

IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

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

November 2011

Boise Region Newsletter

Issue 3



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Important Dates:

November 11, 2011
Anchor #2 Due

November 23-25, 2011
Thanksgiving
Center Closed

November 30, 2012
Monthly Progress
Due

From Laurie Wolfe, Director of Curriculum—*Why I-DEA?*

Families decide to enroll their child or children in a public charter school for a wide variety of reasons. We realize that you have more schooling options than ever to choose from. Why did you choose I-DEA? What makes I-DEA a good fit for your family? We would like to encourage each of you to spend a few minutes reflecting on what makes this school work for you and your children and then share your thoughts with us.

Do you have suggestions to help make our school even

better? If so, we want to hear from you! We encourage you to take a few minutes to send one of us an e-mail telling us what you specifically like about I-DEA and any suggestions you have to improve our school.

Jason Bransford -
jasonbransford@idahoidea.org

Deb Pence -
deborahpence@idahoidea.org

Laurie Wolfe -
Lauriewolfe@idahoidea.org

The beginning of the school can be an overwhelming time for students, parents and

teachers. There is so much to learn! If you are feeling overwhelmed please let your contact teacher know. Do you need help planning your day, understanding how to use your textbooks, or accessing online resources? Do you need someone to bounce your ideas off of, or someone to help make learning fun and engaging? We can help, please just call or send us an email and let us know what we can specifically help you with.

Sincerely,
Laurie Wolfe

Parent to Parent by Patti Boliou, Community Coordinator

Fall brings a unique set of challenges for the home classroom. Perhaps you have settled into a nice routine, only to be interrupted by holidays, harsh weather, hunting season, or colds and flus. Here are some of my favorite fall tips: In lieu of outdoor P.E. activities, set up an indoor obstacle course with stairs, furniture cushions, and cones (or substitute small household items for boundary cones). Convert one lesson each week into a holiday cooking or baking lesson. Discuss recipe conversions for math, sauces

for chemistry, or nutrition issues for health. Find a new food to cook that reflects a different country, culture, or time period. Are your children under the weather? Assign a Learn 360 video on viruses or the common cold. Have your student write a pamphlet on practical ways to circumvent the spread of disease. Being sick might even inspire your child to create poem or compose an original song! Take the fall weather head on and trek out to the zoo. Have your student interview the zoo workers about animal be-

havior during cold weather. Which animals hibernate? How do feeding schedules change? Each new season comes with challenges, but it brings even more opportunities. Compare ideas with other parents and encourage new ways of learning for the holiday seasons.



By Nikki Pappas, Teacher— **Music: For Enjoyment and Enrichment**

*You must
do the
things
you think
you
cannot
do.*

*- Eleanor
Roosevelt*

For decades, music teachers have understood the important role that music plays by promoting motor development, higher-order thinking, memory retention, and stress reduction. While some families choose to add music as an elective, it does not need to be on the student's ILP in order for you to incorporate music into your daily routine. Music can and should be sprinkled into your instructional day, whether through listening, movement, singing, playing / performing, or creating music. All ages can benefit from the personal expression that can be gained from musical involvement. Below are some ideas to get you started:

Music Therapy - Does your child struggle with reading? Perhaps math is problematic? Add 5 minutes of soothing music before tackling a challenging subject to calm nerves and relieve anxiety.

Music and Movement - Spend a couple minutes engaging in a musical movement activity just before your student's most challenging subject. For younger students, expressive movement while listening to music helps stimulate the body, encourages right/left brain activity, and can also reduce stress brought on by challenging subjects.

Sing, Sing, Sing! – If you and your child know how to read music, spend 5

minutes singing music together during a slow period of the day. Reading music, unlike reading aloud, requires not only dictation but a very strict real-time reflection of both the words and pitches on the page.

