

PIECE *of* HEAVEN

The magazine for the wider HOPAC community

The mission of Haven of Peace Academy is to provide an excellent, Christ-centred, international education that meets western academic standards and equips students to live out a Biblical worldview in all areas of life to the glory of God.



Primary, Middle, and Senior school students and teachers during Service Emphasis Week 2015

Ron & Jane

In many ways, Ron Johns and Jane Gruler-Johns are the type of people who make HOPAC what it is. It is hard to imagine HOPAC without them. They have been an integral part of the school since 2006, shortly after Ron's job brought them to Tanzania.

Ron and Jane's adventure in Tanzania started long before 2006, when, in Michigan, US, they both volunteered to be a part of the organizational committee for the annual winter festival in Grand Haven, Michigan. Shortly afterwards, Jane joined Peace Corps and moved to Malawi, where Ron followed her, proposed, and they got married. After living in Malawi for a number of years, Ron's work brought him to Tanzania, and Jane came to HOPAC. She started as the interim Business Manager, then became the full-time Personnel Coordinator, and eventually the HR & Communications Manager, as well as the Exams Officer. Ron started working at HOPAC as a PE teacher and currently serves as the Operations Manager, which essentially means that he makes things happen: whether it is water, electricity,

transportation, grounds management, or security, Ron makes it happen. Over and over, in conversations with various teachers, I have heard the phrase, "...how much Ron and Jane do for this school." It is true.

Over the years, Ron and Jane have enjoyed seeing kids grow and mature from adorable Kindergarten students, to fun Grade 5 students, and eventually into beautiful young men and women. It is exciting to see those same little Kindergarten kids transform into accomplished graduates moving on to university and bright, promising futures.

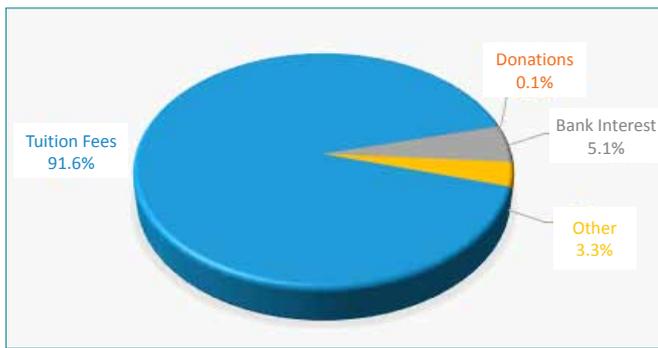
But the memories of HOPAC are not just of the students Ron and Jane have served. HOPAC also has many memories of them:

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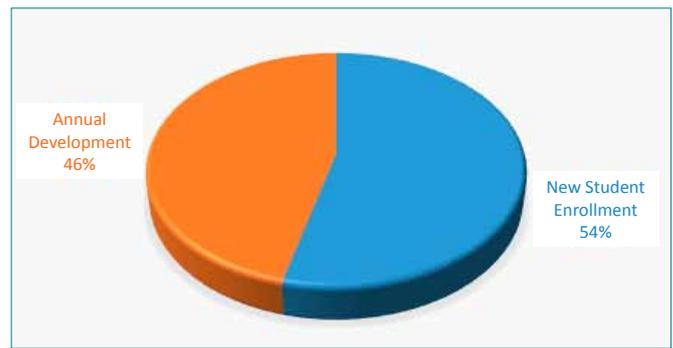


