p> <p>Inquirers We develop our natural curiosity. We acquire the skills necessary to conduct inquiry and research and sow independence in learning. We actively enjoy learning and the love of learning will be sustained throughout our lives.</p> <p>Knowledgeable We explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local and global significance. In so doing, we acquire in-depth knowledge and develop understanding across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.</p> <p>Thinkers We exercise initiative in applying thinking skills critically and creatively to recognize and approach complex problems, and make reasoned, ethical decisions.</p> <p>Communicators We understand and express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication. We work effectively and willingly in collaboration with others.</p> <p>Principled We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for the dignity of the individual, groups and communities. We take responsibility for our own actions and the consequences that accompany them.</p> <p>Open-Minded We understand and appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, and are open to the perspectives, values and traditions of other individuals and communities. We are accustomed to seeking and evaluating a range of points of view, and are willing to grow from the experience</p> <p>Caring We show empathy, compassion and respect toward the needs and feelings of others. We have a personal commitment to service, and act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and the environment.</p> <p>Risk-Takers We approach unfamiliar situations and uncertainty with courage and forethought, and have the independence of spirit to explore new roles, ideas and strategies. We are brave and articulate in defending our beliefs</p> <p>Balanced We understand the importance of intellectual, physical and emotional balance to achieve personal well-being for themselves and others.</p> <p>Reflective We give thoughtful consideration to our own learning and experience. We are able to assess and understand our strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.</p>
<p>Peace Practice Weekly Schedule:</p> <p>Tuesdays: Preschool, Prepa, 1st and 2nd grades together</p> <p>Wednesdays: 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades together</p> <p>Thursdays: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th grades together</p>	

Active and Effective Student Government

A student government is a typical part of any high school. So, how do we, as a school with students from preschool through high school all on one, integrated campus, make student government an experience that is meaningful and relevant for all ages and stages? Well, it is no easy feat, but this year's student government set a great example of what multi-age learning in a small school can do for democratic student decision making focused on service and school culture!

Each year, our Costa Rican social studies teachers at all grade levels take students through the traditional Costa Rican democratic electoral process. As a school we follow the process as national tradition indicates, with some slight modifications to match our unique school context. For example, considerations are made to assure the school's sustainability commitments are met. Political parties are encouraged to not produce campaign materials that will quickly become garbage, but to instead think creatively about how they get others to know them and their campaign promises. The most noteworthy modification we make is that all political parties must have a balance of ages - with even numbers between elementary and secondary students. This multi-age requirement assures that the needs and interests of all our students stay at the forefront of each political party's goals and campaign promises.

The 2018 school year brought with it the most effective student government Futuro Verde has ever seen! Of their campaign promises, everything was accomplished!

Campaign promises fulfilled:

- Trimester beach clean-ups
- Single-use plastics ban in the school snack shop

In addition the student government organized:

- Fun events for all during Día del Niño
- A collection of essential supplies for families affected by floods and mudslides in Paquera

The end of the year brought with it the electoral process for 2019 and, with many of this year's current student government members continuing onto next year within the newly elected party, we look forward to another successful year in student government at Futuro Verde!



And the Survey Says... New Graduation Structure

For our 10 year anniversary, parents were asked to complete a survey detailing their satisfaction with different aspects of our school. From communications, to student well-being, to big decisions being made for modifications to school traditions, the survey provided us with invaluable data as we evaluate our effectiveness and make new decisions in the future.

One of the most interesting topics parents provided feedback on was regarding graduation. For years at Futuro Verde, we have held one, joint graduation ceremony for all graduating grade levels: Kindergarten, 6th grade, 9th grade and 11th grade. When asked, most parents confirmed that they would prefer to only do a formal graduation ceremony for 6th and 11th grades with certificates being given out to kindergarten and 9th grade, as required by our MEP accreditation.