Call and response – Don't feel comfortable singing quite yet? Call and response is the most basic form of music, and can be used for both vocal and rhythmic styles of music, and will flex your student's memory muscles. Gather some household items to create your own percussion section. Play a rhythm and allow your child to mimic. Once he/she feels comfortable with the process, alternate to allow your child some creative freedom as well.

Performance - For instrumental musicians, reading music requires a very independent and immediate response from hands, mouth, and sometimes feet. The ability to carry out such precise movements wakes up the brain in a way that no other activity can!

Jingle Jangle Jingle - Having difficulty retaining a fact, formula, or guideline? Set it to music! Assigning a melody gives your brain something more to "hold on" to, and you are more likely to remember. Not musically inclined? Don't worry! Children have a

natural tendency for music, and usually are not limited by the same reservations as adults. Give them the task and see what unfolds. World Explorer - Music and Social Studies go hand in hand. As you and your child explore cultures from around the globe, include music samples from the region. There is no greater expression in a

culture than music! Hear This – Choose appropriate times during your instructional day to incorporate music in the home. Note that some students excel in their studies when listening to music, while others may find it a distraction. Experiment and be open to the fact that your child may have a learning style that is different from your own. Not a musical household? Try going to www.pandora.com to help your student create a station to suite your taste.

For more information about the positive effects that music has on learning, click on the links below. [Music Advocacy's Top Ten for Parents Benefits of the Study of Music](#) [First Evidence that Musical Training Affects Brain Development in Young Children](#)

Diane Neal, Title I Director

You may have a child who qualifies for Title I services and are wondering what this means. Title I is a federally funded program which targets resources toward schools which qualify according to the income level of the students (based on the number of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch). Once a school qualifies for funding, any student, regardless of income level, who is achieving below grade level standard may participate in Title I funded interventions. To determine which students are eligible to participate, we look at standardized test scores (such as the IRI, ISAT, Plato Test Packs, M-Comp/M-CAP), work samples, and teacher or parent recommendations. For high school students, end of semester exams or anchor assignments are taken into consideration. Sometimes students come to us from their previous school already qualified for Title I services. Title I is not the same as Special Education. Most students who

participate in Title I services usually just have one or two areas that need a little extra attention, and only take a semester to catch up. Occasionally, a student, despite extra effort does not make adequate academic gains. Then further assessment is done to see if the child qualifies for Special Education assistance.

This year, Title I funding is helping us serve students in several ways. We have been able to hire teaching paraprofessionals to offer tutoring sessions in the areas of reading, math and language usage. We welcome Lora Evanoski and Felicia Cullins to the Boise region, Vicky Astin and Marcus Thiemann in the Southeast, and Stephanie Fletcher and Lisa Oliveria in the North and Palouse regions. These tutoring sessions are being attended by students either face-to-face or over the Internet using Skype or iLinc. Workshops such as Early Literacy Learning Activities (ELLA) for kindergartners and their parents, and Family Math Nights take

place regionally. We have also purchased the Plato Test Packs. Plato Test Packs are used in grades 2-12. An initial assessment is given to the student (taken online). Based on how the student does, a "prescription" is developed to address areas in which the student was weak. Students in Title I using the test packs work on their prescription 4 days a week, and meet with their Title I teacher once a week. We are seeing positive academic gains in our students who participate in Title I services. Last year, students who participated in Title I tutoring made great strides as measured by the ISAT test. Many of them went from below basic or basic to proficient or even advanced! We hope you will take advantage of the Title I resources we offer! For more information please call your contact teacher or Diane Neal at dianeneal@idahodiea.org.

