

IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

Planting the seeds of tomorrow, TODAY.

January 2011

Boise Region Newsletter

Issue 5



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Important Dates

January 14, 2011
Anchor #4 Due

I-DEA & IDLA Final Exams—Jan 11, 13, 14
@ BRC 9am & 1pm

January 18-
Mtn Home IRI

January 19-Nampa IRI

January 20-Boise IRI

January 24- McCall IRI

January 27—Love and Logic Classes Starts

January 31, 2011
MPU's due

From Deb Pence, Director of Secondary Education

As I was preparing a report to our board of directors today, I thought some of the information might be interesting for our parents and students to know too. At the high school level, we have many students who are taking advanced courses to earn credits for both high school and college. So far this school year we have registered I-DEA high school students in 139 college courses, and registrations are still continuing to be processed. This represents a great opportunity for students to work ahead, and a potential savings to parents on college tuition. Students who earn a "C" or better in their classes can be reimbursed tuition through their I-DEA allotments.

We also just received news that two of our 11th grade students in southeastern Idaho, Reylene Abbott and Amanda Partridge, were accepted into the Idaho Aerospace Scholars program. Kudos to these young ladies for successfully pursuing an excellent learning opportunity!

In the Panhandle region, Idaho Drug Free Youth (IDFY) students have successfully written a grant to the American Lung Association and were awarded \$1000 to go toward their projects that put the word out about the dangers of smoking and drug abuse.

Our Boise-area Future Cities team has been busily preparing for this year's competition. This has been a very successful activity for students and our teams have done very well in previous years. I look forward to hearing more about their project this year.



Parent to Parent by Lisa Bown, Community Coordinator

Around this time of year, people often begin thinking about New Year's Resolutions. Parents who have chosen to educate their children at home can use this as an opportunity to set new goals for their school year, or evaluate progress toward previously established goals.

It can also be a motivating time for children. Asking them to consider what's important to them in the coming year, and giving your support, can renew their interest and enthusiasm in some areas. Perhaps they want to learn a new

instrument, sport, or other skill. Maybe they'd like to be better about practicing a skill they've been developing.

Goal setting can be incorporated into your school day, by having your child write an essay about their goals and how they plan to accomplish them. I often find that my children respond well to challenges, and even more so when they've decided the challenge is important to them. They enjoy having clearly defined goals and reaching them.

Whether it's a New Year's resolution, or just taking the time to consider where your child is in his education, I encourage you to spend time making and reaching goals.





"A teacher is one who makes himself progressively unnecessary."

Thomas Carruthers

By Michelle Rightler, Contact Teacher, SERC

The Eyes Have It in January

Did you know that January is National Glaucoma Awareness month? That sounds pretty stressful and awful to be focused on a particular disease like that but I'd like to expand my suggestions for you and your students to include lesson ideas with eyes as the focus. See? Focus... it's funny!

To start your studies of the eye, a good place would be to examine the way that the eye works. There are several great resources for this including those found on BioDIDAC, BrainPop, enchantedlearning, and the Discovery lesson plans site. Choose the grade level that is appropriate for your child and get to work coloring and labeling the parts of the human eye. Have your student create a glossary with illustrations on the major terms for parts of the eye.

If you have an artist for a student, you could have that student draw

the eyes of all of the people in the family, neighborhood, or church group on index cards. This can work for any group of people. Once his or her art project is completed, have the student mix up the cards and number them. Then it's up to the other members of the family to guess which eyes belong to which person.

For the mathematicians in the group, explain that light travels at about 186,000 miles per second. Have your student calculate the percentage of a light second that a plane, sound, a race car, and a snail travel in an hour. For example, in an hour a whizzig travels at $1/800^{\text{th}}$ of a light second because it goes 232.5 miles an hour. You could reverse this process and ask the student to calculate how many hours or days it would take each item to travel the same amount of distance that light travels in a second.

Have your student compare different types of eyes in the animal kingdom with human eyes. Animal eyes take many different shapes, sizes, and numbers and you can have your student create a poster with cool animal eye facts!

For the junior scientists out there, have them create a pinhole camera and then to write out how it works like the human eye. Some research may be involved.

For the youngest of students, read them the story "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" by Bill Martin. Then take your young students on a nature walk and have your student make a list of as many descriptive words that they can think of while they walk. After you thaw out with some hot cocoa, let your students make a story or a poem using those descriptive words that they wrote down.