This year's 11th graders did not graduate, as was the tradition when Futuro Verde was only MEP accredited and followed a Costa Rican structure of ending high school in 11th grade. Our 11th graders this year completed year one of the two year IB diploma and will have their high school graduation next year, a ceremony in which, with passing scores, they will receive both the MEP and IB diplomas.

So, this year came with an opportunity to provide a special and unique tradition for our graduating 6th graders. It was an emotional and touching ceremony, featuring some new and beautiful traditions to be carried on each and every year.



Futuro Verde's student body president formally welcomes 6th graders to secondary school by ceremonially filling up a special jar with equal amounts of rocks to represent the qualities students will need for a successful middle and high school experience:
Be independent, Be responsible, Find a Passion, Get involved, Have confidence, Be brave, Have fun!



Baskets of 'best wishes' were filled for every graduate, with messages of love from family, teachers and friends



Parents now accompany their graduate to their seat at the start of the ceremony

In all other years to come we will continue to hold 6th grade graduation on one day and 12th grade graduation on a separate day, allowing us to make each ceremony unique and appropriate to the age and stage for each group of graduates. For this year, congratulations to our graduating 6th graders!

Futuro Verde in a nutshell

At a Glance

2018 Enrollment 183

Student Teacher Ratio: 8 to 1

Financial Aid
Percentage of students who receive some form of financial aid 37%



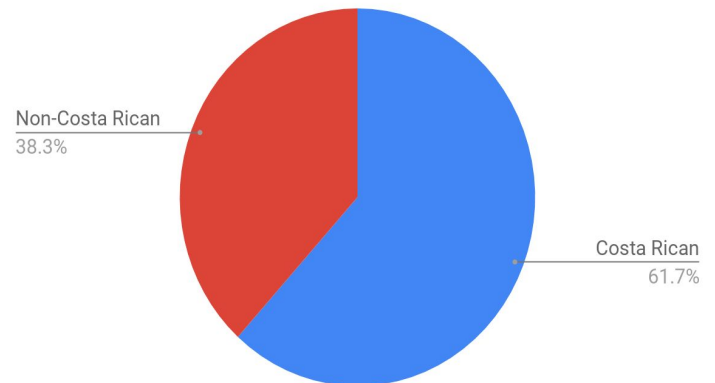
Students

First to second generation familial countries of origin: 32

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

Languages spoken in the home: 10
French, Spanish, English, Flemish, Hebrew, Italian, Mandarin, Swiss German, Portuguese, German.

Student country of origin

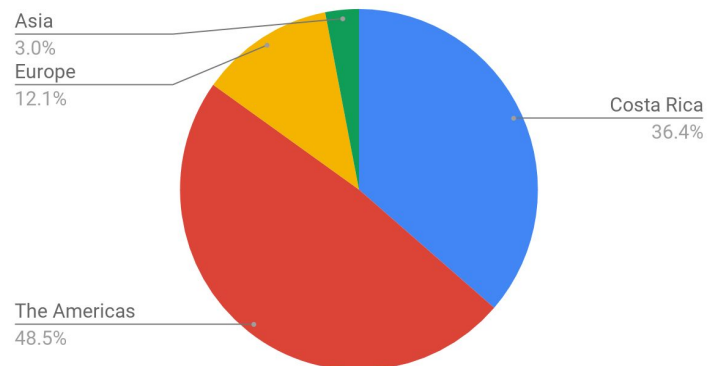


Staff

Total number of teaching and administrative staff: 32

Countries of origin: 13
Costa Rica, India, US, Chile, Puerto Rico, Belgium, Mexico, Scotland, Argentina, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Spain and England.

