



# Rosslyn Academy Annual Report 2015-2016





# Rosslyn Academy

Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him.  
Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.  
And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people  
should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.  
Ephesians 3:17-18 (NLT) (Theme Verse 2015-2016)



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**INSPIRE.EQUIP.SERVE**



# Reflections on the Year

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?  
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our fathers trusted; they trusted and you delivered them. To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame... it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.” (Psalms 22)

This Psalm and others like it were particularly meaningful to our community in 2015-16. During the Christmas holiday, we experienced the tragic loss of a beloved 2nd grade student and staff child. Like the Psalmist, we cried out to God in our grief and confusion. And yet, in the midst of this tragedy and the year’s other challenges, we could also share the trust and hope that we see in King David’s words: we cried out and were rescued, we trusted and were not put to shame. Indeed, intermingled in the hardship were a host of joys and blessings that we can now look back on as a community with deep gratitude.

In the pages ahead, we will be sharing only a portion of the good things that God did amongst and through the Rosslyn Academy community in 2015-16, including: multiple evidences of strong student learning, God-given gifts blossoming in front of our eyes in the form of incredibly moving student performances and athletic achievements, a very strong re-accreditation report, another year of record enrollment and steady financial stewardship, and a graduating class of students that we believe are going to be world-changers.

We hope that this (our second) annual report will be an encouragement to you of God’s ongoing goodness to the school community that you have helped to build.



Dr. Philip Dow  
Superintendent  
Rosslyn Academy

During the 20th Century, North American missionaries left family, friends, and comfortable lives in unprecedented numbers to spread out across the globe. Wherever they went, they planted churches, hospitals, and schools because they believed that the most important and loving thing they could do with their lives was to share the good news of Jesus Christ with others.

There were a multitude of challenges facing these early missionaries, but at the top of the list was ensuring that their children received an education that would allow them to return to North America for university. Schools like Morrison Academy in Taiwan, the Alliance Academy in Ecuador, Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, and Hilltop School (soon to be called Rosslyn Academy) all grew out of this need.

Despite the drive and vision of these early missionaries, it is safe to say that the Eastern Mennonite missionaries (EMM) that started Rosslyn Academy in 1946-47 did not anticipate the unique story that would come out of their efforts, nor the tremendous impact that the school would have around the world through its former students.

A key part of Rosslyn’s unique story is the strong and lasting collaboration it represents between three quite different American protestant denominations. After moving the school to

Nairobi in 1968, EMM were joined by the Baptist Mission and the Assemblies of God as partner missions (in 1976 and 1988 respectively). Despite very real theological and cultural differences between the three groups, the ‘owning agencies’ found that what held them together – a strong commitment to orthodox evangelical Christianity and a commitment to an excellent North American education for their children – overwhelmed the denominational distinctives that would have otherwise separated them.

The partnership between the three groups has been fruitful beyond their expectations. From a student body of four in 1946-47, Rosslyn Academy has grown to a thriving school of over 650 students from approximately 50 different nationalities, with former students and graduates living out our mission statement of ‘Christ-like service’ around the globe.

# Rosslyn's Story 70th Year Anniversary

## Administration Courtyard 1972 and 2015



# Who We Are



Rosslyn Academy is an international Christian school offering a North American curriculum from Preschool through 12th Grade, as well as the AP program. The mission of Rosslyn Academy is to inspire and equip each student to develop their God-given gifts for Christ-like service in the world community.

**Location:** Nairobi, Kenya- in Gigiri neighborhood (within a mile of the UN complex and the US embassy)

**Core Values:** Christ-likeness, Community, Excellence, Intellectual Virtue, Service

**Average Class Size:** 20 students      **Teacher/Student Ratio:** 1:9

**Number of Students 2015-2016:** Preschool-19, Elementary-240, Middle School-161, High School-237

**Number of Nationalities Represented in Student Body: 52**  
(Top 4-American, Kenyan, Korean, Canadian)

**Faculty:** American 76%, Canadian 12%, Kenyan 6%, Korean 3%, Other 3%

**Fine & Applied Arts:** Drama, Choir, Band, Art, Pottery, Woodworking, Photography, Web Design and more.

**Athletics:** Basketball, Soccer, Rugby, Swimming, Volleyball, Field Hockey, Tennis

**Advanced Placement Program:** One of the largest and most successful AP programs in Africa

**Accreditation and Membership:** Middle States Association (MSA), Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), Advanced Placement Program (AP), AP/College Board, Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA), Child Safety Protection Network (CSPN)

