

# IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

Planting the seeds of tomorrow, TODAY.

February 2011

Boise Region Newsletter

Issue 6



## From Jason Bransford, Director

Dear I-DEA Families,

I want to share how proud I am of the hard work of our students, parents, and staff. We are seeing some wonderful trends in student learning.

Currently, 91% of our kindergartners score at the Proficient or Advanced level on the K-Screener (a test which measures a variety of essential skills). Seventy three percent of the kindergartners scored in the advanced level on this test!

Of the students who started the school year below grade level in math, 85% are currently at or near their targeted goals. Title I tutors are seeing excellent gains with the students they are working with as well. Active participation in online

math programs has increased by leaps and bounds over previous years. It is exciting to see the growth students are making in mathematic skills that are so critical to academic success.

High school students are registered for over 300 college credits this year. Over half of I-DEA's seniors have already earned college credit. Three seniors will graduate with only 1 semester left of college before earning an Associate's degree. We have 2 students accepted into the Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars program. The number of students taking the PACT/PSAT & ACT/SAT is also up substantially.

Students across the state are participating in wonderful extra-curricular opportunities as

well. Student participation in charitable causes is a regular occurrence. The skills that I saw demonstrated in Boise last spring at their talent showcase were phenomenal. Each year, at graduation, I get to see the variety of talent that our senior class possesses.

I am very proud of what our students are doing. There truly are some wonderful things happening in I-DEA around the state. I want to encourage each of you to keep working hard and continue to build a solid foundation to allow I-DEA students to reach their future goals.

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February 11, 2011  
Anchor Due

Thurs., Feb. 17,  
Warhawk Museum  
Fieldtrip Gr. 3-12

February 21, 2011  
BRC closed for  
Presidents' Day

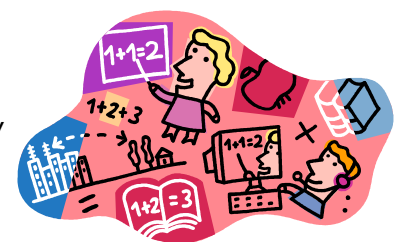
February 28, 2011  
Monthly Progress

## Parent to Parent by Lisa Bown, Community Coordinator

Over the past several years, the question of why I chose to educate my children at home has come up often. I find some of the reasons I started with still apply, but some have changed as my children have gotten older. Why we continue to partner with I-DEA has remained the same, though – the ongoing support from the education staff, the fieldtrips and activities my children can participate in, and the instructional support in terms of

sports, art, and music. As my children struggle or progress, I'm able to go to the education staff with my questions, and seek suggestions or alternatives. Over the years, it has been tremendously helpful to me as a parent teacher. The education staff at I-DEA is here to support you and your children. They are on this journey with their contact families, and bring years of experience with them. Use your contact teachers as resources for your child's edu-

cation – they have a wealth of ideas that have worked for them in the classroom and will often work right in your home!



### By Amber Stimpson, Contact Teacher

#### Preparing for tests

“Tell me and I’ll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I’ll understand.”

Chinese Proverb

Sometimes parents wonder how to best prepare their students for upcoming tests and assessments. There are several ‘quick fixes’ you can do right before the test, but I feel the consistent daily work you put into the subject will pay off greatly on the other end.

If you’re using I-DEA Top Pick curriculum and schooling every day for the suggested amount of time, then you’re probably doing everything you can to prepare your child for the upcoming tests. If your child received a deficient score on a past test, you’ve probably been asked to have your child participate in one of many programs to help reach their academic goals.

How can these programs help? First, you want to remember that any ‘extra’ programs do not take the

place of your regular daily instruction. Second, like most good things in life, if you don’t participate regularly, you might as well not participate at all. Whether your child is doing AIMS PM, ALEKS, or one of several other strategies offered, you’ll want to make sure it’s done consistently. Not using it more than once a week is simply a waste of time. You’ll see little, if any, increase in progress. Most programs should be used between 60-90 minutes a week (ask your contact teacher, as each program is different).

Your contact teacher is an incredible resource of programs and strategies you can use to help your child succeed in all aspects of their education. On our website you can find pacing guides for curriculum, the state

standards, grading rubrics for secondary students, and several other tools created just for you, the teaching parent.

