

IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

Planting the seeds of tomorrow, TODAY.

March 2011

Northern Region Newsletter

Issue 7



From Laurie Wolfe, Director of Curriculum & Assessment

Preparing for ISAT testing

Dear I-DEA Families,
In less than 35 instructional days your child will begin taking the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). This computerized multiple choice test is designed to measure how well your child is mastering the Idaho Content Standards in reading, language usage, math and science. Our school wide ISAT scores determine whether Idaho Distance Education Academy is meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirements under the No Child Left Behind legislation. To meet AYP goals for the 2010-2011 school year we must have the following percentages of students scoring proficient or advanced in each content area.

Legislative goals for School Year 2010-2011

Reading	Language Usage	Math
90.4 % Proficient	83.4 % Proficient	88.7 % Proficient

What is your role as a parent educator in I-DEA?

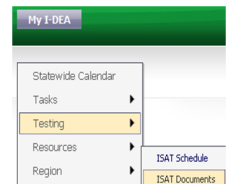
1. Work closely with your contact teacher to identify student academic strengths and challenges.
2. Address any skill gaps with research based instructional strategies and curriculum.
3. Continuing teaching the Idaho Content Standards.
4. Communicate to your child the importance of performing their best on the ISAT's.
5. Review the ISAT tutorials for reading, language usage and math with all students in grades 3-10 and the science tutorial with students in grades 5, 7 and 10 so they will be familiar with the tools used in online testing.
6. Review the ISAT sample items so that you and your child understand how academic skills and concepts are tested.
7. Review the content vocabulary for each content area to ensure that your child is familiar with

the terms used on the tests.

For example if your child doesn't know the word "sum" they may miss a math problem based on the vocabulary when they actually know and

understand how to add. Review of the ISAT tutorials, sample ISAT items and vocabulary can easily be incorporated in your lessons during the month of March. One practice tutorial usually takes 10 to 15 minutes to review. If you plan to do one content area per week during the month of March your child will be prepared to test in April.

Information regarding the ISAT test schedule and resources to help your child prepare can be found on the I-DEA website behind the login. Thank you for preparing your child to be successful on the ISAT's!
Laurie Wolfe



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Important Dates:

March 4, 2011
Weather With Gracie

March 11, 2011
Anchor Due

March 22, 2011
All School Skate Night

March 31, 2011
Monthly Progress

Parent to Parent by Karen Ashenbrenner, Community Coordinator

Love and Logic is a philosophy that's flexible, and can be adapted to fit any situation, and help meet a variety of needs. How a parent uses *Love and Logic* is entirely up to them. There are two basic rules to *Love and Logic*; Rule 1: Adults set firm limits in loving ways without anger, lecture, or threats. Rule 2: When a child causes a problem the adult hands the problem back to the child in loving ways.

Getting started using *Love and Logic* does not require a lot of time, but it does require some consistency. Rule 1-parents set the bar, set limits that

are clearly defined and outlined with what is expected of the child. When setting limits parents can keep it consistent by using the expectations for home/social/school/etc.

Consistency- you expect your child to respect the personal property of family members, as well as respect the personal property of those outside your home. If the child breaks the respect rule, parents should never dismiss the offence but, address the offence every time and implement an appropriate consequence.

Next we move to Rule 2; the person,

who owns the problem, is the person that caused the problem. Here is where parents are ready to enforce the house/social/school/etc. rules and expectations that have been set for their child in rule 1.

Example: Rule 1: Parents have a house rule that says no hitting, hands off-period. But, you have a child that hits. Rule 2: Parent would recognize this as the child's problem; the child has made a poor choice by hitting. The child is held accountable, and a consequence is given; every time. What if the situation doesn't fall

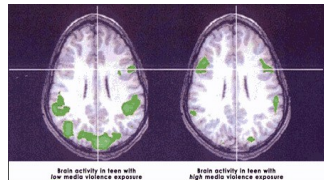
Cont. on pg. 3

By Joanie Shultz, Teacher Screen Time and Your Child's Brain

It's what you
learn after
you know it
all that
counts.

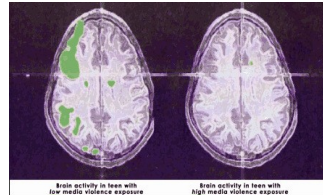
~Attributed to Harry
S. Truman

We have all heard the old saying that too much TV & video gaming may rot your brain. But in truth, although it may not be 'rotting' your child's developing brain, it is rewiring it. Studies out of Stanford University's Medical School have the pictures to prove it. Brain scans on children exposed to high levels of media (TV, movies, video games), particularly media with violent images, show very different brain activity than children with low exposure.



The areas most affected are the prefrontal cortex and the left

hemisphere- areas that are responsible for learning, connecting actions to consequences, empathy, and the ability to develop relationships.



Children with high media exposure show very little brain activity in the prefrontal cortex and left hemisphere as compared to those children with low exposure. Studies conducted by Dr. Kronenberger of Indiana University have even linked aggression and ADHD type

symptoms to the amount of time a child is in front of the screen.

