

# PIECE *of* HEAVEN

The magazine for the wider HOPAC community

The mission of Haven of Peace Academy is to provide an excellent, Christ-centered, 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.



## A Look Ahead

*By Ben Snyder, Director*

*Above and below: Tanzania leads the Parade of Nations during International Day. Next year's events will include a celebration of 20 years of HOPAC!*

When you close your eyes and think of what the future could look like for HOPAC and its students, what do you see?

In the five years I have been at HOPAC, I have asked myself that same question time and time again. Sometimes, I think I have a good answer; other times, I wonder if I'm just dreaming. But isn't that part of what a good vision should include? A little bit of dream?

Since becoming Director of HOPAC in March, 2013, I – together with the board, the management team, our teachers and our students – have set out to try to put to words just what we see for our students and our school as we move into the future. At first, a simple statement slowly started to take shape. Then the statement caused us to ask questions about identity, and a diamond came into play. But the whole process has produced much more than a statement or fancy graphic.

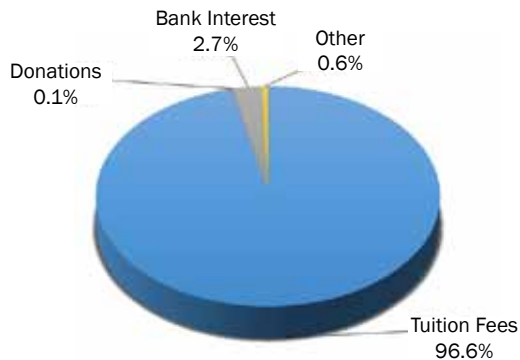
I cannot claim that this “vision” is a new one – it comes from the work of countless others who have poured thousands of hours into our students and our community; it represents a view that all of us share for our children as they grow up; and it pulls us right back to our core as a Christian school following the mandates we find in the Bible. It's exciting, challenging, world-changing, and daunting all at the same time!

Our vision is to be a school community committed to learning to live fully and to transforming our world with the Gospel.

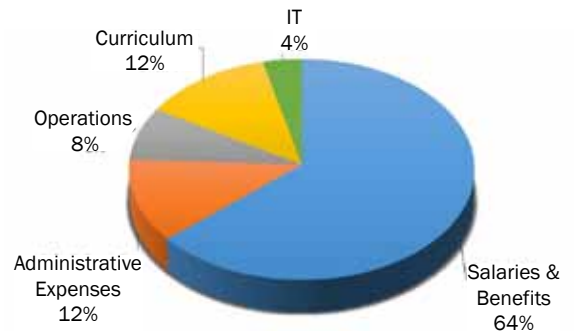


# 2013-2014 Financial Overview

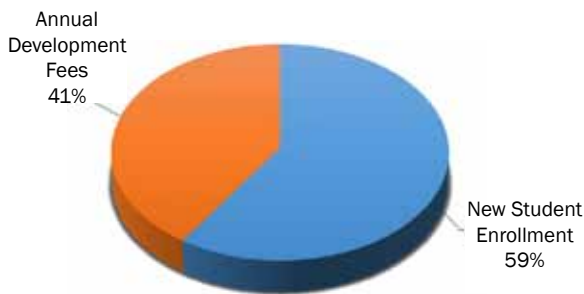
OPERATIONAL INCOME



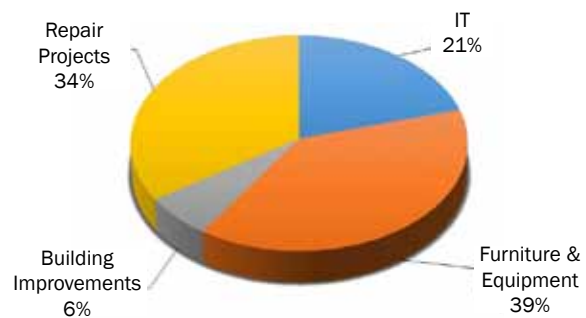
OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES



CAPITAL INCOME



CAPITAL EXPENDITURES



## Upcoming Dates

June	19	Last day of school for students & Graduation	December	9	Independence Day <i>no school for all</i>
	20	Last day of school for teachers		12	Last day of Term 1/Noon Dismissal
August	20	First day of 2014-2015 school year	January	5	First day of Term 2
September	22	Teacher InService Day <i>no school for students</i>		12	Revolution Day <i>no school for all</i>
October	13-17	Mid-term Break			
November	3-7	Pamoja Week & 20th Anniversary Celebration!			
	10	School holiday <i>no school for all</i>			