*Courage
doesn't always
roar.
Sometimes
courage is the
quiet voice
at the end of
the day saying,
"I will try again
tomorrow."*

*- Mary Anne
Radmacher*

Community Events

High School Speech
Thursday, November 3
Thursday, December 1
BRC—8620 W Emerald St
Suite #190, Boise

Bring Oral Presentations
 Practice Debate Skills
 Get-to-Know Other I-DEA HS Students
 Questions: pattiboliou@idahoidea.org
RSVP: mwhitworth@idahoidea.org

Farmstead Field
Trip--Corn Maze
Thursday, October 20
1pm—3pm
1020 S Rackham Way
Meridian, Idaho



Join us at the Farmstead!
 Hayride Playing in Courtyard
 Exploring Part of a Corn Maze
 Pick a Pumpkin
COST: \$4 per person (child and/or adult)
 (Includes one (1) pumpkin...additional pumpkins may be purchased)
RSVP: mwhitworth@idahoidea.org
 (include number of participants)

High School Mall
Scavenger Hunt
Monday, October 24
11am—3pm
BRING: \$5-10 for lunch
 or backpack with your
 lunch

Meet in Food Court near Orange Julius
 All 9th-12th Grade I-DEA Students
Also Bring: Signed Permission Form
 (download on I-DEA website)
RSVP: mwhitworth@idahoidea.org

Fire Station Tour
Kindergarten—3rd
Tuesday, November 1
1:30pm—2:30pm
Boise Fire Station #14
2515 South Maple Grove

Join us at **Boise Fire Station #14**
RSVP: mwhitworth@idahoidea.org
 (Please list student names and Grade Level)



Music Theater of ID
Wizard of Oz
Wednesday, November 2
12pm—2:30pm
Nampa Civic Center
2311 3rd Street South

2nd Grade—12th Grade Students
Students Only! Limited Space!
Drop your student(s) off at noon
Pick them up at 2:30pm
RSVP: mwhitworth@idahoidea.org

National College
Fair
Wednesday, November 2
9:30am-2:30pm&6pm-8pm
Boise Center
850 W Front Street

Register TODAY...link below
<https://www.gotomyncf.com/Reg.asp?EID=148>



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
 208-585-7390

Lisa Bown
lisabown@idahoidea.org
 208-890-4147

Patti Boliou
pattiboliou@idahoidea.org
 208-585-7244

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



LIVE with Mrs. Turner
Mountain Time
 Each **Thursday**
Pre-Algebra
 9:30-10:30
Algebra AB
 10:30-11:30
Algebra CD
 11:30-12:30



FMI contact:
reginaturner@idahoidea.org

LIVE with Mrs. Pappas
Mountain Time
 Each **Tuesday**
Algebra I
 9:30-10:30
Geometry
 10:30-11:30



Each **Thursday**
Algebra II
 9:30-10:30
Pre-Calculus
 10:30-11:30

FMI contact:
nikipappas@idahoidea.org

TECH
SUPPORT
1-866-904-4332

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Kaylee Owsley

Kaylee Owsley (IDEA Student, Age 15), is a member of the YMCA Swim Team, and, Capital High School's Varsity Swim Team. In addition to her competitive swimming career, she also serves as a Certified Swim Instructor's Aid at the West YMCA Aquatic Center. During the summer months, Kaylee helps teach 5-10 year olds basic-to-intermediate swimming and water-survival skills. In the Fall, she also teaches in the Y's annual Splash program recently featured as a cover story by the Idaho Statesman.

Statistically, drowning is the second-leading cause of unintentional, injury-related deaths for children ages 1 to 14 years old. Idaho as a state reports the second-highest rate of drowning deaths nationwide for kids ages 5 and under. These alarming numbers make Kaylee's job very important to our community. **We're grateful for her dedication to helping kids learn to *survive* and *thrive* in the water!**



The MARTIN'S Chandler , Connor & Logan

Congratulations to the Martin Family for being Ms. Chapman's family of the month! Collectively, Chandler, Conner and Logan have logged more than 34 hours on ALEKS! Also, each of the boys has more than doubled their initial number of topics mastered! Congratulation to these outstanding students.



Front: Logan **Back** (left to right): Chandler,
Teaching Mom Christina, Connor

Congratulations!