



# IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

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

August/September 2011

Boise Region Newsletter

Issue 1



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## Important Dates:

- September 5, 2012  
Labor Day
- September 6, 2012  
First Day of School
- September 13 (Tues)  
**Mt Home IRI (K-3)**
- September 14 (Wed)  
**Nampa IRI (K-3)**
- September 15 (Thur)  
**Boise IRI (K-3)**
- September 30, 2012  
Monthly Progress Due

## From Deb Pence, High School Principal

**D**ear I-DEA Families, The crowded aisles at Walmart and Back-to-School ads in the newspaper are the universal signal to kids and parents that the start of school is just around the corner. At I-DEA, the resource centers in Pocatello, Boise, and Post Falls have been bustling with teachers and parents working together to ensure students are accurately placed in courses and that curriculum orders are placed. Teachers in outlying areas have been meeting with parents and students to do the same. Community Coordinators in each region have been working diligently with new parents and families interested in enrolling in I-DEA this year, as well as planning some exciting fall events and activities in each region. Your monthly newsletter is a valua-

ble source for information about upcoming events, lesson tips and ideas, and information about our school. Regional information can also be found on our website (click the region of the state you live in on the main page map). Our website also contains a running calendar of reminders about statewide events when you login. A year-at-a-glance school year calendar can be found on the front page under "About I-DEA". Contact Teachers and Community Coordinators are sending out updates and event information via email to the parent I-DEA accounts. Checking your I-DEA email every couple of days is important, so that you do not miss news and important information. This is also the primary

way our support staff will contact you regarding issues such as order confirmation or questions about requests. I look forward to the upcoming year with great anticipation. To our new families—Welcome to our I-DEA community! To our returning families—We are so glad to have you join us for another great year of learning!

Sincerely,  
*Deb*

**Have a  
great  
year**

## Parent to Parent by Lisa Bown, Community Coordinator

**W**elcome to the 2011-2012 school year! I enjoy this time of year, when ideas are fresh, enthusiasm is present, and all our supplies are new to us! Here are some tips to plan a successful year:

Attend the **Back to School Brunch** (more info in Upcoming Events! This is a fun event, and helps families establish a network with other home educating families. Plus, there's food!

Check out our monthly **IDEA newsletters** for outing, tips, and other information. Staying connected helps ensure success, and taking those short breaks for educational and fun opportunities often encourages kids to be more active learners.

Take time to **look through your books** early. Being comfortable with the material will help your children enter the year more relaxed and confident about the task at hand.

Discuss your curriculum choices with your **Contact Teacher**, if you have concerns or questions. Contact Teachers are knowledgeable about curriculum and education.

If you need ideas to get started, or just want extra support, please contact a Community Coordinator. We're educating at home, just like you, and are here to offer support!

By Lois Bly, Teacher

## Write, Write, Journal, Write....

The object of teaching a child is to enable him to get along without a teacher.

*Elbert Hubbard*

Ahhh, the new notebook, binder paper, composition journal.... all blank and ready for a new school year!

As the new year begins, you should have a copy of the standards for each of your children's classes. As you organize them, please take some time to focus on the Language Arts standards: Writing Process, Writing Applications, and Writing Components- and the specifics for your child's grade level. While you will have core curriculum for each of your classes, also reflect on many of the main topics your child will be learning about in each subject (yes, including math, art, and music!) Maybe only focus on the first month or two- but start keeping a list of journal or writing starters- so you can include writing as part of your child's schooling each day! By all means, they do not have to be full written pieces or all corrected for grammar and spelling- maybe just part of their journal writing each day. But then each week or two, have your child select one of their favorite pieces to write into a

full composition or report. Your child may even want to compete their final project on the computer (and by sixth grade or so, this should be expected), and perhaps inserting pictures to help illustrate their writing. Here are some journal idea starters for various subjects:

**Math:** How does my family use fractions? What tricks did I use to learn addition facts? Describe fact families.... Write a letter to \_\_\_\_\_ telling him what you learned in math today... I knew my answer was correct because.... Explain what is most important to understand about fractions....

