



ALZAR
SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014

Alzar School
PO Box 1609
Cascade, ID 83611
208.639.9891
www.alzarschool.org



THE WORLD AWAITS...

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

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At my time at the Alzar School, I was hoping to get away from a regular high school environment and try new things. I wanted to improve my Spanish in Chile, learn to kayak, and make new friends. I also wanted to focus on schoolwork with the small classes. I definitely think all of this and way more was achieved. I learned new skills (both concrete and abstract) that I did not even think about when applying.

- **Alexandra Soto**

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FROM THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS



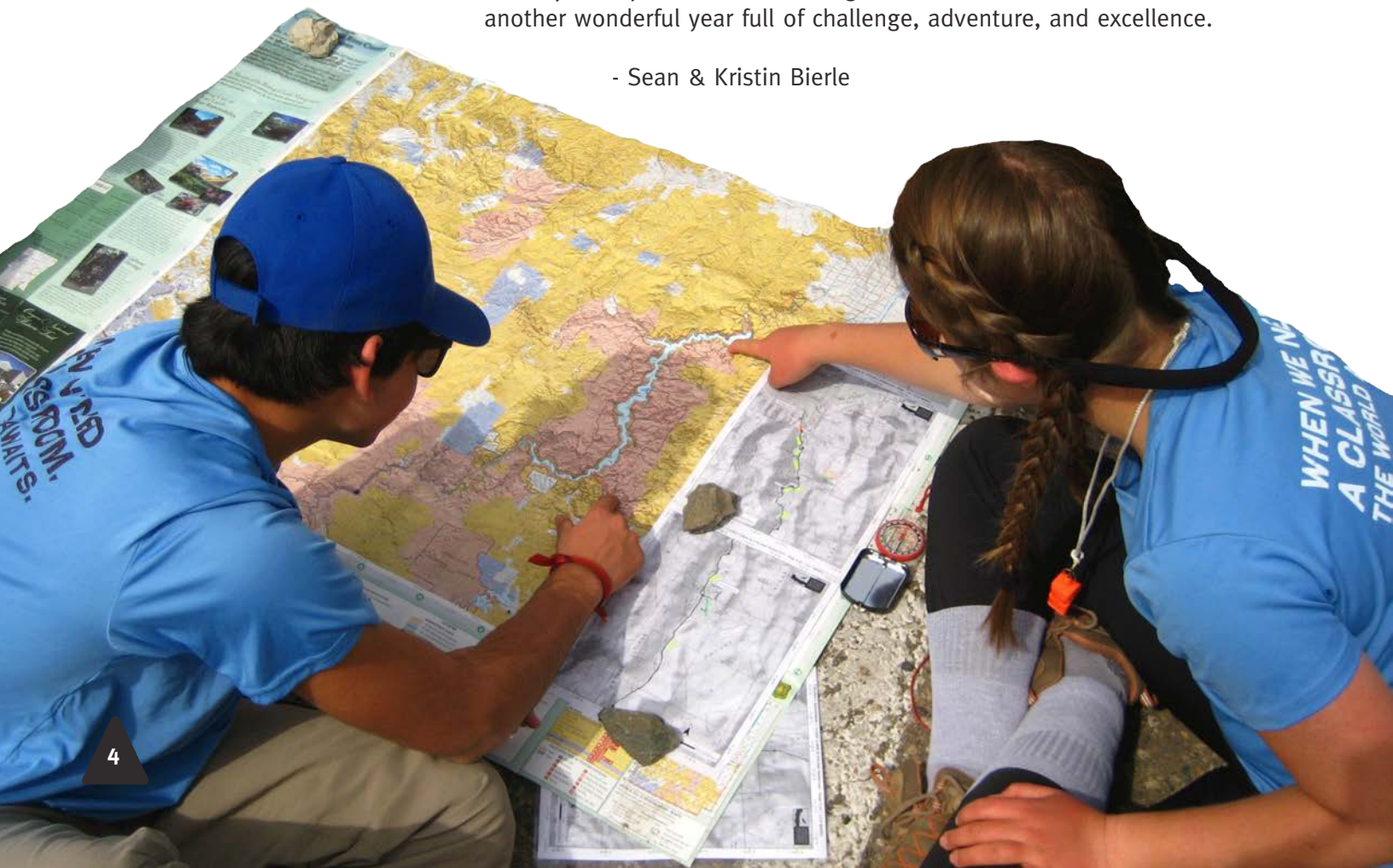
In its second year as a semester school, the Alzar School built on the many successes of semesters one and two. Students were challenged in traditional and nontraditional classrooms to take academic lessons and apply and transfer the knowledge to new situations. They expanded their world view by traveling 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.