**Percentage of Graduates that Pursue Post-Secondary Education:** Over 95%

**Sampling of University Admissions for the Class of 2016:** Columbia, Princeton University, University of Chicago, University of Pennsylvania, University of Edinburgh, Northwestern University, Cornell, Georgetown University, Emory University, New York University, Berklee College of Music, Boston University, Liberty University, London School of Economics, Savannah College of Art and Design, Syracuse University, Taylor University, Purdue University, Wheaton College



## Accreditation Update

In November, Rosslyn was successfully re-accredited by a joint team from the Middle States Association (MSA) and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). The accreditation team concluded an extremely encouraging oral report delivered to the Rosslyn faculty by stating that Rosslyn “meets all the standards for accreditation without stipulations.”

In addition to its strong overall reflections on the school’s continuing growth and development, the visiting team highlighted a number of strengths they had witnessed.

**Mission and Vision:** “While there is sometimes a great push to make sure everyone knows about the foundational documents prior to an accreditation visit, it was the team’s impression that the understanding and buy-in at Rosslyn was much deeper than that. It was clear that the community chose to be at the school because of what the school is and offers. This was true of Christians and non-Christians alike.”

**Spiritual Life:** “...it seems to be ever present and underpins everything at Rosslyn. This is one of the things that drives Rosslyn to be a truly special place.”

**Quality of Teaching:** “Classroom instruction is carried out by qualified, dedicated, energetic, creative and caring teachers.”

**Academic Excellence:** “The school has a strong academic track record as evidenced by both standardized assessments and internal indicators.”

**Facilities:** “It is evident that the school has used its funds wisely over the years; they have built an amazing campus with outstanding facilities...that serves the students and staff with excellence.

**Community:** “Overall, the atmosphere at Rosslyn is very positive and a sense of community prevails... students feel they are welcome and belong to something bigger than themselves, as do other constituent groups.”



**Student Enrollment**  
 Total Enrollment- 657  
 Preschool- 19  
 Elementary School- 240  
 Middle School- 161  
 High School- 237



## Student Demographic

### An International Student Body 52 Nations Represented

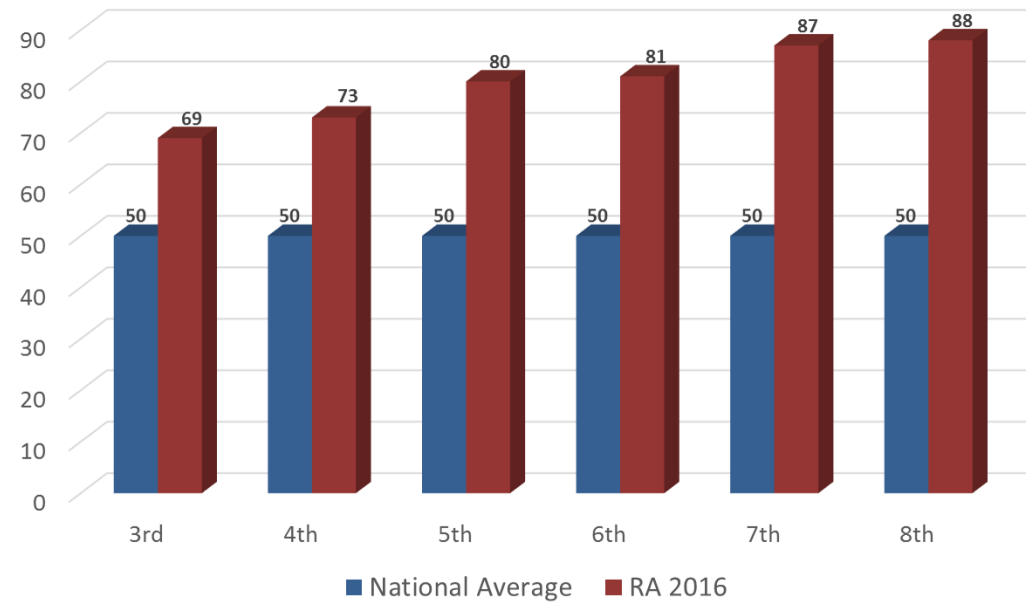
United States (34%), Kenya (22%), Korea (11%), Canada (5%)  
 Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, D R Congo, Denmark, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Great Britain, Grenada, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Moldova, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Rwanda, Russia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, St. Kitts & Nevis, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, Zimbabwe