PIECE of HEAVEN

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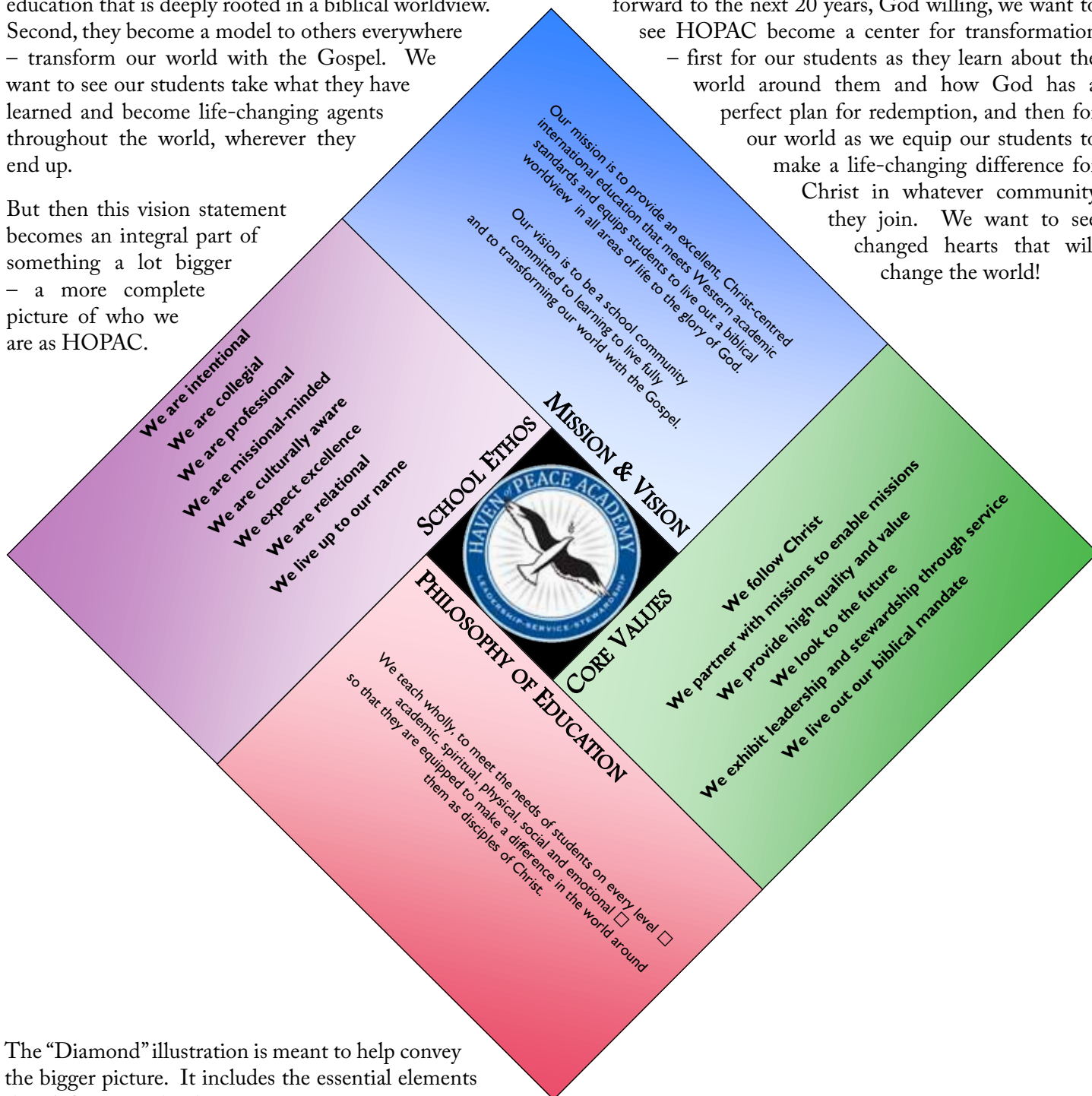
In 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8, Paul writes, “You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message... And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia – your faith in God has become known everywhere.”

This is how we see our student community developing, in two phases. First, they welcome the message – learn to live fully. We want to see our students transformed by an education that is deeply rooted in a biblical worldview. Second, they become a model to others everywhere – transform our world with the Gospel. We want to see our students take what they have learned and become life-changing agents throughout the world, wherever they end up.

But then this vision statement becomes an integral part of something a lot bigger – a more complete picture of who we are as HOPAC.