From Diane Neal, Online Curriculum Director

Using Learn360 to Enhance Your Lessons

Many of you have already begun using Learn 360 to supplement your curriculum. This is the second year we have offered this resource, and they have added a lot of new content. I hope you are finding this to be a valuable tool in enhancing your lessons. If you have not yet set up your family account, let me know and I will send you the pass key you need. Here are some good ways to incorporate the resources in Learn 360 into your lesson plans:

- **To introduce a concept:** If you are beginning a new unit, it's a good idea to give your students some background knowledge by watching a video on that topic. For example, if your fourth grader is going to learn about the effect of the moon's gravity on tides (science, standard 4) they could watch a video clip entitled, *How the Moon affects the Earth*. Watching the clip before reading the textbook can give the student a visual and auditory head start on understanding the concepts and vocabulary in the lesson.

- **To reinforce a concept:** Let's say your tenth grader is having a difficult time understanding Hamlet. They've read the book and listened to Mrs. Campbell's weekly presentation, but just need a little more reinforcement. They can search on Learn 360 for video clips from Hamlet. Sometimes watching actors portray the characters helps fill in gaps of understanding.

- **To enhance a presentation:** If your child is creating a report or PowerPoint presentation, he or she can use pictures from Learn 360. When you are looking for pictures, type your topic in the search bar, then select "images" and you will get all of the image clips found on the site related to your topic. These images can be downloaded. The best thing of all is that Learn 360 will help your child properly cite the picture reference. Once you click on the image, you can go to the citations tab and select either MLA, APA, or Chicago Manual of Style, for your reference. I-DEA uses the MLA format.

- **To teach a concept in a different way:** Sometimes, especially in math, a student just doesn't "get" a new concept. The teacher has presented example after example, and the student is perplexed. If this happens, search on Learn 360 for a video lesson on the concept. I searched for multiplication of fractions and found 10 video clips I could use. Sometimes just having the concept presented in a different way helps it click.
- **To supplement your curriculum:** Occasionally, curriculum is missing lessons pertaining to a particular standard. If that is the case, you can search Learn 360 by standard. Often, along with a video, there are teaching resources which you can print and add to your lesson.

I hope you will find this a valuable educational tool. If you have not yet set up your family account, and need help with that, please don't hesitate to call me.



"I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework."

Edith Ann

Community Events

Student Council (Apply Now!)

Applications are being taken
until January 28th, 2011

7-12 grades only

Contact Community Coordinator Patti Boliou
at pattioiou@idahoidea.org

Love & Logic Classes
Thursdays, January 27, 2011
through March 3, 2011
7:00-8:30pm
Boise Resource Center



We will meet every Thursday for six weeks, beginning January 27th and running through March 3. Love and Logic is a parenting program that provides techniques and skills to raise loving, respectful, respectful children. You do not need to be an I-DEA parent to attend this Love and Logic class, but it is taught with an emphasis on homeschooling issues. If you have friends or neighbors interested in attending with you, we would love to have them join us.

The only cost is \$8 for the parent manual. Please register with Mary at mwhitworth@idahoidea.org prior to January



Boise Resource Center

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Boise Community Coordinators Jill Call

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Science—w/ Ms. Rightler

Where: iLink

When: Monday & Wednesday
Science 11:00—1:00pm MST

Click Here

[https://
idahoidea.ilinc.com/join/
fpijkt](https://idahoidea.ilinc.com/join/fpijkt)



5th Grader Ski Passport (only \$15)

If you're in the 5th grade, no matter where you live, you can ski or ride for **FREE** at any participating Ski Idaho and Ski the Northwest Rockies ski area **with the purchase of a 5th Grade Passport**. Simply go to www.5thgradeskipassport.com/ to complete the online registration and you'll get to go skiing or snowboarding **FREE 3** times at each of the participating mountains, including Bogus Basin, Soldier Mountain, Brundage, Tamarack...plus fifteen others.

Let's Celebrate Your Student!

We have students of all grades doing great things in community service, sports, dance, art, music, extra-curricular academic programs, leadership, etc. We want to celebrate and recognize those accomplishments, big or small!

Parents, please email community coordinator, Jill Call (jillcall@idahoidea.org) a brief description of your student's activity and a picture, if possible. We will then include it on the student celebrations page on our website. We want our students to know we are proud of their accomplishments!

