

IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

Planting the seeds of tomorrow, TODAY.

June/July 2011

Northern Region Newsletter

Issue 10



In This Issue:

From the Director	1
Parent to Parent	1
Lesson Idea	2
From the Technology Director	2
Community	3

Important Dates:

June 3, 2011
Monthly Progress Due

June 4, 2011
Graduation

June 6, 2011
Last day of school

June 13, 2011
Summer hours begin

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 will be 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 All currently enrolled students who have not submitted re-enrollment paperwork will be withdrawn after this date.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.

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



Parent to Parent by Karen Ashenbrenner, Community Coordinator

No Two Days Are Alike, No Day Is Ordinary

This school year like the many years before this one, has been an incredible journey. It has been a successful year, and it did not come without commitment, and a lot of hard work! I love being a part of my children's day. I love seeing first-hand the growth, accomplishments, being there to witness ah-ha moments, and the smile on their faces when they “get it”- priceless! The best part of homeschooling-is that there are no two days alike, and that no day is ordinary. Your family is a big part of my journey. I love working with IDFY students, organizing outings and events, supporting parents, and the time spent chatting and getting to know you is invaluable. The best

part about I-DEA is that there are no two days are alike, and that no day is ordinary.

As great as the journey has been, I do have to admit... I am ready for the not so ordinary days of summer. At my house summer brings lots of not so “normal” days. So, I have to make it a point to set aside a couple of days each week for my kids to spend time keeping their brains warm. Keeping it simple our focus is reading, writing and math. I have found that with just a few hours a week greatly reduces review time in the fall. Not to mention it eliminates the “I don't have anything to do” remarks! I know it is very important for kids to have a break, and summer and the learning must be fun and come in the most unexpected ways!

There are many ways to accomplish this; morning paper- read, cut out pictures, find words to create sentences-discuss current and world events-great easy resource! *picnics & library summer reading programs * write pen pals * introduce journaling! *color books-write a poem to go along with their colored pictures * Cooking-following directions * Aleks math, but there are lots of free web sites! Anything helps, just remember... KEEP IT SIMPLE. Have a wonderful 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**

**IDAHO DISTANCE
EDUCATION
ACADEMY**

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Community Events

Friday, June 3rd-

Event: Park Day

Time: Noon-3pm

Location: White Pines Park

Spokane Street, Post Falls

Bring the family, lunch, basketballs, outdoor games, and enjoy the last family event of the year! This event will not be rescheduled due to rain. Let's hope for sunshine- I hope to see you all there!

Saturday, June 4th

I-DEA Graduation

Location: Harding Center-CDA.

Time: 1:30

PFRC Summer Hours begin June 13:

8am-3pm Monday—Thursday

Closed Friday

Teachers will be unavailable from June 13-August 1

PFRC Library Closed until August 1

Remember Curriculum Returns due by June 17th

**Please pack your returns into sturdy boxes and keep the
weight per box under 40 pounds.**



Congratulations

Northern Idaho Graduates



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