The Fall 2013 semester was the first semester to start in the completed facilities. There were several other notable firsts: Joaquin Couyoumdjian was the first Chilean male student to join the school in Idaho, the orientation trip that departed from campus was the first time the school had offered that expedition. While in Chile, the students completed the first set of homestays in Choshuenco. Throughout the semester, the students pushed themselves to become better leaders.

The Spring 2014 semester was the first semester to backpack in Cochamo and the first group to explore the Rio Puelo. They also completed the school's first expedition in the Owyhee Canyonlands. Spring 2014 was the largest semester to date, with 13 students. Students completed WAPA and SRT courses in their semester, and took the first set of AP exams administered at the campus in Cascade.

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, Multi-variable Calculus, etc. Harkness & 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, Teno, Claro, Ñuble, Fuy, Trancura, Luicura, and Puelo Rivers. Backpacking in the Trinity Alps, Cochamo and the Owyhee Canyonlands. Surfing at Buchupureo. Skiing/snowboarding at Tamarack Resort. Winter camping.

4 CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Joaquin and Catalina teaching cueca, Jose playing the guitar in the Andes. Homestays in Choshuenco and Curico. Sharing photojournals. Volunteering at orphanage. Ferry rides in Patagonia, and camping with no electricity.

5 SERVICE LEARNING

Trail maintenance in Trinity National Forest. Clean-up at the Cascade Library. Teaching children in Choshuenco to kayak. Supervising at the Roxy Theater. Working on the perimeter trail on campus. Volunteering in McCall for the Arts and Humanities Council, volunteering at the Jazz Concert in Cascade.

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 2013-2014 Year the Alzar School notably achieved:

- Largest student cohort yet (Spring 2014)
- Expanded permits to include backpacking in the Owyhee Canyonlands.
- Operated new programs in the Trinity Alps, Rio Puelo, Cochamo, and Owyhee Canyonlands.
- Had 87 applicants for the 2014-2015 year.
- Offered over \$201,000 in financial aid.
- Had 6 courses approved as “AP” by the College Board, and offered PSAT and AP testing on campus for the first time.
- Launched and completed an \$80,000 capital campaign for a new student yurt.
- Initiated partnership with the University of Idaho to refine our Teaching Fellow Program.

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 2013-2014 PROGRAMS



- The semester program continued to be the primary focus of the school, with the efforts of the faculty and staff focused on improving from the lessons of our inaugural year.
- 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, and English Language & Composition. Additionally, the College Board approved the school to administer PSAT and AP tests on campus.
- Tweaks were made to the outdoor program, including adding academic time on expeditions, developing “Leadership Learning Targets” to describe the leadership progression, changing to Wilderness Advanced First Aid training for students, and adding operations in the Trinity Alps, Rio Puelo, Cochamo, Owyhee Canyonlands, and Salmon River.
- The Teaching Fellowship added an official course (taught by Sean and Kristin Bierle) that met twice-weekly. And, the school initiated a partnership with the McCall Outdoor Science School and the University of Idaho to allow future Teaching Fellows to be recruited from their graduate school program, with an official “student teaching” block occurring at the Alzar School.
- Teams of Board members and Advisory Committee members worked to revamp several key components, including the school’s Risk Management Program and the Camp Cup. The Camp Cup committee developed and initiated an additional program to take to summer camps (“PLUS”) and garnered endorsements and sponsorships from the American Canoe Association, USA Canoe & Kayak, and World Kayak.