Can it be reversed?

An additional study shows that academic test scores increase by 15-18% after ten screen-free days. How much is okay? One hour per day of non-violent content. Best? Pull the plug during school days.

Having a TV in your child's bedroom is linked to sleep disorders, lower academic achievement, and a lower likelihood of college graduation.

So, plug your kids into better education by pulling the plug on TV, movies and video games!

From Barb Femreite, Business Director Frequently Asked Questions from the Business Office

Q I used my 1st semester allotment amount on curriculum. Does that mean I can only be reimbursed for instructional support, internet or correspondence courses that happen in the second semester?

A Half of the annual allotment is released for use during the first semester. The remaining half is released for use during the second semester. The primary purpose of the allotment is to provide research-based curriculum and materials to support student learning. Most families will use their entire first semester allotment to order the books and materials needed to teach their children for the entire school year, which means reimbursement for internet, correspondence courses or instructional support will be set aside from the second semester allotment amount. Even though you may have to wait for reimbursements when the second semester amount has been released, you can be reimbursed for expenses that occurred during the first semester. For example, although your family used the

entire first semester allotment amount for textbooks, you can be reimbursed for September's internet in February, when 2nd semester allotment is available for reimbursement, as long as your students are still enrolled in I-DEA during 2nd semester. If you will be requesting reimbursement for fall instruction or activities from your spring allotment amount it is **highly recommended** you submit the requests early, **before** any instruction or activity takes place.

Q I used my entire allotment amount on my school orders so there's no allotment available for instructional support. Isn't my instructional support allowance different than the allotment I use for school books?

A An allotment amount is based on the grade level of each enrolled student. If you have more than one student enrolled in I-DEA, each student's amount is added together to make your family allotment. You can order curriculum and other school materials from the total family amount, regardless of which

student the curriculum is for. The instructional support allowance **is part of the total family allotment**. However, each enrolled child is limited to how much of the family allotment they can use for instructional support, based on their grade level.

Q I received an email asking me to confirm the items I ordered but I haven't received them yet. What do I do?

A If you have not received your items within *two weeks* of the approval date as shown on your ordering page in your I-DEA account, call the Business Office. The ordering department will track your order for you to be sure there are no problems that would delay delivery. When you do receive items from an order, make sure to confirm receipt of those items on your ordering page right away, even if the entire order is not complete yet. The Business Office does not pay invoices for school items until we know you have received them. If invoices remain unpaid, vendors sometimes choose to hold other families' orders.

Always walk
through life
as if you have
something
new to learn
and you will.

~Vernon Howard

Community Events

Weather With Gracie Part 2
 WHO: I-DEA STUDENTS IN GRADES K-5
 WHAT: KREM 2 NEWS STATION TOUR
 DATE: MARCH 4, 2011
 Families meet at: KREM 2 Station- Spokane
 TIME: 11:15am-12:30

Space is limited- sign up's are a must!

Directions will accompany a sign up confirmation.

To sign up email: Karenashenbrenner@idahoidea.org

IDFY Monthly Chapter Meeting- IDFY is open to all I-DEA students in grades 6-12th.
 For questions regarding activities and membership please contact Karen Ashenbrenner.

Location: PFRC

Date: Tuesday, March 8th

Time: 4-6PM.

I-DEA ALL SCHOOL SKATE NIGHT

at Skate Plaza-FREE!

Due to limited space; no guests will be admitted for this event

Event hosted by: I-DEA Teens

Grant provided by: The American Lung Association

Who: I-DEA Families (only)

Location: Skate Plaza

Date: March 22, 2011

Time: 4-7PM

Parent to Parent, Cont. from pg. 1

under a "rule", but you just want some kindness shown, or the arguing, bickering, nagging, bossing, crying/whining, pouting, rolling the eyes, etc... to stop!

Scenario: The kids are bickering and arguing all day, it's nonstop; you're ready to lose your mind! You just want some peace and quiet. Stay calm, and say in your best authoritative tone; **"I need some peace and quiet, I will only let children in my space that are respectful to me and each other, to go to your room until you can be more respectful."** Then, they must be on their way; to their rooms, do extra chores, and stand in a corner- don't say anything more, just be sure to keep it short, and to the point. Repeat this as necessary, each time they have to be sent away consider adding more time, or making their time away from you more eventful, and special (for you) like having them do more of those less than desirable chores. Be sure to be consistent, eventually the kids will get your message. And always remember- FOLLOW THROUGH-no threats allowed! Here is where you decide, a little time now, or years of the same scenarios?

Love an Logic allows children to learn from their mistakes; consequences are given to help children recognize the mistakes they have made. When parents hold their children accountable for the mistakes and poor choices they make; parents are making depositing into their child's future.

ISAT testing will be in April

Post Falls April 12, 13, 14, 15, 18 and 20th

Sandpoint April 22, 27 and 29th

Lewiston April 12 and 13

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.

IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

North Community
Coordinator:
Karen Ashenbrenner
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karenashenbrenner@idahoidea.org

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>



Educating Through Partnership One Child at a Time