



IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

Planting the seeds of tomorrow, **TODAY.**

May 2011

Boise Region Newsletter

Issue 9



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Important Dates:

April 28—**SPRING SHOWCASE**

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May 3, 2011

Park Day

Tully Park, Meridian

May 13, 2011

Geology of Foothills
Grades 4-6

May 25, 2011

Park Day

Lakeview Park, Nampa

May 26, 2011

Hershey Track & Field

May 30, 2011

Memorial Day

June 3, 2011

Monthly Progress
Due

From Jason Bransford, Director

As we near the end of the school year, I want to take a moment and celebrate a new group of employees and what they have accomplished this year—our Title I Paraprofessionals.

What are paraprofessionals? A paraprofessional's duty is to assist in the education of a child. Usually this is done through tutoring or additional help for students who need extra support. Paraprofessionals must pass a standardized test to demonstrate competency in core subject matter, and to demonstrate an understanding of educational skills and practices.

At the end of last school year, I-DEA received Title I funding to increase support to students demonstrating academic challenges. After many meetings to determine the course of action that would produce the biggest positive impact on students, it was determined that we would hire a paraprofessional for each region. These paraprofessionals

would work directly with students, usually in a one-on-one or small group environment, to provide students intensive instruction in Math and/or Language Arts in addition to the regular daily instruction that takes place at home.

A few months into the school year, the positive impact that these tutors were having was quite evident. In an effort to expand services to reach a broader number of students, I-DEA purchased webcams for students who lived too far from a center or who had family circumstances that did not allow for frequent trips to the office.

The results so far have been phenomenal. Academic growth among students who have been consistently tutored by paraprofessionals is soaring. In many cases, the rate of growth for these students is outpacing that of their peers who are not receiving services. Some students who had gone years without demonstrating significant

academic gains in critical skills are now closing gaps. I-DEA teachers have monitored the growth these students have made and documented mastery of specific skills. One teacher reports that a student of hers worked with a paraprofessional on a weekly basis, attending regularly and completing the assignments faithfully. The student, parents and teacher were very excited when the student moved from a basic on last year's Math ISAT to an advanced this year. We are excited for the students who have benefited from these tutoring services and hope they see the value in their hard work.

We hope that each student and parent will look back on this year in I-DEA as successful in every respect. We hope you will return to I-DEA next year, refreshed and ready to have another great year. We thank you for your commitment to your child's education.

Parent to Parent by Jill Call, Community Coordinator

I love the phone calls I get this time of year—people interested in learning about I-DEA to see what we're all about. As I answer their questions and explain what our school has to offer, they get very excited about the possibilities opening up to them. Many of them are leaving behind the tra-

ditional neighborhood school for the first time and are so pleased to learn there will be contact teachers available as a resource to partner with them. Others love the flexibility of choosing the curriculum they use, and all of us appreciate the help available for guided instruction, which can be a huge benefit in today's

economy.

The opportunity to discuss these benefits, as well as many others, with interested families reminds me why my family has chosen to be part of I-DEA. Partnership, support, flexibility—it's a great fit!

By Lyn Beighley, Teacher

"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."

Jimmy Dean

Spring has sprung! With spring comes new beginnings—grass, flowers, leaves on the trees, and baby animals. In I-DEA, the spring draws things to a close, as we approach the end of the school year, but we also have new beginnings as we get started on the new year and make plans for classes and curriculum.

As we make our best efforts to finish strong in these final weeks of school, it is always good to look back at this year and reflect on what you have accomplished. Think about what you learned about how your child learns best. What instructional techniques were most successful for you and your child? What activities

did you do that were meaningful learning experiences? What might you do differently next year?

April brings the ISAT's, which are a wonderful tool to help guide your instruction. When you get your report, you will be able to see which areas are strong for your child, and which areas you will want to put some extra focus on for next year. Likewise, the IRI's and M-CAP/ M-COMP's in May will be able to give K-3 parents information for making the best choices for your child's upcoming school year.

Beginning April 12, you will have the opportunity to re-enroll your children with I-DEA for next year. Once

you have indicated your choice to re-enroll, your contact teacher will work with you to plan the classes you want your child to have next year. You will also work together to make strong curriculum choices that will optimize your child's learning. Putting these plans in place now will allow you to start strong in July with ILP's and curriculum orders.