YEAR IN REVIEW

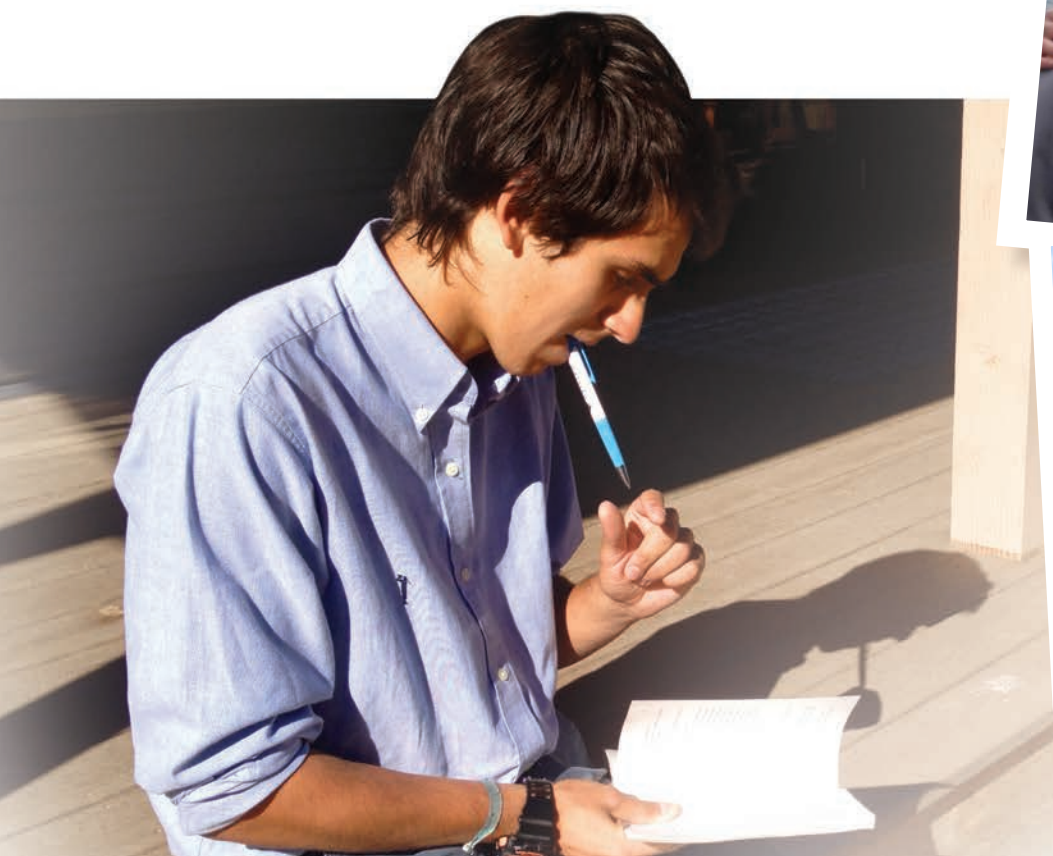
ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT

For the 2013-2014 school year, the Alzar School hired a full-time Director of Recruiting, Admissions, and Enrollment for the first time, firmly placing the appropriate level of emphasis on this crucial program at the school. The department developed a manual to replicate efforts from year to year, deepened its use of Salesforce.com to manage data, and offered multiple online webinars to educate potential families.

The Director of Admissions, along with the Executive Director and Head of School, presented to 40 schools around the country, had 28 lunch booths, and met with administrators at 26 other schools. The team developed a rubric for scoring applicants, integrated new informational videos into dynamic presentations, and worked with Boise marketing and PR firms to hone the school's message.