Staff Country of Origin



Percentage of teaching staff holding either a Master's or Doctoral Degree 45%

Fundraising

Fundraising Events in 2018

Poker Night

(which benefitted: Sports Facilities)

Amount raised: \$1,255

Earth Day Charity Challenge

(which benefitted: Refugio Romelia, ASVO, Reserva Natural Absoluta Cabo Blanco and Futuro Verde)

Amount raised: \$4700

NYC: CORE Club

(which benefitted: Scholarship Fund)

Amount raised: \$46,737

Semana Civica Food Sales

(which benefitted: Sports Facilities)

Amount raised: \$1350

Green Fair: Sustainable Solutions

(Which benefitted: Sports Facilities and local, sustainable businesses)

Amount raised: \$115

Futuro Verde Fun Run

(Which benefitted: Sports Facilities)

Amount raised: \$190



Donors

Individual Donors

\$98,000+

Marianne Dolan

\$5001-\$10000

James Moran
Mary Kimelman & family

\$1001-\$5000

Meg and Rob Campbell
Christopher Dolan
Steven Mizrachi
Frank Katz
Marlaine Lockheed

\$501-\$1000

Robert Stebbins
Kirsten Berken
Jonathan Gosberg
Daniel Higbie
Dean Fogel

\$201-\$500

Kathleen Swanwick
Erica Ruggeri
Wendy Lynch
Chuck and Gerda Kroglund
Elizabeth Repine
Alice Chumard
Robert Shepherd
Sorrel Dod
Jacque Fisher
Holly Scheuer
Peter Dolan

\$51-\$200

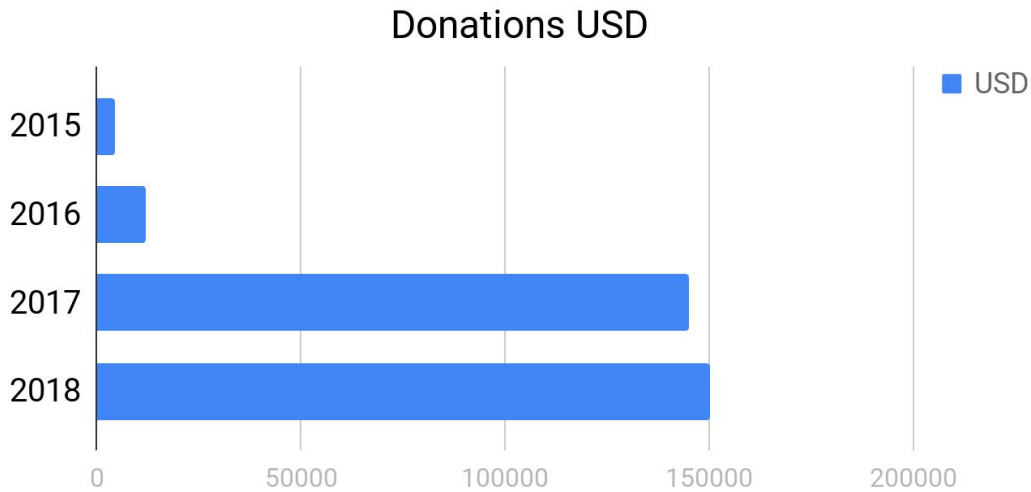
Gary and Ivonne
Wakewood
William Fieber
Sharon Cunningham
Jacque Fisher
Patricia Aker
Chris Benedict
Geary Chumard
R. Thomas Stearly
Terry Saturno
Aileen Fuchs
Susan McMillan
Leo Au
Judy and Barry
Freedman
Kathleen Makuch
Randy Bullis

Carol and Jerry Israel
Bill and Peggy Conyer
Mary Kay and Jim
Lodwick
Patrick Bullis
Pat and Rick
Taliaferro
Neil and Patricia
Simmons
Susan & Doug
Rutherford
Debbi and Bill Berit
Sapan Vyas
Jill Mangone
David P. Dod
Monika Kovics
Betty Repine

\$10-\$50

Timothy Freud
Norm and Kathy Kirisits
James Schalck
Kevin O'Sullivan
Ronald Helhoski
McClure and Barbara
Mathews
Bob and Linda MacDougal
Diane Magnani
Berthold Schwarz
Nicholas Gandy
Sylva and Bob Curtis

Donations At-A-Glance



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 around 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 future yearly goals of **\$140,000** annually.

