



ALZAR  
SCHOOL

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2014-2015

Alzar School  
PO Box 1609  
Cascade, ID 83611  
208.639.9891  
[www.alzarschool.org](http://www.alzarschool.org)



# THE WORLD AWAITS...

The mission of the Alzar School is to educate and facilitate the leadership development of high school students.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <b>4</b> From the School Administrators | <b>9</b> Fundraising & Development |
| <b>5</b> Our Six Foundations            | <b>10</b> Donor Recognition        |
| <b>6</b> Programs                       | <b>12</b> Board of Directors       |
| <b>7</b> Admissions & Enrollment        | <b>13</b> Financial Statement      |
| <b>8</b> Profile of a Student           |                                    |

“ I would do anything back at Alzar School right now. I’m emailing you to share some exciting news...I finally got all A’s for the first time in my life this spring semester. My time management seems to be so much better than it already was and that has done wonders! I would even go so far as to say that this semester has been the easiest one so far in high school for me...and I’m pretty sure it is supposed to be one of the hardest [at Lovett]. I am really proud of myself and I definitely have my Alzar School teachers to thank for that. So thank you very much!

- **Grace Raulet, Fall 2014 alumna**





## FROM THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS



In its third year as a semester school, the Alzar School built on the many successes of years one and two. Students were challenged in traditional and nontraditional classrooms to take academic lessons and apply and transfer the knowledge to new situations. They expanded their world view by traveling to Chile with students from across the country and world. Hiking volcanoes and paddling rivers, they learned they are capable, bold, and stronger together. The Alzar School continued to grow both in terms of enrollment and programming.

An increased number of students in 2014-2015 prompted growth in several areas. The school added additional student housing and temporary office space, and purchased a school bus to transport students and faculty to their adventures. A fifth teacher was added to the team, as well as an associate director of admissions. As we see the Alzar School community grow in size, it is obvious that the transformative experiences of living and studying in a small, intentional community is having powerful, rippling effects in the world.

We invite you to join us in celebrating our success as we look forward to another wonderful year full of challenge, adventure, and excellence.

- Sean & Kristin Bierle





# OUR SIX FOUNDATIONS

The Alzar School accomplishes our mission through the integration of our “**Six Foundations.**” Academics and Cultural exchange overlap as students complete conversational challenges. Students learn the power of servant leadership through our interactions with others. Outdoor adventure cultivates an appreciation of the natural world.

## 1

### ACADEMICS

Rigorous Classes: AP US History, AP English Language & Composition, AP Biology, Environmental Science and Biology, Harkness Discussions & Demonstrations of Learning.

## 2

### LEADERSHIP TRAINING

“10 Elements of Leadership,” LOD experiences on expeditions and on campus. Major student leadership experiences in Chile. Mentor meetings. Writing the CLP plan.

## 3

### OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Rafting and kayaking on the Payette, Salmon, Cato, Ñuble, Fuy, San Pedro, Petrohue Rivers. Backpacking in the Trinity Alps, Cochamo and the Owyhee Canyonlands. Skiing/snowboarding at Tamarack & Brundage Resorts. Winter camping.

## 4

### CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Learning cueca, Maria Jesus playing the guitar in the Andes. Homestays in Rancagua and Curico. Ferry rides in Patagonia, and camping with no electricity. Empanadas, sopapillas, and so much more.

## 5

### SERVICE LEARNING

Working on the perimeter trail on campus. Serving the community through cook crew. Volunteering at the Jazz Concert in Cascade. Planting trees and revegetating the Cabarton River put in.

## 6

### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Recycling program on campus. Heating the yurts with wood split by students. Hot showers thanks to solar water heaters. Restoring the riverbank on campus.



# THE HIGHLIGHTS

In the 2014-2015 Year the Alzar School notably achieved:

- Largest student cohort yet (Spring 2015).
- Operated new programs in Bullileo, Rio Cato, Rio Petrohue, and Rancagua in Chile.
- Had 113 applicants for the 2015-2016 year.
- Offered over \$183,000 in financial aid.
- Had 7 courses approved as “AP” by the College Board, and offered PSAT and AP testing on campus.
- Launched the “Paddle for Leaders” program and raised over \$85,000 for student scholarships.
- Joined the Semester Schools Network, National Association of Independent Schools, The Association of Boarding Schools, and Idaho Federation of Independent Schools.