The “Diamond” is so important to us, not just because it helps define who we are, but it guides the decision-making process at all levels. Whether the question is about who to hire, or what to teach in English, or whether or not to construct a new building, any decision should keep us within the boundaries set by our “Diamond”. It shouldn’t change who we are.

This entire vision process has led us to an exciting time at HOPAC. As we finish our 20th year as a school and look forward to the next 20 years, God willing, we want to see HOPAC become a center for transformation – first for our students as they learn about the world around them and how God has a perfect plan for redemption, and then for our world as we equip our students to make a life-changing difference for Christ in whatever community they join. We want to see changed hearts that will change the world!



The “Diamond” illustration is meant to help convey the bigger picture. It includes the essential elements that define our school:

- \*our mission and vision, why we exist and why we keep working at it day in and day out
- \*our core values, those founding purposes that establish what we stand for and guide our decision-making

\*our central focus, what we do on a daily basis, as expressed in our philosophy of education, which guides our daily activities

\*our preferred culture, what it “feels” like to be part of HOPAC, what we often refer to as our school ethos

*Top: leading the whole school assembly during HOPAK (Kindness) Week  
Bottom: speaking with primary (left) and grade 1 (right) students*



## David Russell: HOPAC Chaplain

David Russell, along with his wife, Janet, and their sons, Gavin and Ethan, moved to Dar es Salaam in March 2013 to begin the transition into his role at HOPAC. Now, over a year later, David has completed his first year as chaplain and looks back on the year with excitement for what the Lord is doing at HOPAC. To him, a highlight of the job is being able to hang out with students and just “be here.” He can often be found mingling with students at the snack bar or playground during breaks and after school. Primary kids come up to him for a fist bump and encouragement, and older students seek him out for advice or just a fun chat. David clearly enjoys getting to know kids, leading assembly each week, and investing in youth through various activities in and around HOPAC.

As a missionary with YoungLife Africa, David looks back on their transition into Dar es Salaam as a positive experience. He commented, “YoungLife has been there every step of the way,” and mentioned the ease of moving directly into a fully furnished home with a great gardener and location. “It was nice to open the drawer and find the knives and spoons and forks already there.” Certainly, there have been adjustments to make, but God gives grace.

Over the course of the school year, David led the school in seeing Christ in creation, fall, and redemption. This was exemplified

during the Easter service, where students participated in several experiential stations. At the first station, Creation, students watched videos displaying the wonder of nature and, instructed by Mrs Koster, made their own artwork displaying a sunrise over the ocean. Then, students went to a room decorated like a jungle, the Fall station, where Miss Laarman, reading from the book of Genesis, shared the story of man’s fall. At the end of the story, when she bit into the apple as Eve would have done, the lights went dark and students were told to rip their artwork. What had once been beautiful was torn and destroyed in the fall. Students then walked in silence to the station of Redemption. Bible teacher Marc Driesenga shared the story of Passover and students partook of the seder meal. The Easter service culminated in a whole school assembly. Primary and secondary students brought their torn pieces of artwork which were used to form a mosaic in the shape of a cross, showing how what was broken was redeemed and made beautiful by the cross. The process created a powerful image in students’ minds of Christ’s gift of grace and redemption on the cross.

Looking forward, the Russells know that their life mission remains the same: to help as many youth as possible become healthy adults with a love for Jesus and the church.

*~ Abigail Snyder*

# Leaving Teachers

Jan Smits



Jan and Anja Smits (Biology, Service Learning) are returning to the Netherlands in July this year, after having worked in Tanzania since 1998 with Mission Aviation Fellowship and since 2003 with HOPAC as well.

The next few years will be spent reconnecting with their home church, spending time with their families and checking out possibilities to return to Tanzania or wherever God sends them next. Please pray for them as they look for jobs. Having been with HOPAC so long, they have many favorite memories. Mr. Smits will fondly remember the 24-hour biology field practicals and the SEW trips to the Rufiji and Gorimba. He also loves to remember all these times when it 'clicked' in one of his student's

brains and he could tell that what he had taught suddenly became clear.

Mrs Smits' favorite memories have been seeing HOPAC students serve with passion, whether on the SEW trips to MAF Dodoma or SON International in Morogoro or weekly at Benaco and Jangwani. Other highlights include the music recitals and all the plays done by HOPAC students.

Danielle Lovelett



Danielle Lovelett (Grade 1) will be returning to the U.S., first to her home state of Connecticut and then who knows where God will take her next! She is waiting on the Lord to reveal all the details but hopes to teach and do some volunteer ministry with children who are homeless. She has many favorite memories but two that stand out this year: when the U18

girls football team played their hearts out and won their match against IST; and recently seeing all the primary students praying together for Dar es Salaam and HOPAC in assembly. "It was amazing to see so many little ones lifting up prayer requests to our LORD as a primary body!"