We, as a staff, are already looking forward to our next school year and the potential for growth for us as a school, as well as for our individual students. We are excited to move ahead and have you share the journey with us!

From Diane Neal, Online Curriculum Coordinator

"Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death"

Albert Einstein

Almost every day I am introduced to new educational sites on the web to try out and review. There are so many good resources out there to complement your daily instruction. Students today are comfortable with technology and respond well to interactive media. I thought I would share a few recent finds with you. While some online resources require subscription fees, these are all free.

Lit 2 Go – a free online collection of stories and poems in MP3 (audiobook) format. The text is also available for student to read along with, or print and make a book. <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
Khan Academy – over 2,100 educational videos, mostly in math and science. If your child is having trouble learning a concept in algebra or chemistry, try watching a video explanation here. <http://www.khanacademy.org/>

Whyville – This is a fun, interactive site for middle school students. Students engage

in activities in science, math, art, civics, and economics. <http://www.whyville.net/smmk/nice>

MeeGenius - This is a site for younger students with online books. There are some free books, but you can join for a fee and have access to more. <http://www.meeegenius.com/>

Timez Attack – If your student needs to work on multiplication facts and loves video games, this is a great site! The student travels through an imaginary world, using multiplication facts to open locked doors and battle creatures. <http://www.bigbrainz.com/>

BBC Schools – The BBC has a nice educational website with many resources for students and parents. I am especially impressed with the foreign language lessons. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/>

Storybird – This is a site that might help motivate a reluctant writer. Students select artistic illustrations and build stories which may be published and shared. <http://storybird.com/>

Digital Dialects –

Free online games and resources for learning foreign language phrases, numbers, useful words, spellings, alphabets and more. 60 languages are represented. <http://digitaldialects.com/>

Have fun surfing the net!

By the way, the resources that I-DEA subscribes to including **Learn360** and **BrainPop** are annual subscriptions and will continue to be available to our families throughout the summer. Any other annual subscriptions that you purchased with your allotment will continue to be available through the summer as well as long as you are still enrolled with I-DEA. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments about online resources!

**FREE
ONLINE
RESOURCES**

Community Events

Tuesday, May 3, 2011
2pm—3:30pm
Tully Park
2500 North Linder Road
Meridian, Idaho

PARK DAY @ Tully Park

Come One! Come All!

Baking Soda Rockets **Relay Races**

For more info contact Lisa
lisabown@idahoidea.org

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. **LIMITED SEATING—RSVP NOW!!**

Tuesday, May 25, 2011
2pm—3:30pm
Lakeview Park
Garrity & 16th Avenue North
Nampa, Idaho

PARK DAY @ Lakeview Park

Come One! Come All!

Scavenger Hunt

For more info contact Lisa
lisabown@idahoidea.org

Thursday, May 26, 2011
Check in: 4:30pm
Borah High School Track
6001 W Cassia, Boise
FREE for youth ages 9-12
(as of 12/31/10)

Hershey's Track & Field Games

Hosted by Boise's Park and Recreation

Running events include 100, 200, 400, 800, and 1600-meter runs. Field events include the softball throw and standing long jump. If you need a new goal for P.E., this might be a fun event to work toward! More information available on the Boise Parks and Rec website: **Boise Parks & Rec**

Shakespeare Festival Discount Tickets

An annual event for I-DEA families and is always a GREAT time! You can order discount tickets at \$15 a set to two of the productions: Thursday, June 16, Two Gentlemen of Verona; and Tuesday, August 9, The Taming of the Shrew. Reserve the number of tickets you want right away by emailing boisejlp@gmail.com and then follow up with payment before May 15. We appreciate Jody Phillips extending this discount ticket offer to I-DEA families. Children under the age of 6 or not permitted in the theater during performances except on designated Family Nights.



Mother love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible.

~Marion C. Garretty



Boise Resource Center

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Boise

Community Coordinators

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



Science—w/ Ms. Rightler

Where: iLinc

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

Click Here

<https://idahoidea.ilinc.com/join/fpjkt>



Thursday, April 28, 2011

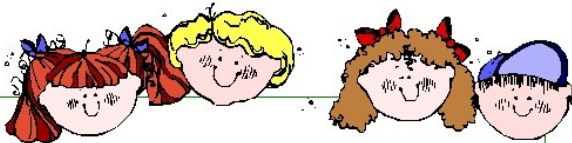
3rd Annual

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

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

Get New Ideas
Meet I-DEA
Families