

IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

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

June/July 2011

Boise Region Newsletter

Issue 10



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Important Dates:

June 3, 2011
Graduation
5pm

June 3, 2011
Monthly Progress
Reports Due

June 6, 2011
Last day of school

June 17, 2011
Curriculum
Returns due

From Laurie Wolfe, Director

Dear I-DEA Families,
The last day of school for this year is Monday, June 6, 2011. This date is rapidly approaching. As you are wrapping up the school year we want to make you aware of some important dates to remember.

May 16, 2011 – Curriculum inventories were e-mailed. If you need a curriculum waiver you can access it on the website behind the login under “Resources” and “I-DEA forms”. Curriculum is due by June 17, 2011.

May 26, 2011 – Senior grades due.
May 27, 2011 – All spring semester student-led portfolio conferences and Kindergarten Skills Inventories must be completed by today.

June 3, 2011 – The May/June monthly progress update is due by noon today.

June 6, 2011 – Last day to submit re-enrollment paperwork. All currently enrolled students who have not submitted re-enrollment paperwork will be withdrawn after this date.

June 10, 2011 – Report cards are available on the website behind the login.

June 13 – July 22 – Teachers are on vacation.

July 25 – July 28 – Teachers in Boise for professional development.
August 1, 2011 – Teachers available.

During the summer technology support will be available Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MST. Technology support can be reached at 1-866-904-4332 or techsupport@idahoidea.org.

The Business Office will be open

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. MST.

The Deary Administration Office will also be open Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. MST.

Central Services is open Tuesday through Friday, 8:30am—4:00pm for curriculum returns and surplus sale.

We have enjoyed working with you and your children this school year. Best wishes for a fun and relaxing summer!

BRC CLOSED: June 18—July 29. It will re-open on Monday, August 1. The BRC will be closed on Friday; from August 5 —September 2.

Parent to Parent by Karen Bartlett, Community Coordinator

Bring on the summer break! My boys and I are ready for that much needed break from school. There are so many things to do in the summer. One of the biggest ideas is forgetting the school routine. The down side to the summer is our children forget so much of what they learned during the school year. My youngest son has a grasp on reading skills but they still need some sharpening to be ready for second grade. My older son has made leaps and bounds in his math this year. I do not want to lose those skills. How can we keep them from losing the skills they have learned? Here are some things I plan to use to help them both out:

1. We will continue ALEKS through the summer

2. Barnes and Noble has a reading program for kids to earn free books after they read 8 books.

Sign up on line at www.barnesandnoble.com
Scholastic also has a great summer program at www.scholastics.com.

3. As we plan our landscape for our yard this year my kids can work on measuring skills to help us.

4. My boys love to compete on timed math tests to see how much they improved compared to the day before. This will continue to be a part of our day. It only takes a minute. When they meet their goal we will go out for ice cream or spend the day at the park.

5. There are some great websites to choose from for our kids to play on without them thinking they are working on school. If you need some ideas you can email your contact teacher or community coordinator. Remember keep it fun and keep it simple. Summer should be fun!

Thank you to all our families that have come out during the year to our activities! You have made it a great year! Have a great summer!!



By Melinda Campbell, Teacher

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."

-- Malcolm Forbes

For many, the "summer slide" might bring memories of fun in the park on long, lazy summer afternoons, but if we really understood this term educationally, it should be a real concern. "Summer slide" is also known as summer knowledge loss, summer learning loss, or brain drain (you can google these terms to learn more).

- Why should you be concerned? Summer is most detrimental for reading and math skills- Students can lose 1-3 months of grade level knowledge in math and reading achievement.
- The negative effects of summer slide increases with your student's grade level.
- Low-income students can lose more knowledge over a summer than upper-income students.
- About 4 – 6 weeks in the fall is spent re-teaching knowledge that students did not retain from the end of the previous school year.
- Students who consistently brain-drain over the summer get further behind every year, and are more likely to drop out of high school later on.

What we can do about summer slide? We all know that teaching parents and kids need a break from the daily routine of everyday schooling, but the good news is that it doesn't take heavy lifting and formal coursework to stop the summer slide. The solution is really simple – make sure your child is reading every day, and have him do about 5-10 math problems a few times each week. The reading should be fun, light, and student choice, for motivation. Try a chapter a day of reading, and a math workbook page each time.

Another strategy that easily fits in with your summer plans can be enriching family outings, such as trips to museums, zoos, concerts, plays, and natural attractions. Don't forget leisurely trips to the library. Summer is a great time to learn new skills, such as hiking, crafting, bird watching, job shadowing, etc. Safe, parent-approved educational Internet sites (some provided by I-DEA) can be more fun than video games.

Summer is also an ideal time to fill in those pesky learning gaps revealed by the ISAT and other measurements – talk to your contact teacher about what you can do about gaps, so they don't

become Grand Canyons over the summer.

After all, the brain is a muscle, and we all know what happens to our muscles when we go without exercise. The same thing happens with our brain – if we don't use it, we lose it. The trick, like everything else in life, is balance – in this case, balancing summer fun with summer learning.

Sites to check out:

- Reading resources: National PTA Website: www.pta.org (go to reading resources pages)
- First Lady Michelle Obama's initiative: Let's Read. Let's Move: http://www.serve.gov/stories_detail.asp?tbl_servestories_id=371
- Summer Reading List 2011: <http://www.summerreading.org/kids>
- "Fifteen Ways to Motive Struggling Students this Summer": <http://www.imaginelearning.com/blog/index.php/2010/05/summer-activities-for-parents-of-struggling-readers/>



"Education makes people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave."

-- Henry Peter Broughan

From Josh Femreite, Technology Director

With summer just around the corner we want to remind you that the Technology Department will be open for tech support during the summer break. This is a great opportunity to get your I-DEA computer repaired while having minimal impact on students needing to use them. Our summer hours will be Monday – Thursday 8:30 am MST – 4:30 pm MST starting on June 13th. If you live in the Boise area you can also bring your computer in for repair. If you choose to do this please remember that we will usually

need a few days to repair the computer and will not be able to do it that same day. It is also a good idea to call ahead if you plan to drop off your computer. If you are outside the area or just need support over the phone you can call the tech number at 1-866-904-4332 during our hours for support. Please leave a message if we do not pick up and we will call you back. Thank you.

**Tech support
open during
the summer**



Boise Resource Center

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Community Coordinators

Jill Call

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Remember Curriculum
Returns due by June 17th

BRC Closed

June 13—July 29

Central Services Summer Hours

Tuesday—Friday, 8:30am—4pm



Congratulations

Graduates from Boise Region

Nicole Johnson

Ryan Martin

Scott McKenzie

Jordan Perez

Michael Stucki

Hannah Trimble

Hannah Winchester

Graduation Ceremony

Friday, June 3, 2011

5 o'clock pm

Boise First Community Center

3852 N. Eagle Road

Boise, Idaho