The result of these efforts is quantifiable. The number of applications started grew by 97%, while completed applications grew by 79%. This yields an anticipated increase in tuition revenue (for 2014-2015) of 26%.

“ My favorite part of the semester was bonding with the other kids from different parts of the world. Not only did I become life-long friends with the other students, I created friendships in Chile that won't end anytime soon.
- Kate Hunter ”





PROFILE OF STUDENT: **JESSICA, MCCALL, IDAHO**

Jessica joined the school for the Fall 2013 semester from nearby McCall, Idaho. As a child, she lived on a remote ranch, accessible by boat or plane, on the Salmon River. During her semester, she was highly regarded as a positive, hardworking community member who wanted to get all she could out of her semester at the Alzar School. Here's what Jessica has to say about her experience at the Alzar School:

"I was hoping to come out of this experience with new friends and more confidence in my abilities, both as a student and as a paddler, camper, etc. From this experience, I have gained both confidence, a greater appreciation for the outdoors, and a second family. It was great to know our teachers so well and feel comfortable around them."

"I have learned that I have great ideas but sometimes I am hesitant about communicating them to everyone else. This is something that I have been working on and will continue to work on."

"Kayaking was the most fun and challenging for me because I was basically starting at zero and I had to persevere and try really hard to get to the point that I have made it to in the last few months. Getting my combat roll was so empowering and I am so glad that I was privileged with the chance to have that experience."

"I hope to use my skills to complete my CLP, and then after that, plan trips with my friends and family."

After her semester at the Alzar School, Jessica launched into her Culminating Leadership Project, called "Drawing Connections." For this project, she put on free art clinics for local youth, engaging up to 19 children in a single session. The clinics led to a collaborative art piece that was displayed in the McCall library. Jessica returned to the Alzar School in June 2014 to assist with construction of the new student yurt. [▲](#)

YEAR IN REVIEW

FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

The Alzar School fundraises to make its programs a reality for a diverse group of students. Ultimately, the school's goal is that no student is turned away from the experience because of finances.

For the 2013-2014, the fundraising goal was \$40,000. To reach this goal, the school celebrated its scholarship program for Valley County students with an event in December. It launched a capital campaign to raise funds for a new student yurt, and participated in Idaho Gives. It was awarded a grant from the John William Jackson Fund. In total, the school raised \$82,854, more than doubling its goal! In addition, the number of unique donations rose from 55 in 2012-2013 to 165 in 2013-2014.



I learned that I am much more capable than I thought I was. Alzar School helped me learn that there is a lot more to leadership than just bossing people around, and then helped me build on those new skills.

- Ben Barnes





DONOR RECOGNITION

Valedictorian

Sue and Glen Lovelace
Beth & David Park
Kevin Arrien
Larry & Tricia Bierle
Mark & Kristina Pickard
Sean & Kristin Bierle
KC & Randa Weiner

Salutatorian

Kim Tanabe
Ben & Libby Hill
Carol Hines & David Elliot
Dan Givens
Jean Bierle
Paul & Nancy Fontenot
Robert & Jacque McIntyre
Rodrigo Balbontin & Ximena Cox
Sean Breen
Shauna & Mike Arnold
Tim & Kris Martin

Dean's List

John Scott
Bardenay Restaurant & Distillery
Casey Jeffus
Estée Park
Bradley & Meda Barnes
Cailin O'Brien-Feeney
Cornelia & David Shotwell
Herk & Colleen Cole
Jan Peterson
John & Anne Olden
Katie Hawkins
Isabelle Leonaitis
Matt Schwarz & Molly
Mannschreck
Michael & Margaret Henbest
Michael & Wendy Petty
Michelle & Rod Burks
Nikcole Lowery
Sam & Cindy Chewning
Sherry McKibben & Doug Cooper
Tony & Daria Pori