Again, the best thing you can do to prepare, is be prepared! By schooling regularly, consistently, and effectively, you’re ensuring your child has a chance to succeed. They will thank you, someday, for all the hard work you’ve put forth in their behalf.



### From Josh Femreite, Technology Director

#### We have moved

“The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.”

Robert M. Hutchins

This last month the technology department underwent some changes I would like to make you aware of. Starting January 3<sup>rd</sup> we officially moved into our new office. The office is located directly next to the Boise Resource Center in Suite 170. If you are located in the Boise area and are bringing your computer in to be fixed please go directly to the new office to drop off your equipment, or if

you have a tech question feel free to drop in and talk with Andy. The new office will also allow our department to stay open during the summer break. I understand it is sometimes difficult to ship your computer in for repairs during the year when the computer is needed. By staying open during the summer I hope this will allow you some time to get your computer issues resolved while your children are

on break. The new office is currently open Monday – Friday 8:30 – 4:30. Summer hours will be posted on the website by May. If you have any questions or need tech support please call us at 866-904-4332, or email [techsupport@idahoidea.org](mailto:techsupport@idahoidea.org).



## Community Events

**Who:** Everyone  
**When:** Wed., February 9  
**Time:** 12:30-1:30pm  
**Where:** Grace Assisted Living  
 1960 N Lakes Place  
 Meridian



## VALENTINE ACTIVITY

Come enjoy an afternoon of fun and service with senior citizens at the Grace Assisted Living Center. Students of all ages are invited to perform a talent (singing, piano,, instruments, dance, etc.) or just come and enjoy the show. Bring valentines for the residents and we'll visit with them after our show,

To sign up for talent sharing, please call Jill at 585-7390 or e-mail her at [jillcall@idahoidea.org](mailto:jillcall@idahoidea.org)



**Who:** 3rd-12th Graders  
**When:** Thursday, February 17  
**Time:** 1:00pm-3:00 pm  
**Where:** Warhawk Air Museum  
 201 Municipal Way  
 Nampa, ID 83687  
**Cost:** \$4 per student  
 \$6 per adult

For 3rd-12th grade students.

The fieldtrip will include a tour of the Warhawk Air Museum and a classroom lesson on the history of the Flag and the history of the Pledge of Allegiance. They will be lead by veterans.

RSVP:  
[lisabown@idahoidea.org](mailto:lisabown@idahoidea.org)



**Love & Logic Classes**  
**Thursdays, January 27**  
**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, responsible 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](mailto:mwhitworth@idahoidea.org).

# Spring Break

Spring break is optional. If your child or children could benefit from continued learning please keep schooling during this time. Please let your contact teacher know if and when you are taking Spring Break. Spring Break is scheduled on the I-DEA Calendar as the week of March 14, 2011. Contact Teachers will be unavailable this week as they will be in Staff Inservice.



## Boise Resource Center

8620 W. Emerald, Suite 190  
 Boise, ID 83704

Phone: 208-682-1155  
 FAX: 208-321-4757

## Boise Community Coordinators Jill Call

[jillcall@idahoidea.org](mailto:jillcall@idahoidea.org)  
 208-585-7390

**Lisa Bown**  
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 208-890-4147

**Patti Boliou**  
[pattiboliou@idahoidea.org](mailto:pattiboliou@idahoidea.org)  
 208-585-7244

Getting involved in  
 Community Activities  
 helps students stay  
 interested in  
 school.



## Science—w/ Ms. Rightler

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

Click Here  
[https://  
 idahoidea.ilinc.com/join/  
 fpjkkt](https://idahoidea.ilinc.com/join/fpjkkt)

# 2010/2011 I-DEA Future City Team

2nd Place Idaho



Left to Right: Bobby Sieker, Lilly Sieker, Abbie Welburn, Kayanna Turner, Jared Arias, Hannah Welburn, Melanie Strong, Ryan Joyce

Best SimCity  
Design

Best Medical  
System

Best Futuristic  
City

Idaho Competition @ BSU  
January 22, 2011