# Current Student Success

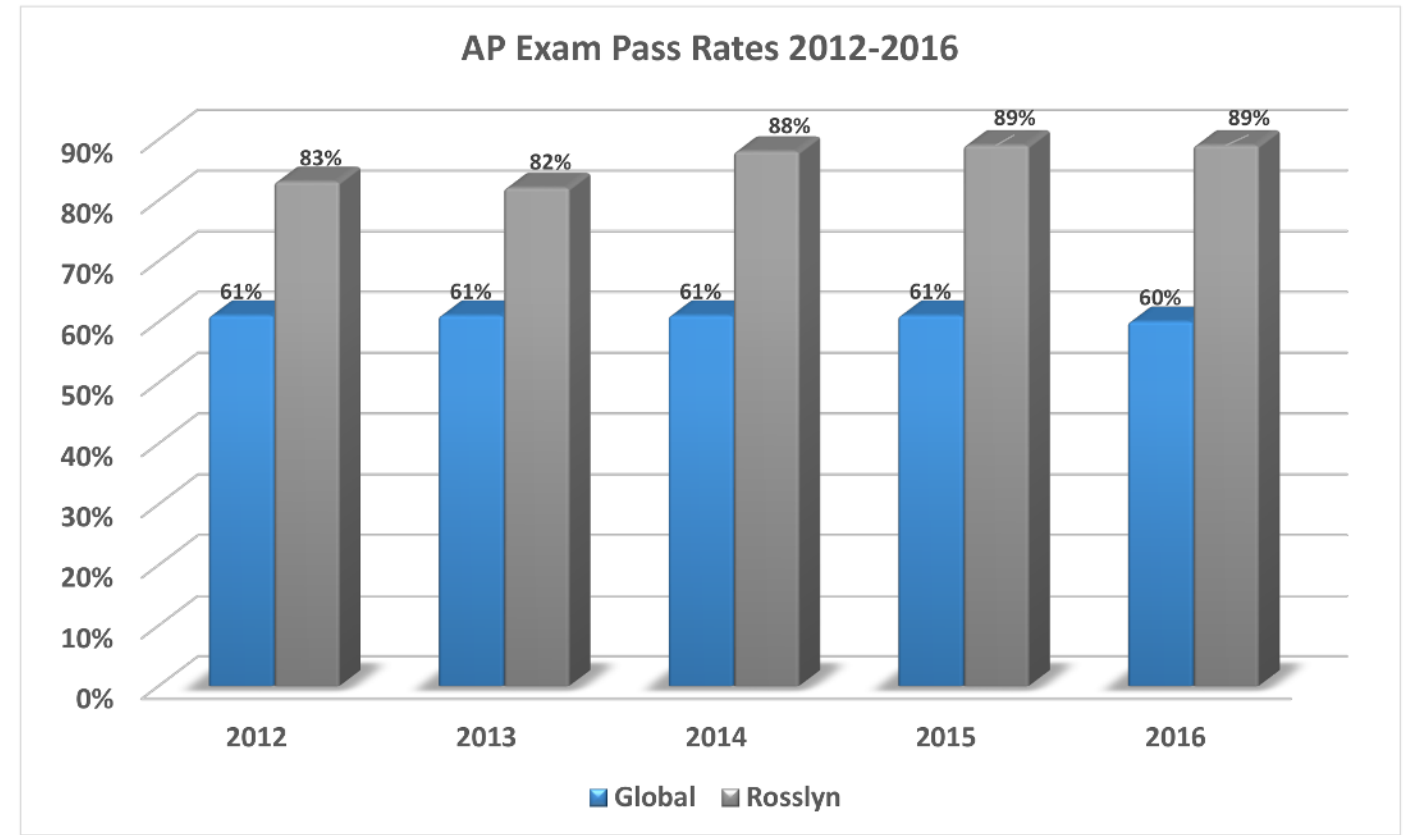
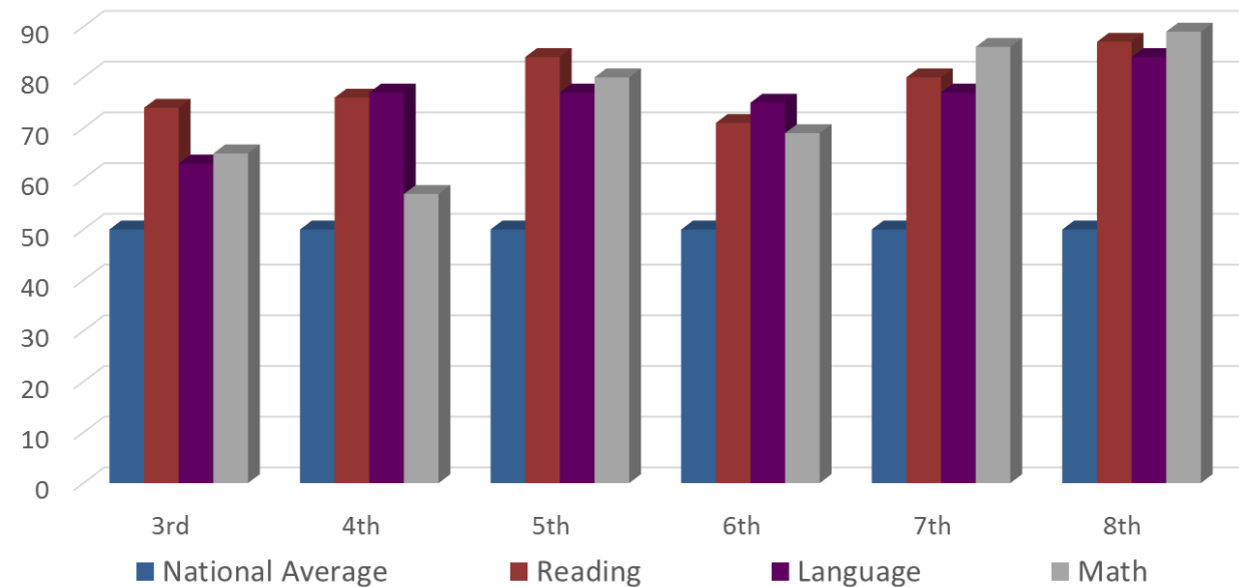
In order to provide an objective measurement of student growth at Rosslyn, each year our grade 3-8 students take the highly-regarded and widely-used American Terra Nova standardized tests.

