



RIVERSTONE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Annual Report

2010-2011

Dear Riverstone Community,

We are thrilled to introduce to you Riverstone's first Annual Report.

Since its inception in 1997, our school has grown by leaps and bounds and we now set the standard for educating today's youth for tomorrow's world. We are one of a small group of schools in the United States offering all three International Baccalaureate Programmes, nurturing students from preschool through grade 12. Our students meet success in their lives, both in and out of the classroom, and our graduates secure acceptances to some of the best colleges and universities worldwide. It is rewarding to reflect on the fact that our alumni are graduating from college and continuing onto graduate school and making meaningful contributions in a variety of careers. We have much to celebrate as we enter our 15th year.



Gr 2 performs A Midsummer Night's Dream



Gr 7 and their tasty cellular structures

As a community, our efforts continue to focus on offering an innovative education for local and international students that provides a broad range of experiences. Riverstone, with the Five Pillars at its core, was recognized in 2011 by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) for the various ways that we prepare students for the 21st Century. Our focus on critical thinking, oral and written communication, leadership, collaboration, global perspective, digital literacy, adaptability, and integrity have been noticed far beyond the boundaries of Boise.

Many of you have seen our school grow and change over the years. The generosity and dedication of many people, coupled with astute resource management, has enabled your administrators and Board of Trustees to ensure that Riverstone stands on solid financial footing and is able to grow from a fledgling entity to a self-supporting institution. Our community has always responded generously to our Capital and Annual Fund Campaigns and auctions, as well as requests for volunteers. We

gratefully thank you all. I would also like to thank Andrew Derry for his leadership during the past three years and wish him and his family all the best as they embark on their next adventure in Harare, Zimbabwe.

We are proud to share with you our successes from the 2010 – 2011 school year, and invite you to read on!

Kurt Liebich
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Riverstone International School is a unique independent school located in Boise, Idaho, that offers an education based on the world-renowned programs and the philosophy of the International Baccalaureate Organization.

Our educational philosophy is built on a foundation of five pillars:



- Academic Excellence
- International Understanding
- Community and Service
- Leadership by Example
- Outdoor Education



Graduation for the Class of 2011

Letter from the Head of School



Dear Riverstone Community,

It is with great excitement that I write this Annual Report letter. Presenting this information to our community as we celebrate our 15th year as a school is a direct result of parent feedback from our R Factor surveys and our desire to become more transparent to our community.

As always, I thank our staff for their hard work and dedication without which we would not have accomplished these achievements this past year. In addition to the great things we do on an ongoing basis, I am pleased to share that during our 2010-2011 school year, Riverstone:

- Was recognized as a leader in educating students for the 21st Century in the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) white paper, "Making the Case for Schools of the Future."
- Received accreditation from the Council of International Schools.
- Successfully completed our International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme re-authorization.
- Implemented the Middle Years Programme assessment process and criteria.
- Elementary School students joined students around the globe in World Math Day.
- Introduced the beta-version of Moodle (now renamed *The Holt*) to the Middle and High School.
- Piloted the Australian Council for Education Research (ACER) International Standards Assessment tests in Grade 3 and 7. Our students' average scores surpassed scores from top schools around the globe.
- Established collaborative planning sessions for our teachers as well as hosted a Council of International Schools training session.
- Launched our two-year Math and Science Initiative with the goals of building a state of the art science lab for all grades, clearly communicating our math and science curriculum, seamlessly articulating the math and science curriculums from preschool through grade 12, offering more after-school science activities, and continuing to challenge students with real-life problem solving opportunities.
- Expanded our students' international activities in our younger grades and introduced a Grade 7 trip Washington, D.C. as a pre-teaching tool for United States History and a Grade 10 trip to Escola SESC in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- More fully developed and integrated our outdoor education program with inside-the-classroom curriculum by moving trip destinations and timing for several grades.
- Students showed their compassion and leadership capabilities as they spearheaded the Idaho Meth Project Ad Campaign Kickoff, instigated an Origami Crane Project for Tsunami Relief in Japan, organized a music festival for Riverstone's first recording studio, raised funds for African Solutions for African Problems, and more.
- Competed in the Western Idaho Conference for the first time, expanded our athletic offerings to include girls volleyball, and continued to build our athletic teams.
- Celebrated our graduating seniors who were offered the largest amount of non-loan and merit scholarships in Riverstone history.