Lyn Kaihua



Lyn Kaihua, one of HOPAC's key parent volunteers over the last 15 years will most likely be heading off to Nairobi with her husband and hopes to have lots of time to play tennis there. Lyn was instrumental in helping in many areas of HOPAC over the years... keeping our campus beautiful, fundraising to build our pool, coaching and teaching swimming

and, most recently helping to manage and run the snack bar. A big promoter of swimming, one of Lyn's favorite HOPAC memories was the all night swim marathon held at HOPAC several years ago where students and teachers were sponsored to swim in shifts all night long to raise funds for pool equipment.

Festo Kijo



Festo Kijo (Secondary Art & Design) will be returning to his commercial art work full time after teaching IGCSE and AS/A2 level art this year.

Winston Ly



Winston Ly (Math) and his lovely wife Ali will be moving back to the U.S. and most likely living in Nashville, Tennessee, near Ali's family. Winston will either be going back to university to pursue a nursing degree or teaching middle school. His favorite memory is when the whole school cheered and cried as he proposed to Ali during a school assembly and she said "Yes!"

Louise Nissen



Louise Nissen (Psychology) and her family will be moving back to Denmark where Louise will be a school counselor supporting students in several schools in a district. A memory that warms her heart is when, on one occasion when she forgot to start her lesson with prayer, her students stopped her to remind her to pray first.

# Kili Climb 2014

17 Students. 6 Chaperones. 6 Days. 5,895 meters.



In early April, a group of secondary students led by Ben Cook embarked on an epic adventure to climb to the roof of Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro's Uhuru Peak.

The trek provided students with a variety of new experiences, from the effort of walking for hours on end, to seeing snow for the first time. Each day, students and chaperones shared life stories and were mutually encouraged by verses selected by Ben Cook for the climb. After gradually ascending for four days, the team reached Kibo, at 4,700 meters. This alone was an enormous accomplishment.

Those students not affected seriously by the altitude rose at 23:00 to attempt the final ascent to the peak. Trudging through the dark up the steep slope to Gillman's point proved to be the

most difficult part of the climb for many students, as they battled altitude sickness, extreme cold, and exhaustion. Early the following morning, eight students and three chaperones reached the summit of Uhuru peak, only to take a few hurried pictures and turn back to Kibo where the entire team gathered to start the two-day descent.

Ascending Kilimanjaro is deceptively difficult, proving the sense of accomplishment the Kilimanjaro Team felt upon returning to HOPAC to be well-earned.

~ Abigail Snyder

**2014 Kilimanjaro Team:** Eliuter Nderimo, Cynthia Fritschen, Cindy Hu, Samuel Fritschen, Jacob Dunker, Nathan D'Mello, Caleb Larmey, Zoe Larmey, Imani Muya, Mirjam Smits, Euan Kelly, Maarten Koster, Garrett Morrison, Amanuel Wubeshet, Ryota Nishida, Jack Ayling, Christopher Heep, Lauren Snyder, Abigail Snyder, Winston Ly, Bob Peterson, Steve Wickham, and Ben Cook

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber."*  
*Psalms 121:1-3 (ESV)*

## Sports Days



Sports Days are a great mix of competition, community and fun and a great time was had by all during Sports Days 2014. They were truly a highlight for the PE department this year and we are already looking forward to next year. The weather was perfect and there were no significant injuries! Overall winners for each day were: Primary-Green House, Secondary-Yellow House. Thank you to staff, students and parents for making Sports Days 2014 a huge success!

# Beauty & the Beast



HOPAC primary and secondary students performed this “tale as old as time” on 30 & 31 May 2014. Director Sue Bramsen, Assistant Directors Jenn Wickham and Grace Nakaka, and Musical Director Janet Russell led a cast and crew of more than 50 students, teachers, and staff including Imani Muya as Belle, Aidan Buckley as the Beast, and Gavin Russell as Gaston.