Terra Nova Overall Median Percentiles by Grade



In every grade we continue to significantly outperform US national averages and are doing so by increasingly large margins. The fact that our median score (the score at the middle of the class) in grades 7 and 8 is above 85% is a strong affirmation of the caliber of our students, their teachers and the educational program at Rosslyn.

Reading, Language and Math Composite Median Percentiles vs. National Average



**THE AP (ADVANCED PLACEMENT) PROGRAM**

The Advanced Placement curriculum is a rigorous and globally recognized program aimed at high-achieving college bound students who want to prepare themselves for entrance to strong universities. The highly regarded program is similar to the International Baccalaureate program, but is used much more widely in North America. It has also been invaluable for our students seeking entrance in top UK and European universities.

Rosslyn Academy is proud of our reputation as one of largest and most successful AP programs in Africa. Once again, we are pleased with how well our students performed on their AP exams this past May. As you can see from the chart, our pass rate this year was eighty-nine percent (actually 89.4) - which is a full twenty-nine percentage points above the global average. As a school, we are particularly gratified to note that over seventy percent of our juniors and seniors were involved in the AP program. These quite remarkable numbers are a tribute to the excellent teaching and learning going on at Rosslyn, but also to the tremendously gifted and hard-working students that God has given us the chance to work with.



# Highlights from the Year

## SPORTS

**Varsity Girls' B'Ball** won RVA Tournament, Rosslyn Tournament, the KAISSO League and AISA (Association of International Schools Africa) Tournament

**Girls' Hockey** made KAISSO Semi-Finals

**Girls' Football** made Finals of KAISSO League

**Boys' B'Ball** made KAISSO Semi-Finals

**MS Boys' B'Ball (U14)** won the KAISSO U15 League

**Varsity Girls and Boys Basketball** traveled to Ethiopia to play in the AISA (Association of International Schools Africa) Tournament

**Doubles Tennis Team** won the Rosslyn Tournament

**Swimming** had individual swimmers repeatedly make personal best times

## FINE ARTS

Fall Production: Amazons and Swallows

Rosslyn's Got Talent

Spring Musical: Les Misérables

ROSCARS: Fine Arts Award Show

## CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Raised 1.5 million shillings for 3 wonderful organizations



Quote regarding the Les Mis Production: "The performance was exceptional... enormously successful. You have a very, very talented group of students." Mr. David Angell (Canadian High Commissioner)

Quote regarding the Les Mis Production: "I have been to many, many high school productions over the years and this is the most ambitious one I have ever seen. And the most well done."