Honor Roll

Wheeler's Pharmacy
Amy and Todd Rustad
Katie Thompson
Steve Bate
Camp Merrie-Woode
John & Marilyn Stott
Katie Basham & Andy Pressman
Kelly & Michael McLeod
Ken & Sharon Anderson
Kevin & Toni Garvey
Laura & Wayne Shoup

Graduate

McKenna Nowak
Woody Liles
Jeffrey Trufant
Christopher Hinze & Lucy Chronic
Rebecca Hurd
Alex Garella
Alice Hill
Wilson Sharp
Carol Arnold
Ashley & Katrin Thompson
Britta Weisner
Bruce & Patricia Budge
Bryan Biggs
Camps Kahdalea & Chosatonga
Clement & Charlotte Riddle
Stefan Anderson
Damon Yerkes
Emily & Jay Boren
Freddie & Jamie VanMiddendorp
Gay Reilly
Gene & Joyce Novotny
Hines Liles
Heather Getzloff
Heidi & Jacob Strohmeier Family
Meghan Feeney
Jack & Lavonne Bierle
Jack Olson
James Beckwith
Jane Pickens
Jeff & Samantha Cole
Josh Unger & Jenaleigh Kiebert
Jim & Robin Mayfield
John Fox
Lexi Spirtes
Patrick Miller



Kathleen Thomas
Kathryn & Grant Farnsworth
Keith & Kelly Hughes
Kerie Kushlan
Kilmeny Parker
Kylie Stott
Larry & Susan Stauffer
Scott Boiko
Burke Martin
Liz & Dan Neighbor
Lori & Jon Hunter
Martha Brummitt
Mary Tracey
Michael & Sharon Bixby
Isaac Goldstein
Molly & Joe Santos
Nate Isaak & Jessica Padour
Pam & Ron Harper
Caroline Kerr
Rod Rushby
Lisa & Roger Cates
Challis Cates
Sam & Andrea Goff
Sandee & Wayne Dingman
Sattler Insurance
Scott & Bev Davenport
Shawn O'Brien
Steve Semels
Susan Olson & Ric Colby
Suzanne Gregg
Theresa Perry
Maggie Ruch
Hannah Kessenich
Yuri Davydov

“

One day, as I was paddling on the Rio Fuy, plowing through the waves and conquering the rapids, I looked behind myself, only to see Volcan Choshuenco looking above, and I realized the beauty that exists all over the world. Seeing these amazing sights has inspired me to further my travels and explore what the earth has to offer.”

- Isaac Goldstein

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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
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 & Revenue</i>		2012-2013	2013-2014 (DRAFT)
Program Tuition & Fees	\$	245,125	408,164
AS Fund (Student Account)	\$	22,944	39,450
Restricted Contributions	\$	500,000	0
Other Income	\$	128,844	149,052
Total Support & Revenue	\$	896,914	596,666
<i>Expenses & Capital Allocations</i>			
Academic Program & Support Services	\$	503,459	567,952
Interest & Investment	\$	10,422	5,825
Depreciation	\$	39,987	N/A for now
<i>Total Expense & Capital Allocations</i>	\$	553,868	573,777
NET RESULTS	\$	343,045	22,889
<i>Asset, Liability, & Non Asset Summary</i>			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$	50,152	91,276
Other Current Assets	\$	587,451	507,114
Property, Building, & Equipment Net	\$	3,705,408	3,731,601
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	4,313,011	4,329,406
Current Liabilities	\$	41,229	7,984
Total Liabilities	\$	41,229	7,984
Retained Earnings	\$	(117,475)	256,552
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$	4,041,849	4,041,849
Net Income	\$	347,408	22,889
Total Equity	\$	4,271,782	4,321,422
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$	4,313,011	4,329,407



I came to the Alzar School to learn about myself and challenge myself. With the help of my classmates and teachers who always pushed me to my limits, I discovered things I would never have been able to if I had been in a normal school/life setting.

- Darby Huye