

IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

Planting the seeds of tomorrow, TODAY.

April 2011

Northern Region Newsletter

Issue 8



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Important Dates:

April 8, 2011
Anchor Due

April 26, 2011
Info Session
PFRC 7-8pm

ISAT Testing
Check your area

April 30, 2011
Monthly Progress

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 spring-time 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 programs 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!

Parent to Parent, by Karen Ashenbrenner

~THE INTERNET~

~THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY~

Face book, My Space, Bebo, Twitter, Friendster, hi5, YouTube, Xanga, Wee World, and Tagged don't even come close to naming all the social network choices available to us today. The message networking sites are sending us; "Express yourself, share your interests, connect with friends, make new friends and much more when you join the social networking phenomenon". Social networking sites are growing at incredible rates, My Space for instance grew by 367% in a single year! Computers can be a window into the wonderful world we live in and hold a wealth of knowledge, and then on the other hand, computers can open doors that can

lead our children into trouble in a very short amount of time. It's no secret that one of the biggest problems with the social network sites is not knowing *who is really* on the other end of the conversation. Keeping our children safe from the dangers of internet predators is real and it can be a tough job. Often time's kids know more than parents when it comes to computers and the technology that is available today. Today parents are being forced to monitor, and oversee technology that they did not grow up with, but parents can't let that stop them from monitoring the computer, learning how to use parental settings, and checking the

history regularly. Sad to say, but even with all the extra attention to these details, there is no guarantee that it will be enough. No household is immune, and if you have internet, it is important to know that the possibility of your child is networking on dangerous sites is very real. Take some time to set and post rules, and review online safety procedures with your children often so they can discern the good, the bad, and the ugly of today's internet.

To review and compare the 2011 Social Networking Websites visit <http://social-networking-websites-review.toptenreviews.com/>

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

Charles Schulz

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.***"

So 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-6th link. Another box will appear and you need to click on the Pacing Guides to look

at the subjects that have portfolio suggestions. The 7th – 12th 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 9th-12th 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

Juniors:
Be a step ahead for senior year 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: lsat.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

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

**Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn.
~ Benjamin Franklin**

**IDAHO DISTANCE
EDUCATION
ACADEMY**

North Community
Coordinator:
Karen Ashenbrenner
208-661-5099

[karenashenbrenner@idah
oidea.org](mailto:karenashenbrenner@idah
oidea.org)

Community Event

**Information Session
With Karen Ashenbrenner
& Stephanie Childress**

**Tuesday, April 26
Post Falls Resource Center
7-8pm**



**Winter Science
Lab**



Getting involved in
community activities
helps students stay
interested in
school.

ISAT TESTING

Post Falls April 12, 13, 14, 15, 18 and 20th
Sandpoint April 22, 27 and 29th
Lewiston April 12 and 13th



Science—w/ Ms. Rightler

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

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

Juniors and Seniors remember ACT and SAT testing

SAT Testing

<http://sat.collegeboard.com/home>

Test Day Register by

May 7 Apr 8 [Register
Now](#)

Jun 4 May 6 [Register
Now](#)

ACT Testing

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

Test Date for ACT June 11th, 2011 -
-- **Registration deadline is May 6th,
2011.**