(Parent from another school)



# Financial Information

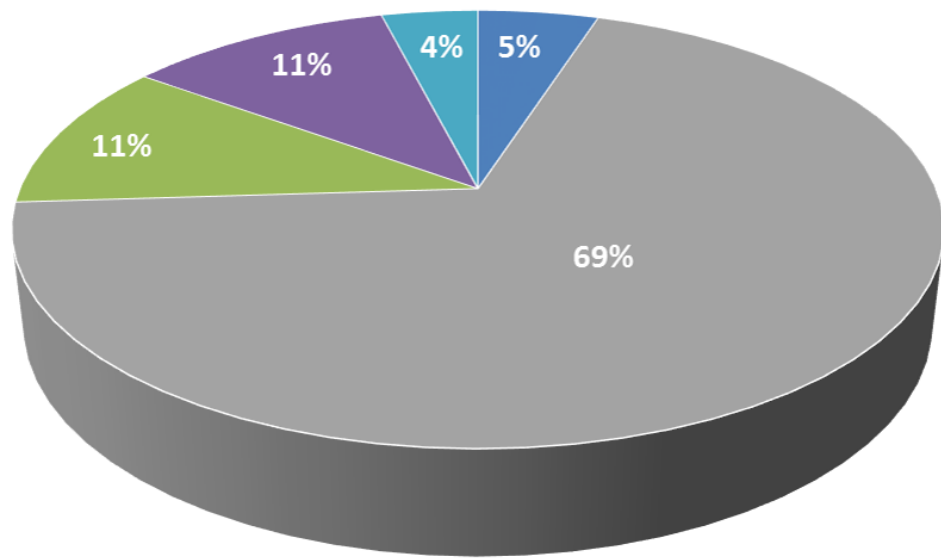
Rosslyn believes that strong financial stewardship is both a Christian obligation and is directly related to our ability to achieve our Christian educational mission with excellence. We also recognize that for many of our families, a Rosslyn education is a sacrifice and for this reason, we feel it is important to state clearly that as a mission-founded non-profit school, there are no shareholders who benefit financially from the school and no dividends that are shared between investors. All revenue generated from school fees goes into the costs of providing students with an outstanding international Christian education. Any surplus from a given year's budget is simply re-invested in the school.

## Rosslyn Academy Pre-Audit Figures

Revenue	\$7,996,492
Expenditures	
Operating Expense	\$7,127,201
Capital Expenditures	\$572,749
Total Expenditures	\$7,699,950
Total Surplus	\$296,542

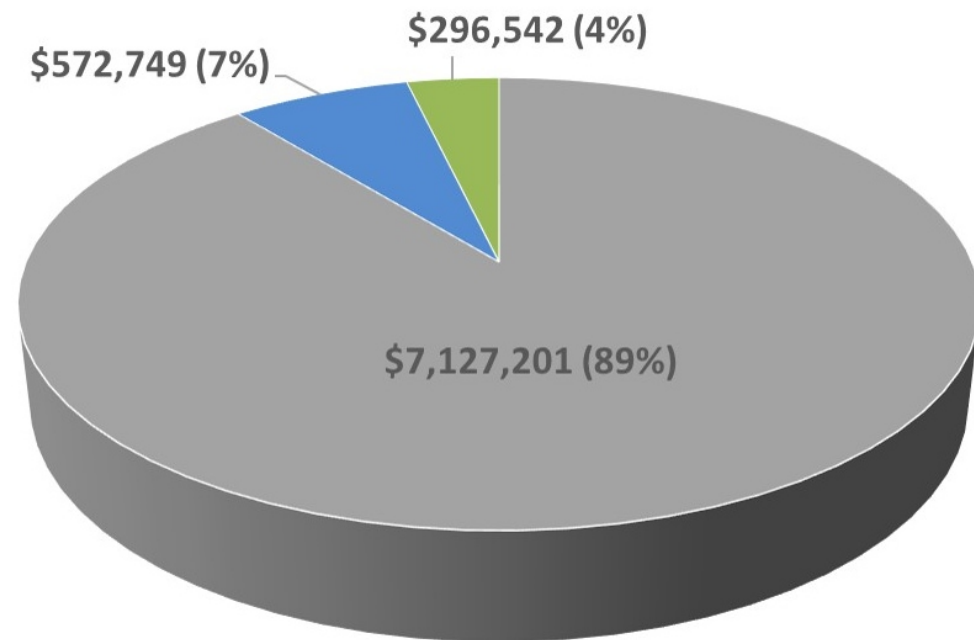
# Income Summary

Operating Expense Allocation 2015-2016



■ Administration ■ Personnel ■ Academic ■ Operations/Physical Plant ■ Transportation