2014-2015 Financial Overview

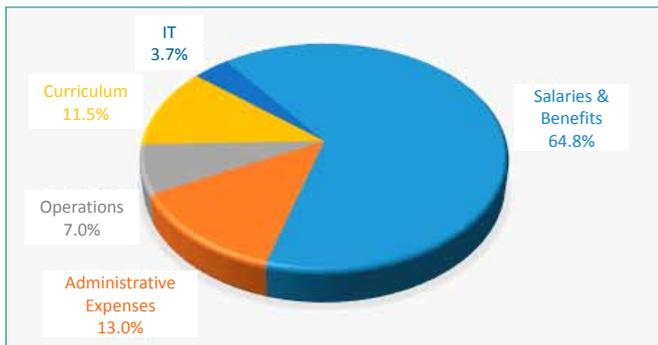
OPERATIONAL INCOME



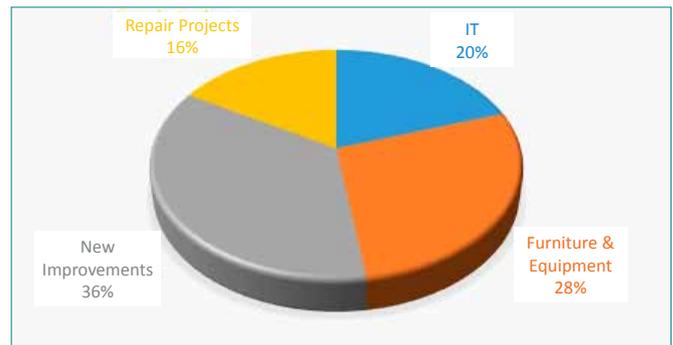
CAPITAL INCOME



OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES



CAPITAL EXPENDITURES



Projected Surplus Margin for 2014-15: 2.3%

*All surplus funds are reserved for long-term development of the school

Upcoming Dates

August

25 First day of 2015-2016 school year

September

24 Holiday - Eid al-Adha tentative
25 Teacher InService Day no school for students

October

12-16 Mid-Term Break no school for all

November

2-6 Pamoja Week tentative
6 International Day tentative
9 HOPAC Holiday - no school for all

December

9 Holiday - Independence Day no school for all
17 Last day of Term 1 noon dismissal

January

5 First day of Term 2
12 Holiday - Revolution Day no school for all



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Who can forget Ron's brilliant performance in "The Princess Bride," or Jane's tireless cheerleading on the sidelines of HOPAC sports games? Secondary students praise Ron's coaching in basketball and football, while primary students call him the "cookie man" as they run to his office for an after-school treat. Together, Ron and Jane helped to create the recently ended "Verna's Mexican" – HOPAC's version of Cheers, the place "where everybody knows your name" – hanging out with friends and eating good food every Friday night.

Their future is still undecided, as they continue to search for jobs for their upcoming return to the US. However, they are looking forward to the consistent utilities and conveniences of being in the US, as well as experiencing the full range of seasons after living in ten years of continuous summer.

Ron and Jane have expressed how much they will miss the HOPAC family, the culturally diverse community, and the many friends that they have made during their time at HOPAC. Jane's one advice to the "future HOPAC" is to "stay in touch!" And that same "future HOPAC," will miss Ron and Jane dearly. If you see Ron or Jane in the last month leading up to the end of the school year, take a moment to thank them for all they do for HOPAC and wish them well as they move back to the US. Thank you Ron and Jane!

Abigail Snyder

Service Emphasis Week

"SEW, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?"

Senior, Middle, and Primary students and teachers served together around our city during SEW this year. Coordinated by Mrs Kaniki and the SEW team of grade 11 and 12 students, HOPAC students cleaned, painted, played, planned, dug, built, taught, prayed, learned, and served together. During reflection day, students shared their SEW team story with small groups using creative story boards.



Alumni Highlight

KYUNGHO RHEE, CLASS OF 2009



After graduating from HOPAC in 2009, I got my B.A from Wheaton College in 2012, with a major in Business and Economics. My activities also included playing on the football team, being in leadership positions at the college and enjoying photography as a hobby.

My greatest achievement has to be meeting my wife, Shelby, at college and getting married on a beautiful fall day in Michigan in 2014. I moved back to Tanzania last January and my wife followed in September, after the wedding.

Shelby is a public health consultant and hopes to pursue her Masters in Public Health next year. I work in the hospitality, fumigation, and business consulting fields with my company, INTKOR Investments, here in Dar.

HOPAC 20

*from the
Directors's
Desk*

A STRATEGIC PLAN TO LEAD HOPAC INTO TRANSFORMATIVE KINGDOM WORK

Following on the work done in Vision 2010 and the subsequent Strategic Plan of 2012, we are launching a new strategic plan to push us forward through the year 2020. This builds on our 20 years of history as a school and gives us an exciting vision of what the school can become in the next 5 years.

The final HOPAC 20 strategic plan was approved by the Board of Governors in May 2015, following a year of preparation, planning, collecting information and reflecting on how to pursue our vision. Though certain details are still being worked out before the final document is published at the start of the 2015-16 school year, we want to give you a glimpse at the 9 key goals of our new strategic plan.

Goal 1 | IMPROVE STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES BY INCREASING CLASS SIZES

We will increase the number of students in secondary to 40 students in each class. This will add flexibility to the curriculum and allow students to specialize with a wider variety of subject choices.

Goal 2 | IMPROVE AND EXPAND CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

We will increase the number of available IGCSE subjects, as well as increase course options for the A level program. We will build a new performing arts center, a new learning resource center, and improve and expand our sporting facilities.



Goal 3 | DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A STUDENT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

We will develop tracking tools to continually assess student progress throughout their time at the school. We will implement appropriate intervention techniques to help students reach their educational potential.

