

# IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

Planting the seeds of tomorrow, TODAY.

April 2011

Boise Region Newsletter

Issue 8



## From Deb Pence, Secondary Director

Dear I-DEA families,

It really doesn't look like spring yet in my corner of Idaho, but we are rolling into our usual flurry of springtime activities across the state anyway! All parents of students in grades 3-10 were emailed the link to schedule ISAT tests and I was very happy to see the quick response to that email from so many of you. This new method really cut down on the time needed to make individual phone calls and spending time playing "phone tag." The updated ISAT prep resources on our website have received a lot of positive feedback; Laurie Wolfe at the

BRC and Josh Femreite (our tech director) did an outstanding job of putting this together. As we look ahead to ISAT and IRI/Math benchmark testing this spring, teachers and parents will also be discussing courses and curriculum for next year. The score reports can really serve as a valuable tool to analyze and evaluate how well the curricula supported individual student learning. So often I hear parents say, "Gosh! I used this curriculum with his older sister and she really did great with it. But I am not seeing the same results with her younger brother." Many times curricular choices are made based on what worked well with an older sibling or pro-

grams the parent is familiar with—and while that very often is successful, there are times that the student's learning style doesn't match up very well to the chosen curriculum. The individual score reports also can reveal specific skill areas that a student may not have fully grasped; these skills can be flagged as problem areas to focus on in May or over the summer. Issues like these make excellent discussion topics for parents to have with their contact teacher this spring. It is never too early to begin thinking about course planning and curricular choices for next year!

Deb Pence  
Secondary Principal

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### Important Dates:

April 8, 2011  
Anchor Due

### ISAT TESTING

Tuesday—Friday  
April 12—15  
April 19—22

April 26, 2011  
**K-6th Field Trip**  
Foothills Learning  
Center (page 3)

April 28, 2011  
**Spring Showcase**  
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April 30, 2011  
Monthly Progress  
Updates Due

## Parent to Parent by Lisa Bown, Community Coordinator

Spring Showcase and Academic Fair is coming soon! This is a favorite activity of many teachers, students, and parents, and we'd love to have you join us! There are two main areas students can participate in, which are the Talent Show and the Academic Fair. During the Talent Show, students show off a talent they enjoy. During the past two years, we've had acts ranging from comedy skits, singing, playing an instrument, performing gymnastics skills, and more! It is very entertaining, and exciting to

see what talents the kids have acquired. During the Academic Fair, students display science projects, history projects, artwork, and more. It's a great opportunity for the kids to show off what they have learned over the year, as well as get ideas from other families for next year. This year, we will incorporate a "Science Fair" type feel to this area, so students are recognized for their displays

and have more opportunity to share their work. Come join us for an evening of fun, entertainment, and great ideas! We'd love to have you join us. More information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.



# I-DEA Spring Showcase

**A good education is the next best thing to a pushy mother.**

~ Charles Schulz

**Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.**

~ Benjamin Franklin

**By Paula Way, Teacher**

**Why Portfolios?**

The word “portfolio” usually brings to mind an artist or model showing prospective employers samples and highlights of their best work. In recent years, however, portfolios have become a very popular tool in a wider field of professions and not just to show best work, but also as an evaluative assessment, or a development of growth over time.

As stated on page 11 of the Parent Handbook, “Parents, students, and certificated teachers will participate in student-led portfolio conferences once each semester. The conferences will provide students and parents the opportunity to discuss student progress and review student work. **The portfolio will include examples of student work based on the Idaho Content Standards.**”

I-DEA requires each student to show a type of portfolio called a *Work Samples Portfolio*, but why? Contact teachers use portfolios to ensure rigorous student

learning. Contact Teachers also use this opportunity to certify the Idaho Content Standards have been thoroughly addressed. The most efficient way to accomplish this is with the portfolio. And last, this allows the student/students to show their Contact Teacher some of what they have learned throughout the year. Students should be involved in choosing the examples for their portfolio and when teamed with feedback from the parent (reflective, or evaluative comments on the entries included in the portfolio, or even stickers for the younger grades) not only does this allow a student to see that all the work put into the assignment is meaningful, but it helps to build up the student’s self-esteem and confidence.

Ideas for portfolio samples for the K-6 crowd can be found by logging in, then under the Curriculum Tab, click on the Elementary K-6<sup>th</sup> link. Another box will appear and you need to click on the Pacing Guides to look

at the subjects that have portfolio suggestions. The 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade portfolios need to also show the work that is being done at home and the samples need to follow the standards. Anchor assignments from 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are not portfolio samples, but can be included if the student wants to show their work to their contact teacher. The portfolio conference is a “WOW, look at what I’ve done this year!” moment for the student to shine and be proud of. Don’t hesitate to call, or email your contact teacher also, for ideas about the portfolio. Be creative, incorporate technology where you can, and have fun helping your child/children with compiling a portfolio that is informative and evaluative of the learning happening throughout the year!