Gr 10 in Brazil



Middle & High School Fall Trip



Middle School Soccer

As our community is once again united on one campus, we look forward to discovering and fostering meaningful opportunities for interactions between the divisions. We will continue to encourage our High School students to be the unique, independent young adults that they have grown to be. The force of their character, their interests, their work ethic in the Diploma Programme, and their college application journey will impact our entire campus. It is a pleasure to welcome these students back.

I have the same passion for Riverstone that I had ten years ago when I arrived, and am honored by the special role that teachers play in students' lives. I have long held the belief that "The Riverstone Community Matters." What we do at Riverstone is unique and does not happen anywhere else. Collectively, we inspire kids to be great - great at becoming the wonderful young adults they were meant to be.

Bob Carignan
Head of School

Riverstone by the Numbers

Established in 1997 as a private, independent school, Riverstone International School is a community of inspired staff and families dedicated to preparing students for a future that will require critical thinking, international awareness, leadership skills, and a commitment to others and our environment.

Riverstone is one of only 13 schools in the United States authorized to provide all three International Baccalaureate Programmes:

- ▶ Primary Years Programme (149 students in preschool - grade 5)
- ▶ Middle Years Programme (111 students in grades 6 - 10)
- ▶ Diploma Programme (66 students in grades 11 - 12)

We had a total enrollment of 326 students, including 17 international exchange students and 204 families, in 2010-2011. Our students and staff represented 23 countries and six continents. We actively seek to increase representation from around the globe in our community. We had a full- and part-time staff of 55 and our faculty:student ratio was 8:1.



Gr 7 Art at the Idaho Shakespeare Reserve

Our Student Body

Riverstone encourages students to pursue their passions, whether academic, artistic, leadership, service, or athletic endeavors. Our students competed at local, national, and international levels and many served in leadership roles for their teams or organizations. The breadth of interests and activities that our students are involved in enhances our school community.

- Grade 8 Design Technology students received the Best Communication Systems award in the National Engineers Future Cities Competition.
- Eleven students qualified to compete at the state National History Day competition with five students advancing to the national competition in College Park, MD.
- The High School team placed second in the small school division of the Idaho State Science Bowl competition.
- One hundred percent of Riverstone's 32 graduates were accepted to colleges and universities worldwide and students were offered in excess of \$6.7 million over four years in non-loan and merit-based scholarships.
- Student athletes competed on school teams for soccer, volleyball, basketball, and skiing. Student athletes also competed on public school and club teams for golf, tennis, swimming, lacrosse, softball, cycling, ice skating, kayaking, running, and alpine and nordic skiing.
- Students embraced the music and arts, including performing in our Middle School musical production, local chamber symphonies and choirs, rock bands, and dance and theatre companies. Students performed in school recitals and local music competitions, as well as exhibited art in juried art shows.
- Students joined community organizations such as the One Stone Foundation, the Mayor's Advisory Board, Boise Bicycle Project, Boise Community Radio, the Idaho Meth Project, and others.



National History Day

To expand their perspective, our elementary students made friends in Colombia, England, Oman, Thailand, and Egypt via emails and videoconferences. Students in Grade 7 traveled to Washington, D.C. to study United States history. Grade 8 and Grade 10 students developed language skills and cultural awareness as they hosted students from Bogotá, Colombia and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, respectively, while having the opportunity to travel to these countries. Additionally, our international students shared their country's culture and traditions through assemblies and everyday interactions.

Service to others takes place in the context of what students are studying or have a connection to personally. Service learning projects included assisting at the Common Ground farm, building a bird habitat, sustainable landscaping on school grounds, raising funds for Womens' World Banking, marking storm drains, filling backpacks for the Idaho Foodbank, and volunteering at local homeless shelters. Diploma Programme students perform at least 150 Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) hours that reflect their personal interests and passions.