This was another strong year for the Alzar School, and we look forward to building on our success in the coming year, with efforts focusing on refinement and sustainability.

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## YEAR IN REVIEW 2014-2015 PROGRAMS



- The semester program continued to be the primary focus of the school, with the efforts of the faculty and staff focused on scaling operations up to larger student groups. Notably this involved separating into two pods for most expeditions.
- Academically, the school’s teachers developed syllabi to be audited by the College Board for designation as official “Advanced Placement” courses. The following courses earned AP designation: US History, World History, Calculus, Physics, Biology, Environmental Science and English Language & Composition.
- Residential life programming was refined to reflect the larger student body (including adding more crew responsibilities and adjusting the work flow at meals). The medications distribution program for students was streamlined.
- Leadership learning targets were developed for the Teaching Fellowship program, working towards more definition in the teaching fellow role on expeditions.
- Videographer Thatcher Bean was brought in to capture the Alzar School experience in Chile and to develop videos to promote the Paddle for Leaders program and to highlight student profiles.
- Teams of Board members and Advisory Committee members worked on the new “Paddle for Leaders” fundraising campaign. This campaign made it possible for supporters to take on a paddling challenge and raise money for the student scholarship fund. Besides Head of School Sean Bierle’s challenge, four alumni completed paddling challenges, raising over \$4,000.

ALZAR  
SCHOOL'S  
SIX FOUNDATIONS



Academics



Leadership  
Training



Environmental  
Stewardship





# YEAR IN REVIEW

## ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT

For the 2014-2015 school year, the Executive Director, Head of School and Director Admissions worked together to put an emphasis on finding and enrolling wonderful teens. The admissions staff implemented a successful drip marketing campaign as a way to stay in touch with and encourage the applications of potential students and keep enrolled students excited.

The Director of Admissions, along with the Executive Director and Head of School, presented to 40 schools around the country, had 38 lunch booths, and met with administrators at 40 other schools. Alumni representatives from the Advisory Committee developed peer to peer connections with potential students by writing postcards and called students with incomplete applications leading up to the admissions deadline.

The result of these efforts is quantifiable. The number of applications started grew by 29%, while completed applications grew by 68%. This yields an anticipated increase in tuition revenue (for 2015-2016) of 47%. We will continue to enroll for the Spring 2016 semester and anticipate having our first full class of 24 students.

“ Here at the Alzar School I have been challenged in so many ways I still do not understand, and I most likely will not appreciate for many years to come. Coming to this school has been the wisest decision I have made in my life thus far. This place has taught me so much about myself.  
- Harrison Grant ”







## PROFILE OF STUDENT: **VERONICA PARKER, MEMPHIS, TN**


Veronica joined the school for the Fall 2014 semester from Memphis, Tennessee and was our first student from Soulsville Charter School. She was recommended to the Alzar School by administrators, peers and teachers and even had unsolicited letters of recommendation come in to our office. They all sang her praises, “Veronica is a poised, mature, joyful young lady determined to take advantage of every challenge and opportunity placed before her. What you won’t see is that she lives in one of the poorest areas in Memphis. You will never witness her making excuses for anything-- for she doesn’t allow there to be anything to make excuses for. Veronica’s maturity, attitude, diligence, and intelligence will allow her to thrive in your non-traditional environment; she will try everything and will work hard until she is achieving at the high level that she expects of herself. I do not think that there could be a better fit for your program.”

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**“My Alzar School experience will follow me for the rest of my life, and so will the skills that accompany it.”**

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During her semester, Veronica proved to be all her recommendations said she would be. She was highly regarded as a positive, hardworking community member who worked hard every day to make the most of her semester at the Alzar School. She experienced so many firsts, first time sleeping outside, first time in the snow, first time struggling academically in her classes, first time leaving the country. It was a privilege to watch Veronica embrace each first, and to learn and grow stronger with every challenge.

Since returning to Memphis Veronica has continued to work hard in her classes and was attended the Emory Debate Institute. She is working to build a garden in her school to help provide fresh vegetables to her neighborhood and community. She has her sights set on college and much like we were, any college would be lucky to have this determined young woman. We are proud of you! 