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.

Ways to Give:

Patreon Account

[| ● Become a patron](#)

Futuro Verde is excited to announce that you can become a patron of Futuro Verde through our Patreon Creator Account. Learn about our school and see the latest news, view locked content! Donations via Patreon are tax deductible in the USA.

Giving Assistant



Support your favorite charity (Futuro Verde) by transforming every online purchase into a donation! Donations are tax deductible in the USA through our fiscal sponsor Green Wave Enterprises.

Amazon Smile



AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Shop at your favorite online superstore and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charity of your choice (Futuro Verde!) Donations are tax deductible in the USA through our fiscal sponsor Green Wave Enterprises.

529 Savings Plan

Futuro Verde's fiscal sponsor can receive tuition payments from 529s for students through Green Wave Enterprises. Please contact Futuro Verde for specifics on how to contribute to Futuro Verde using a **529 Savings Plan**.

Perspectives: Faith Moran

Volunteer Faith Moran talks about her experience

In 2018 we were able to count on the support and work of Faith Moran, a 24-year-old volunteer who, in her search for programs to work as an English teacher and to put her knowledge of her TEFL course into practice, found Futuro Verde.

Faith had visited Costa Rica and Santa Teresa on other occasions and was in love with the area. She began to investigate how she could contribute to such a beautiful community and she came across an Eco-bricks project at Futuro Verde that caught her attention. Since starting as a volunteer with us, she has been a great help and support for all the teachers with whom he has been able to work. Faith has a very strong ability to adapt, which she considers one of her greatest strengths, so when she started working at Futuro Verde she was able to work in different areas and grade levels, but she confessed to us that she loves working with the younger children.



Y eso es precisamente lo que le pasó con Faith. Ella no solo apoyó a los maestros en sus aulas, especialmente en primer y segundo grado, sino que también asumió un papel de liderazgo en la enseñanza de las clases de arte a los niños de preescolar, primero y segundo grado. Faith también pudo colaborar inmensamente con la maestra de arte Khalida Lockheed para la TRASHION Show, en la que estudiantes de todos los grados diseñaron ropa y accesorios hechos de materiales reciclables y basura que se encuentran en la playa. Faith compartió que su trabajo en Futuro Verde la impactó de maneras que no podría haber imaginado. Apoyar a los maestros durante las presentaciones y el tiempo de clase la impresionó y la desafió. Faith también compartió lo importante que es crecer personalmente y aprender en una experiencia de voluntariado que, según sus palabras exactas, "requiere paciencia e independencia".

Faith y su historia es muy importante, no sólo porque la impactó a ella de diferentes maneras, sino porque tanto ella como su familia han cambiado la vida de una estudiante aquí en Futuro Verde, Allison Montoya, quién durante el 2018 cursó el 3 grado. Su familia decidió patrocinar la educación de Allison durante toda su carrera escolar aquí en Futuro Verde. Faith nos contó un poco de esta experiencia:

"The first time I met Allison and her mom was very emotional, for me and everyone, we hugged and cried together. In addition to this, I have had the opportunity to see Allison grow and progress. As a TEFL teacher I have been able to witness the progress that Allison has made with the English language first-hand and I have been able to see her grow personally, in addition to being able to engage in a personal connection with her. Allison is very aware of the opportunity that has been granted to her and there is no doubt that she is getting much out of it, since she has grown a lot in this short time. "

Faith ends her volunteering period feeling happy, impressed and challenged. Her experience at Futuro Verde was a complete experience, from participating in the Independence Week celebrations, to sharing with all grade levels and staff of Futuro Verde. As a student she considers that she needs to continue to learn Spanish; as a volunteer she believes Futuro Verde gave her the space to develop her skills. She leaves us with a last piece of advice for all those who want to be part of Futuro Verde and community: "if you want to be involved, the only way is to get yourself involved."