Sue Bramsen, Abigail Chamungwana, Abigail Snyder, Agnes Westring, Aidan Buckley, Alex Bramsen, Amy Ellis, Artemis Mantheakis, Baraka Ringo, Benjamin Riebert, Bethany Dunker, Caleb Larmey, Caroline Bramsen, Chloe Morse, Christopher Heep, Courtenay Sutton, Daniel Kaniki, Deanna Dick, Deborah Royer, Dyan Larmey, Edison Bakalemwa, Elliott Buckley, Emily Steen, Emma Bramsen, Epiphany Larmey, Esther Walton, Gavin Russell, Gavin Wickham, George Mgeni, Grace Nakaka, Harry Ayling, Imani Muya, Jacob Graham, Jan Smits, Jane Gruler-Johns, Janet Russell, Jedidja Koster, Jenn Wickham, Johannes Kaihua, John-Luke Brooks, Joshua Royer, Kalea Sanchez, Kennedy Boon, Laura Shirley, Layla Wickham, Lois Graham, Malia Sanchez, Maria Gabikwa, Maryam Abass, Paulina Koster, PG Nkalang'ango, PJ Nkalang'ango, Rebecca Lee, Regina Sondo, Rene Sangwa, Ruben Koster, Sam Fritschen, Set Design FASA Club, Shelbyanne Ellis, Sixtus Kasembo, the Teachers, Trudie Kaniki, Zoe Larmey

## Grade 9 Service Learning



This year grade 9 service learning students researched and wrote about various issues within Tanzania and possible solutions. Their culminating research projects focused specifically on connecting those larger issues with problems occurring directly in Dar as Salaam. Their learning helped them understand how they can play their part in helping others around them.

This class did a great job of learning the theory of what service is in a broader context and then practically

linking what they learnt to real service. With help from teachers, the students came up with ideas of what they wanted to do as a class to serve the community. The two selected projects were purchasing mosquito nets for a local orphanage, and organizing a football day for children from Safina, a ministry for children who live on the streets. HOPAC students proposed to not only purchase the nets, but also to go to Maunga Orphanage and install them themselves. The football day with youth from Safina aimed to treat children living on the streets as equals and share students' resources with other children their age.

It was impressive how the grade 9 class rallied together to fundraise for these two projects through organizing a movie

afternoon for HOPAC students and selling food during the event. Grade 9 students worked together to prepare and bring food for the sale, to organize movies for different grades, and to select leaders from amongst themselves who gave organization and direction to the group. Their excellent use of leadership and teamwork paid off: over a million shillings was raised from their event!

The money raised was used for the Grade 9 Service Learning day on June 6. On this day, one group of students took purchased mosquito nets to Maunga Orphanage where they were installed. They also delivered snacks for the children living there. Another group of students remained at HOPAC where they hosted boys from Safina in friendly football matches and provided lunch after the games. ~Trudie Kaniki

*Note from Mrs Kaniki, Service Learning Coordinator: Parent involvement with these projects has been commendable. As a school, we wish to see parents getting even more involved in activities outside the classroom - well done to both parents and students for these successful service projects!*



## News in Brief

**Primary House Week:** As the school buses pulled into the HOPAC parking lot, a sea of colour could be seen filling the playground. Blue. Yellow. Black. Green. It could mean only one thing: it was primary house week again!

This year our primary House Captains joined forces to think of two charities that students and teachers could support through fundraising activities. The Nuru center, who enable disabled people to create crafts and jewelry items, were struggling with the heavy rains which were blowing into their workshops and ruining the stock. They were in desperate need of 'umbrella windows' to stop the rain coming in. Sala Sala Kids Club, who now have over 250 children registered, currently have a small drop-in center in the quarry behind HOPAC. They needed low level tables and chairs for preschool age children to use as they do craft activities in the afternoon.

Throughout House Week our primary students worked tirelessly selling cakes, cookies, toys and ice cream as well as organizing a carnival day complete with a bouncy castle! Students and teachers alike could be seen tucking into treats, throwing hoops and bouncing on the castle.

By the end of the week, our primary school students had fully endorsed this school year's theme of HOPAC United. By working in their houses and as one big primary team, they had managed to raise a fantastic 1 million TSH for the needs of the Nuru Center and Sala Sala Kids Club!

*~ Karen Graham*

**Student Council:** This year's primary and secondary student councils focussed on solidifying and strengthening existing student-run programs that have in recent years become important parts of the HOPAC experience. From sports tournaments to crazy hair days to carnival games at Christmas to Pamoja week they ensured these programs provided a rich experience for our community.

**New HOPAC Videos:** The new HOPAC recruitment video is now available online at: [vimeo.com/93272530](https://vimeo.com/93272530). Please share this link with any experienced Christian teachers that you know who might be interested in serving at a GREAT school! We have also put together a video that highlights the various things going on at HOPAC to be used on a more general basis, to share what the school is all about. You can find it here: [vimeo.com/93496219](https://vimeo.com/93496219).

