

IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

Planting the seeds of tomorrow, TODAY.

February 2011

Northern 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

February 15, 2011
IDFY Meeting

February 15, 2011
IDFY Parent Help Day

February 21, 2011
PFRC closed for Presidents' Day

February 28, 2011
Monthly Progress

Parent to Parent by Karen Ashenbrenner, Community Coordinator

To help insure your student has the necessary resources that will take them through the end of the school year, there are paperwork duties that I-DEA parents need to be on top of over the next few weeks. First be sure to review your child's ILP and curriculum needs, if you need assistance now is the time to let your Contact Teacher know. This is also the time to review instructional support, internet, and school supply needs. *Remember February 28th allotments close; it is the last day to use or encumber student funds for this school year.

2nd Semester has arrived, and portfolio conferences are just around the corner! FOLDER FRIDAY is a great way for parents and students to gather work samples for the portfolio. FOLDER FRIDAY is tried and true, only takes a couple of minutes to set up and within just a few weeks you will

find that the entire portfolio has been built! Taking the time to gather work samples over the period of a few weeks saves time, energy, frustration, as well as chaos when the time comes for the student led conference. More positives are that FOLDER FRIDAY; encourages student involvement, offers great one-on-one discussion and review time with your child, and teaches your child some good organization skills. You may be surprised to see how much fun your kids have in building the portfolio and choosing the work they want to include!

Each week your student chooses a work sample from a different subject.

In a short, calm 6 week period your student's portfolio is built!

Getting Started: Start out by setting up folder the student can collect work samples in. Keep the folder out, so it is

visible and handy. Each Friday, you and your student choose a graded work sample to add to the portfolio. Remember, work samples are required for each class that is listed on the ILP.

Week 1: Choose Math work sample
Student- chooses a math work sample that has been graded, with feedback. Parent- labels the sample with the math standard the sample addresses. Student- includes this work sample in their work sample folder.

Week 2: Choose Language Arts work sample

Student- chooses a Language Arts work sample that has been graded, with feedback. Parent- labels the work sample with the Language Arts standard number the work sample addresses. Student- includes this work sample in their work sample folder.

By Amber Stimpson, Contact Teacher

Preparing for tests

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 IDEA Top Pick curriculum, schooling everyday for the suggested amount of time, then you're probably doing everything you can to prepare your child for the upcoming tests. But, if your child received a deficient score on a past test, you've probably been asked that your child participates 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 does 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 web-

site 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.



"Tell me and I'll forget;
show me and I may remember;
involve me and I'll understand."

Chinese Proverb

From Josh Femreite, Technology Director

We have moved

This last month the technology department underwent some changes I would like to make you aware of. Starting January 3rd 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.



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

Robert M.
Hutchins

Karen Ashenbrenner, cont from pg 1

Week 3: Choose Science work sample

Student- chooses a Science work sample that has been graded, with feedback.

Parent- labels the work sample with the Science standard number the sample addresses.

Student- includes this work sample in their work sample folder.

Week 4: Chose Social Studies sample

Student- chooses a Social Studies work sample that has been graded, with feedback.

Parent- labels the work sample with the Social Studies standard number this work sample addresses.

Student- includes this work sample in their work sample folder.

Weeks 5 & 6 are for any other classes that are on the student ILP such as P.E. or Music.

REMEMBER!

Keep portfolios fun!

Be creative!

Don't limit work samples to just work sheets

Attend Portfolio Work Shops offered by Contact Teachers!

If you have questions on FOLDER FRIDAY, FORMS, or need additional information on FOLDER FRIDAY, contact Karen Ashenbrenner.

Community Events

IDFY

February 15th IDFY Chapter Meeting

Location: PFRC
Time: 4-6PM

I-DEA students in grades 6-12th are invited to join IDFY teens for chapter meeting to help plan The **KICK BUTTS DAY** Planning.

February 15th Parent Help Day

Location: PFRC
Time: 6:30-8PM

This time is set aside to help I-DEA parents in a variety of ways. This is a great opportunity to get some help with some time saving shortcuts in a small group setting. If you can use some help with completing forms, if you have questions on policy or procedures, or could use some help brushing up on general computer skills such as updating documents/saving and attaching documents, as well as getting started with completing those MPU's!

Love and Logic

Parenting with Love and Logic

Location: Post Falls
Resource Center
761 N Thornton
Post Falls

Dates: February 3, 10, 17, 24
and March 3, 10

Time: 7-9PM

Cost: \$10 for parent work book

“What greater gift can parents give their children than the opportunity for a joyful, productive, and responsible adult life? Love and Logic believes that the principles of Parenting with Love and logic will help achieve that result”.

For more information contact **Karen**
@karenashenbrenner@yahoo.com

Sign up by sending \$10 to the PFRC, 761 N Thornton,
Post Falls, ID 83854

Parents:
If you have any clean packing boxes or shipping materials that you don't need, please drop them off at the PFRC. Thanks!



IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

North Community
Coordinator:

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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/fpjkt>

Spring Break

Spring break is optional. If your child or children could benefit from continued learning please keep schooling during this time. If you are planning a break please let your contact teacher know when you are taking this break, or if you are not taking a break.