# YEAR IN REVIEW

## FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

The Alzar School fundraises to make its programs a reality for a diverse group of students. The School awarded over \$183,000 in financial aid to students across the country and internationally.

For the 2014-2015, the fundraising goal was \$100,000. To reach this goal, the school celebrated its scholarship program for Valley County students with an event in December. It launched the Paddle for Leaders campaign to raise funds for student scholarships, and had a successful evening at Bardenay. It was awarded a grant from the John William Jackson Fund. In total, the school raised \$85,119. In addition, the number of unique donations rose from 165 in 2013-2014 to 239 in 2014-2015.

“ I found what I was looking for this semester, and more. I found movement and an outlet for my pent up curiosity. But more importantly I learned.  
- Skye Ellison ”





## DONOR RECOGNITION

### Valedictorian

Alec Getzloff  
 Alice Caplan  
 Brian and Melanie Bush  
 Don and Stacey Leebern  
 John William Jackson Fund  
 Kristin and Sean Bierle  
 Larry and Tricia Bierle  
 Mark and Kristina Pickard &  
 Kelly's Whitewater Park  
 Mark and Linda Caplan

### Salutatorian

Amanda and Knox Thompson  
 Dennis and Kendra Coleman  
 Gary Michael  
 Gordon Saul and Wendy Smith  
 Kaylee Arnold  
 Kathryn leada  
 Jean Bierle  
 Jib and Marci Ellison  
 Jill West  
 John and Anne Olden  
 Kim Tanabe  
 Michael Vineyard and Treone Cooley  
 Midas Gold  
 Sean and Lora Breen  
 Tucker and Mark Schrage

### Dean's List

AIRE, Inc  
 Bardenay Restaurant and Distillery  
 Cailin O'Brien-Feeney  
 Carol Hines and David Elliott  
 Heidi and Joseph Holland  
 Herk and Colleen Cole  
 Jackson Kayaks  
 Katie Hawkins  
 Keller and William Torrey  
 Matt Schwarz and Molly Mannschreck  
 Michael and Wendy Petty  
 Michelle Gillespy-Goldstein and  
 Alan Goldstein  
 Paul Raulet

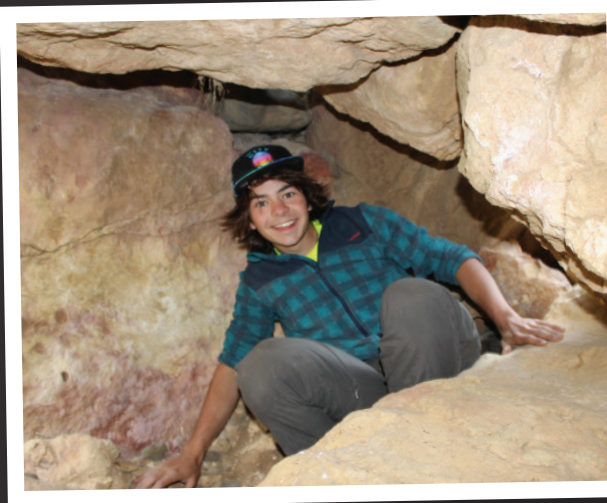
Ryan Bierle  
 Sam and Cindy Chewing  
 Shauna and Mike Arnold  
 Shore Lodge  
 Thinking Boise Real Estate  
 Ward Bourdeaux

### Honor Roll

Arnold Aviation  
 Milena Arthur  
 Backcountry Chiropractic  
 Brundage Mountain Resort  
 Conserve School  
 Dawne Hall  
 Dr. Uma's Healing and Creative  
 Arts Center  
 Gary and Amanda Thompson  
 Glenn and Tina Michael  
 Gravity Sports  
 John and Marilyn Stott  
 Jordan-Wilcomb Construction  
 Kevin and Toni Garvey  
 Laura and Wayne Shoup  
 Lori and Jon Hunter  
 Michele and Thomas Castle  
 Mikael Bedell and Cheryl Bracht  
 Nate Isaak and Jessica Padour  
 Network for Good  
 NRS  
 Osprey  
 Rizen Creative  
 Turin and Kyle Dickman  
 Wheeler's Pharmacy