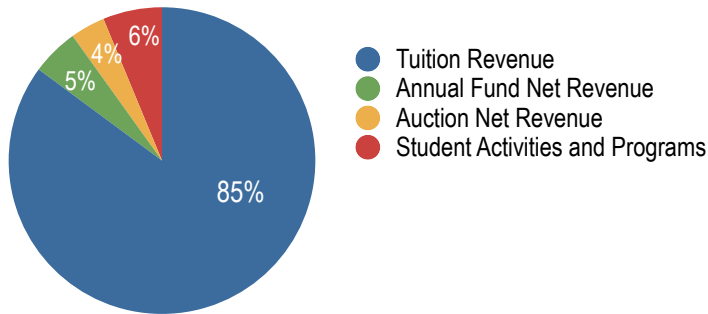


Gr 4 at the Idaho Foodbank

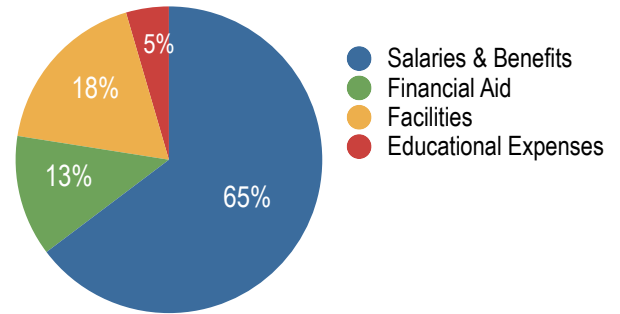
The outdoor education program builds leadership and outdoor skills, strengthens relationships, and integrates with the indoor classroom curriculum. Destinations included Zoo Boise, Montour Campgrounds, McCall Outdoor Science School, Yellowstone National Park, rafting the Deschutes River, and backpacking trips to Sawtooth and White Cloud Mountains, Hells Canyon, Grand Gulch in Utah, and Sheep Creek. Our winter activities included ice skating, nordic skiing, snowshoeing, and overnight yurt and snow cave trips. These trips often spur a life long love of the environment and are highlights of the school year.

Financial Information

Revenue for 2010-2011

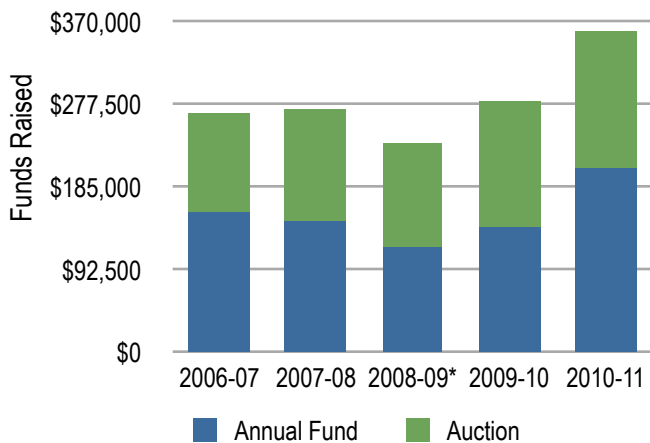


Expenses for 2010-2011



Fundraising Success & Parental Involvement

The Riverstone community has repeatedly demonstrated their commitment to the school through their kindness and generosity:



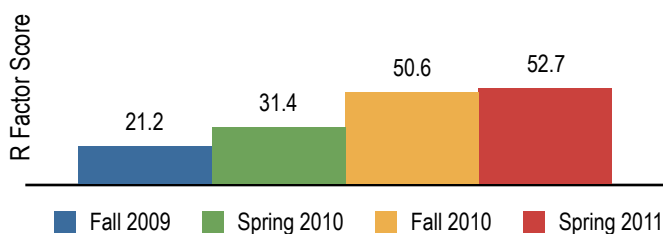
- More than 95% of our parents and teachers have contributed to our Annual Fund campaigns from 2007 onward.
- Parent and staff participation at the annual auction as donors and attendees has increased over the past five years.
- The Parents' Association (PA) strengthened our community by organizing the Fall Carnival, Pumpkin Patch, Fabulous Feast, Merci lunches, and parent coffees.
- Our parents volunteer as PA officers, room parents, fundraising committee members, classroom assistants, field trip chaperones, subject area experts, coaches, and more.



Parents extend the classroom experience

*In addition, the 2008-09 "Raise the Roof" Capital Campaign raised \$1,087,150 to build a new Elementary School.

R Factor Survey Improvement



The R Factor Survey is conducted twice per year by the Board of Trustees and school administration. The results provide an important measurement for Riverstone's leadership to assess the major opportunities and challenges with direct input from the school's community. Ultimately, the survey measures the extent to which a parent is "willing to risk their reputation to recommend Riverstone International School."

Since the initial survey in the Fall of 2009, Riverstone continues to reflect and respond to the survey feedback with a recent focus on the areas of communications and academic excellence.

Riverstone International School

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