Goal 4 | FORMALIZE A DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM

We will intentionally target student transformation through a developed school-wide discipleship program.

Goal 5 | **RE-DIRECT AND ENHANCE THE SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM**

We will maximize the impact of our service learning program by re-focusing our efforts around a coherent long-term strategy that strengthens our ties within the community and further equips our students with a lifelong desire to serve others.

Goal 6 | **DEVELOP A COMMUNITY SENSE OF MORAL OWNERSHIP**

We will strengthen our relationships with mission organizations to enhance our staff recruitment sustainability and to increase the Board's accountability beyond itself.

Goal 7 | **BUILD A SUSTAINABLE AND HIGH-FUNCTIONING SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

We will improve all supporting structures that allow the school to function at a high level, improving communications, IT, financial planning, security and our relationships within the community.



Goal 8 | **EXPAND OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WITH EXTERNAL FUNDING**

We will develop a trust fund that allows us to award a select number of scholarships to Tanzanian students who demonstrate significant financial need and high academic potential.

Goal 9 | **STRENGTHEN PARENT BUY-IN OF OUR MISSION AND VISION**

We will strengthen our partnership with parents in providing high quality education that equips students to become difference-makers in their communities.

We firmly believe that fulfillment, even in part, of these 9 goals will lead us into a position where our vision, for students to be transformed so that they can transform others, starts to be realized. We can't wait to see what God is going to do!

Ben Snyder
Director

Leaving Teachers

SHARING MEMORIES AND FUTURE PLANS

Dan and Sue Kappers (History, Librarian) are returning to the US in July. Their future plans are quite open but they are likely to reside on a temporary basis near their children and grandchildren, all of whom live in the Chicago area, which is also where their daughter will soon be getting married. After that, they are open to what God calls them to do next. Having become a bit spoiled by Tanzania's warm weather, they suspect they will end up someplace in the States a bit warmer than their former home in Wisconsin with its snowy and icy winters.

Perhaps the aspect of HOPAC which Dan appreciated the most, is the ability for teachers to bring their Christian faith into the classroom. This is in stark contrast to his prior experience teaching in public schools in the US. He also thoroughly enjoyed both the students at HOPAC and how quickly he and Sue developed strong friendships with other teachers and staff.

Sue says "What an incredible two years it has been! I have enjoyed so many things about my time at HOPAC and in Tanzania. I have many favorite memories from our two years but I would have to say the first annual synchronized swimming contest at the Staff Christmas party and book reading contests in the library were two of my favorites!"

As with the Kappers, future plans for **Costa Mrema** (Facilities/PE) are also quite open. Costa has served HOPAC in a number of roles and under a number of directors for thirteen and a half years and has seen the HOPAC community grow. What he loves most about HOPAC is how tight knit the HOPAC community is and how members of the community care and pray for one another during difficult times.

Tim and Stephanie Steen (ICT, Service Learning) will be returning to New Jersey to the same house, school and even car as before - but they know they won't be the same! Tim will be teaching technology classes at Eastern Christian High School, the same school he taught at for 12 years before coming to HOPAC. He looks forward to using a lot of new knowledge gained at HOPAC about teaching, computers and life to bring a new enthusiasm and ministry to teenagers in northern New Jersey.

Tim will always relish the memories of playing Ultimate Frisbee with fellow staff and students on Sunday evenings. In the classroom he had so many good classes that he found it hard to pick one memory. But the two years of Grade 9 ICT classes were always filled with fun energy, lots of laughter, and solid learning.



Left to Right: Dan and Sue Kappers (participating in Pamoja Week's Color Explosion Day!), Costa Mrema, Tim Steen (dressed up for International Day!), Stephanie Steen (during Service Emphasis Week), and Jane Moshi

Stephanie will be serving as church treasurer and helping her best friend run the business side of her photography business. She hopes to start up a part-time consulting business from home and work on some corporate projects as well.

Her most memorable experience was last year's SEW trip to Berega. She says "I don't think I've ever prayed as hard in my life as I did during the half hour it took Jane Moshi, the then-grade 9 girls, myself and all our belongings to wade through a rapidly rising river! I also will always have a special place in my heart for HOPAC when I hear the song 'Oh, Happy Day!'"

Jane Moshi (English Language) will be joining her husband in Papua New Guinea and is expecting to go back to her former job in the Language Department of the Papua New Guinea University of Technology.