**From Melissa Johnson, Guidance Counselor**

**SAT and ACT**

**J**uniors: Be a step ahead for senior year and follow these links to sign up for college testing. Next year will move quickly and if you plan to go to college your year will consist of searching for the college that best fits your needs, figuring out what the application and admission requirements are for each college and applying for scholarships. Many students this year waited too long and were not prepared when the application deadlines rolled around I was getting calls at the last minute for transcripts and information on signing up for the SAT and/or ACT. Let’s be proactive and get this step out of the way this year and then if you feel like you could score better and want to retake the test you can do that early next fall so you can focus on searching for a college and applying for scholarships and FAFSA. Financial aid forms. The

Financial aid application is important for all students who want to go to college, even if the family is sure they will not be approved for aid, the colleges still want the FAFSA completed.

The fall semester goes real fast for seniors. Please call me if you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance.

IDLA now has a free application for studying for the SAT, The link is as follows:

<http://learn.idahodigitallearning.org/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

IDLA SAT Practice Tests: SAT practice for students preparing to take the SAT in preparation for college.

Login: Isat.288801.1  
Password: isat  
<http://sat.collegeboard.com/home>

This link for the ACT describes why it’s important for Juniors to be prepared. There are many materials for practicing for these tests available.

<http://www.actstudent.org/>

Also keep a journal or document all the service work that you do for the community, this will be an important part of scholarship applications.

Please contact me for more information,  
Melissa Johnson, M.ED.  
School Counselor - 504 Director  
Phone: 208.457.1019  
[melissajohnson@idahoidea.org](mailto:melissajohnson@idahoidea.org)

**Please NOTE: IDEA SCHOOL CODE 130064 this will allow the scores to come to our school so I can assist you in scholarship and college applications.**

**Very Important----- Thank you!**

## Community Events

Tuesday, April 26, 2011  
10am—11:30am  
Foothills Learning Center  
3188 Sunset Peak Road  
Boise

### RSVP **Lisa Bown**

Parents, please use the time to explore the foothills. A limited number of chaperones is requested. Bring a sack lunch, if you would like to eat as a group.

### Kindergarten—2nd Grade

**Wise guys with Night Vision:** We'll imitate recorded owl sounds, demonstrate how owls can fly so quietly, and how they can see to hunt in the dark. A walk on the Owls Roost Trail will show students the owls' Cliffside nests, possibly seeing owls in the wild. Students will create a pine cone owl to take home.

### 3rd Grade—6th Grade

**Pollination Power:** Students will learn about the diversity and evolution of flowering plants, the parts of a flower and how to illustrate insects help with the cross pollination of plants

**RSVP EARLY— LIMITED SEATING**

## I-DEA Spring Showcase

Thursday Evening, April 28, 2011 6:00—8:30pm

This Event Will Include a **Talent Show** and **Academic Fair**

~ See Next Page for More Information ~

### ISAT Testing--Boise Resource Center

Tuesday—Friday  
April 12—15  
April 19—22

3rd—10th  
Grades

IDAHO STANDARDS ACHIEVEMENT TEST

Friday, May 13, 2011  
9am—1pm  
Foothills Learning Center  
3188 Sunset Peak Road  
Boise

### RSVP **Lisa Bown**

Bring a sack lunch and water.

### 4th—6th Grade Students

**Geology of the Foothills:** Students explore the geology of the Boise foothills by making field based observations to learn about rock types, weathering and erosion, and how scientists learn about the past. We'll explore the geology close to the Foothills Learning Center. Parents are welcome to explore the foothills or drop their child of for the program...a limited number of chaperones is requested.

**RSVP EARLY— LIMITED SEATING**



### 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  
208-585-7390

#### Lisa Bown

lisabown@idahoidea.org  
208-890-4147

#### Patti Boliou

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/  
fpjikt](https://idahoidea.ilinc.com/join/fpjikt)



Thursday, April 28, 2011

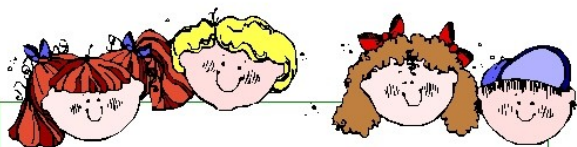
3rd Annual

# I-DEA Spring Showcase

6:00 to 8:30pm

Boise First Community Center  
3852 North Eagle Road  
Boise, ID

*(on the east side of Eagle Road, just north of Ustick)*



Academic Fair

Talent Show



To Enter

e-mail [lisabown@idahoidea.org](mailto:lisabown@idahoidea.org)

Please include: Student's name, age, talent, or project. Family acts/projects are welcome.

Get New Ideas  
Meet I-DEA  
Families