Pre-Audited Revenue Allocation for 2015-2016



■ Operating Expenses ■ Capital Expenditure ■ Total Surplus



Introduction  
to  
New Staff  
2016-2017



Brian McKenzie  
Director of Finance



Don Mercer  
HS Principal



Dirk Jasperse  
HS Science



Sandy Arensen  
ES Art



Leanna Kieya  
5th Grade



Amy Schwandt  
MS Choir Accompanist



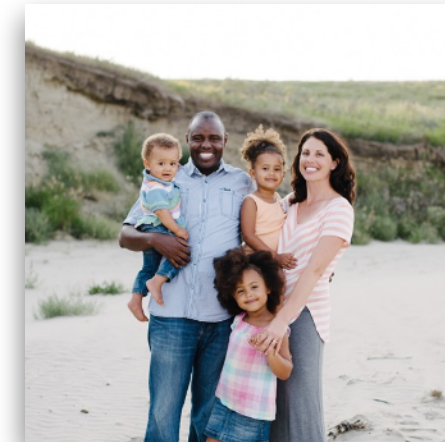
Esther Bitonga  
MS Kiswahili



Peter Bussey  
High School PE



Muthoni Mwangi  
ES Kiswahili



Stanley Gitonga  
MS CRE



Stacy Fuller  
MS Science



Maria Beckmeyer  
1st Grade



Michelle Brekhuis  
5th Grade



Ashley Burchel  
2nd Grade



Katrina Siegrist- 1st Grade  
Brent Siegrist- MS/HS Library



Sarah Rondeau  
Preschool and KG Specials

## Going Green Initiative

First, we want to give a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our "Going Green" solar initiative. We are not quite where we need to be to move ahead with the project, but we remain committed to the project and hope that by December 2016, we will have reached the target needed to see implementation in 2017.

For those of you unfamiliar with this initiative, the solar initiative is the embodiment of Rosslyn's strong commitment to both financial and environmental stewardship. Thanks to the school's ideal location for solar efficiency, the first phase of the project will cover about 70% of our school's daytime electrical needs. Over the life of the project, conservative estimates suggest that the 500 state-of-the-art solar panels will save the school will save several hundred thousand dollars in electrical costs while producing the carbon-free electricity equivalent of 2 million kilos of burned coal.

If you would like to support this initiative – and our hope is to get as many people involved as possible – either contact Jessica Dunning at: [JessicaD@rosslynacademy.com](mailto:JessicaD@rosslynacademy.com), or donate online through our partners RCE at: [rceinternational.webconnex.com/39000](http://rceinternational.webconnex.com/39000).

As we begin the 2016-17 school year, we do so with expectation and gratitude. Gratitude to the generations of teachers, students, and parents that have come before us and who have poured their hearts and minds into making Rosslyn what it is today. Gratitude to our current community, whose deep commitment to the school's mission and values continues to spur us forward. But most of all, gratitude to God. For we recognize above all else, that it is, "in Him, we live and move and have our being". As a community that has seen God's faithful provision, in seasons of plenty and in seasons of hardship, we believe firmly that, "unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."

This 2016-2017 year, we have already seen that provision in the form of a new group of excellent teachers and administrators who have recently arrived and are already having a significant impact. Our incoming staff average well over 10 years of experience in their roles, and almost all have some prior and significant connection with East Africa.

We also continue to be thankful for the contributions of the US Department of State and the US Embassy in Nairobi towards our campus security. Ensuring that our students and staff are safe, and feel safe, is critical to our educational mission. Grants from the US Department of State have allowed us to provide considerable security upgrades in the form of perimeter security, safe haven development and improved campus communication systems.

Finally, as the old joke in the US Midwest goes, there are really only two seasons, winter and construction. This summer we have been frantically working on a number of facility improvements that, we hope, will be ready when the students arrive for the beginning of the 2016-2017 year. These include a new High School Science wing – which includes a new Chemistry lab, a new Biology lab, and two other significantly remodeled rooms – a HS Physics lab and a second HS Biology lab. As part of our new accreditation goal of excellence in Math and Science, we have also just completed the process of enlarging and renovating the two main MS Science classrooms. These improved learning spaces are also being complemented by a new Learning Support Center and a new Counseling Center – all of which have been completed over the June/July break.

Between the arrival of the new staff, the facility developments over the break and the chance to build on a strong 2015-16 school year, there is definitely a mood of positive expectation on campus. What is it that God is going to do among us this year? We can't wait to find out.

## Looking Forward