**Social Studies:** Define in your own words what democracy is....If you could have voted on this issue, how would you have voted? List three reasons to justify your vote. In Historical figure diaries, students may relate to a time period as a "major player" such

as Abraham Lincoln or Lyndon B. Johnson; or as a "common person" such as the child of a soldier.

**Science:** Imagine you were on a trip to the moon...describe your trip, tell what you see and do... Today I discovered that... I also learned that.... The most important part of the experiment was.... Today I conducted a science lab on....

Still need some ideas? Just Google "Journal Topics" and include the subject you are wanting ideas for... then get ready to write!



You cannot teach a man anything; you can only help him find it within himself.

*Galileo Galilei*

### From Barb Femreite, Director of Business Operations

I-DEA wishes to thank all families for participating in a very successful annual curriculum return!

Central Services is stocked and ready for the new year. The time it takes for families to receive their curriculum should be cut significantly, and the savings by re-issuing curriculum rather than purchasing new will benefit not only the school, but students as well.

When you receive your curriculum, please check to be sure your order is correct and complete, then log into your I-DEA account and confirm receipt of each item. If you received an incorrect item or any items are missing, please contact the Business Office. If you decide the curriculum you ordered will not work for your student or needs to be returned for any other reason, contact your teacher and he or she will be happy to help you.

When your curriculum begins to arrive, make sure you understand whether each item is consumable or not *prior* to writing in anything. Each item in the I-DEA catalog is marked consumable or non-consumable. You are responsible for curriculum checked out to you and you may be charged for any damage to non-consumable items. Have a great school year!!

## Community Events

### Jumpstart Your Year Workshop

**Wednesday, August 24**  
11am—12pm

Boise Resource Center  
8620 W Emerald, #190, Boise

The Community Coordinators will address the needs of the parent, child, and school, providing ideas that have helped our own journeys through home education. RSVP to Mary at [mwhitworth@idahoidea.org](mailto:mwhitworth@idahoidea.org)

### Back to School Brunch

**Wednesday, August 31**  
10am—12pm  
Settler's Park in Meridian

Join I-DEA families and staff for a potluck style brunch and games! Bring a dish to share. Come ready for FUN!!!!

### Spelling Bee Kick-Off

**Thursday, September 8**  
1pm—2:30pm  
Boise Resource Center

Struggling Speller? National Bee hopeful? Students in grades 1-8 are invited to join this group for games, activities, and mini-bees! For more information and/or to sign up, contact Lisa at [lisabown@idahoidea.org](mailto:lisabown@idahoidea.org)

### Birds of Prey Field Trip

**Wednesday, Sept. 20**  
**OR Thursday, Sept. 21**  
2pm—3:30pm  
The World Center for  
Birds of Prey—5668 West  
Flying Hawk Lane, Boise

Cost: Students & Teacher Parent—Free  
Additional Adult—\$5 Senior Citizen—\$4  
Join us for a detective game, bird presentation, activities, and more? RSVP to Mary the number of students, adults, and children under 4 at [mwhitworth@idahoidea.org](mailto:mwhitworth@idahoidea.org)

### Geography Bee Kick-Off

**Thursday, September 22**  
1pm—2:30pm  
Boise Resource Center

Similar to the Spelling Bee, but for students interested in Geography. Join us for a good time exploring the places of this world. For more information and/or to sign up, contact Jill at [jillcall@idahoidea.org](mailto:jillcall@idahoidea.org)

# Welcome Back



### 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](mailto:jillcall@idahoidea.org)  
208-585-7390

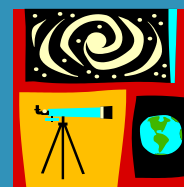
**Lisa Bown**

[lisabown@idahoidea.org](mailto:lisabown@idahoidea.org)  
208-890-4147

**Patti Boliou**

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208-585-7244

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



Science Help with Mrs. Rightler  
10 to 12 Mountain time  
Wednesday and Friday  
<https://idahoidea.ilinc.com/join/fpjikt>

## TECH SUPPORT

**1-866-904-4332**