### Graduate

Amerititle  
 Amy and Todd Rustad  
 Andy McFarland  
 Anita Cussler  
 Annie and Sam Langston  
 Ashley and Katrin Thompson  
 Ben and Libby Hill  
 Ben Pape  
 Eric and April Press  
 Esther Mulnick and John Watkins



Harlows Bus Sales  
 Heather Getzloff  
 Heidi and Jacob Strohmeier  
 Idaho Whitewater Unlimited  
 Jack Olson  
 Jacqueline Perreira-Skillman  
 Jody and Mark Meier  
 John Scott  
 Katie Basham and Andy Pressman  
 Katsey Long  
 Kelly and Mike McLeod  
 Ken and Sharon Anderson  
 Klean Kanteen  
 Lake Cascade State Parks  
 Lakeview Chevron  
 Larry Jones  
 Monique and Bob McCleskey  
 Patrick and Cissy Madigan  
 Pelayo and Magdalena Lavin  
 Press in the Pines  
 Roger and Lisa Cates  
 Ronda Roberts  
 Sattler Insurance  
 Shawn O'Brien  
 Will Yeiser





[On the hike in Cochamo Chile] I realized that success is relative and personal. It was a moment of growth because I finally accepted the fact that I was good enough.

- Emma Smith, Spring 2015

“I think the person who left Alzar School is a more self-sufficient, active and productive person, who now tries to achieve higher goals than before, and doesn't give up that easy.”

- Joaquin Couyoumjian, Fall 2014





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Alzar School is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and supported by an Advisory Committee comprised of experts and supporters from across the country. Bylaws, minutes, and other pertinent documents can be found online.

NAME	POSITION ON BOARD	OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER	RESIDENCE
Dr. Kim Tanabe	President	Physician, St. Luke's	Garden Valley, ID
Katherine Hawkins	Vice-President	Physicians Assistant, St. Luke's	Boise, ID
Cailin O'Brien-Feeney	Treasurer	Policy Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance	Boise, ID
Turin Dickman	Secretary	Biological researcher, Los Alamos Laboratory	Albuquerque, NM
Ken Anderson	Board Member	Retired, Former Principal Boise High School	Boise, ID
Tucker Schrage	Board Member	Former Teacher, Parent Representative	Alexandria, VA
Shauna Arnold	Board Member	Massage Therapist, Parent Representative	Cascade, ID
Kristin Bierle	Ex-officio member	Executive Director, Alzar School	Cascade, ID
Sean Bierle	Ex-officio member	Head of School, Alzar School	Cascade, ID



<i>Support &amp; Revenue</i>		2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016 (DRAFT)
Program Tuition & Fees	\$	245,125	511,072	608,132
AS Fund (Student Account)	\$	22,944	41,792	72,653
Restricted Contributions	\$	500,000	0	0
Other Income	\$	128,844	89,466	92,206
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>896,914</b>	<b>642,330</b>	<b>772,991</b>
<i>Expenses &amp; Capital Allocations</i>				
Academic Program & Support Services	\$	503,459	600,368	655,344
Interest & Investment	\$	10,422	2,564	21,765
Depreciation	\$	39,987	97,267	TBD
<i>Total Expense &amp; Capital Allocations</i>	<b>\$</b>	<b>553,868</b>	<b>700,199</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>NET RESULTS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>343,045</b>	<b>-57,869</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<i>Asset, Liability, &amp; Non Asset Summary</i>				
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$	50,152	199,770	207,459
Other Current Assets	\$	587,451	514,724	530,381
Property, Building, & Equipment Net	\$	3,705,408	3,634,334	3,743,929
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,313,011</b>	<b>4,348,828</b>	<b>4,481,769</b>
Current Liabilities	\$	41,229	28,408	23,916
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>41,229</b>	<b>28,408</b>	<b>23,916</b>
Retained Earnings	\$	-117,475	258,887	278,440
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$	4,041,849	4,041,849	4,041,849
Net Income	\$	347,408	19,552	137,433
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,271,782</b>	<b>4,320,420</b>	<b>4,457,853</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSET</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,313,011</b>	<b>4,348,828</b>	<b>4,481,769</b>



[Coming to the Alzar School] I was hoping to branch out and try new activities while stepping out of my comfort zone of being home. I was interested in all of the activities involved, wanted to get a new experience, and make new friends. This was all achieved.

- Mimi Bourdeaux