She says "I have enjoyed every moment with my students. I always looked forward to being at HOPAC, rainy or sunny mornings. The smiles, the hugs, the 'We love you Mama Moshi', the 'shikamoos' and the 'poles' from my students are the things I will dearly miss. HOPAC kids are exceptional in terms of love, care, and respect for their teachers. For me, they are not my students, they are my kids. I will always treasure the beautiful three years I spent at HOPAC. The love and care for each other during happy times and difficult times is unexplainable. I will never forget how the community members worked together when we lost one of our beloved students and when one of our community members was facing family difficulties, sickness, and even deaths."

HOPAC's House of Talent

“ENTER INTO JOY” MATTHEW 25

HOPAC's annual talent show was rebranded HOPAC's House of Talent and took place on 30 April. Instead of a grand-prize winner voted on by judges based on performances during the event, students were evaluated according to individual or group talent in one of several areas: song/music, dance, visual arts, photography, spoken word, written word, or drama. These acts or pieces were presented before a panel and awarded Distinction, First, Second, Third, or Participant. The panel chose those receiving Distinction and First to participate in the evening House of Talent event and share with the HOPAC community. Congratulations to the students listed below for receiving Distinction or First in dance, music/song, and drama categories, and congratulations to Black House for having the highest percentage of participants overall!

The Grade 6 Dancers + Gavin Wickham, G4

“Joyful, Joyful” Lauryn Hill (Henry van Dyke/Beethoven)

Aryeh Malayatoor, G2 - Music/Song

“Dynamite” Taio Cruz

G2 Dance Group: **Nadine, Mahayla, Ayla, Tonia, Nicola**

“Welcome to the Show” Brit Nicole

Je Ni Dick, G9 - Song

“Defining Beauty”

Josiah Sanchez, G8 - Drama (Performance of card tricks)

The Boon Sisters (Kennedy & Claire), G2&4 - Dance/Song

“Sisters” Irving Berlin

The Royer Family (Deborah, Gideon, Joshua), G5, 7, 9 - Dance

“Shell Shocked” from TMNT

Kenneth Kusima, G2 - Music/Song

A Compilation

On display: poems, photography, and artwork by students and teachers



The Princess Bride

DIRECTED BY SUE BRAMSEN AND IMANI MUYA

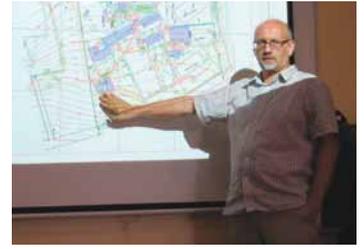
Under the direction of Mrs Bramsen and grade 11 student Imani Muya, students and staff performed “The Princess Bride” during Term 1. Adapted from the book and movie, and performed in the HOPAC courtyard, the play starred Abbey Calmes, grade 11 student, as Princess Buttercup and John Njau, grade 12 student, as Wesley, with special guest star Ron Johns as The Grandfather.



News in Brief

BOARD MEMBERS UPDATE

This year the terms of two board members ended: Steve Larmey and Dave Mullican. The Board also gained two members: Lisa Aiken and Stephen Scheleen. Simon Walton continues to act as Board Chair and Mona Liza Lottering serves as Secretary. Stewart Ayling, Shelley Burry, Dwight Hensler, Yohane Kaduma, Marsha Macatta-Yambi, and Amy Medina also continue their terms as Board Members.



SAYING GOODBYE TO MR WILLIAM

On Friday, 24 April, Primary School joined together to say a big, “Goodbye!” to our friend and colleague, Mr William. Mr William has served HOPAC for the last 15 years as part of our gardening staff team and is now leaving HOPAC to focus on his pastoral duties.

To celebrate Mr William, grade 4 lead a hilarious assembly by reenacting some of the many times he became our Superhero - usually by rescuing teaching staff from enormous cockroaches, tarantulas, and birds. Both William and the students especially enjoyed Alunda’s (current grade 4 student) dramatic version of the famous grade 4 rat falling on Ms Roberston’s head many many years ago! Mr William saved the day!



MIDDLE SCHOOL MENTOR GROUPS

New for grades six, seven, and eight this year, Mentor Groups are a time for a small group of same grade, same gender students to meet with a teacher or adult. Mentors and students talk about life, classes, academics, and other personal, social, and spiritual issues. At the end of the year each mentor group went out to lunch or dinner together. Here is Mrs Kaniki with her grade 6 girls (Aisha Abass, Georgia Apson, Julee Lee, Anna Bakalemwa) at DJ Burgers:



IT’S HERE: THE HOPAC KANGA!

To commemorate our 20th anniversary, we had HOPAC khangas custom made here in Tanzania. Our accountant, Esther, is pictured to the right in a dress she had made with the khangas. Right now they are only for sale here at school but if there is a lot of interest, we may try to figure out how to get them to HOPAC alumni around the world!

