

# IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

Planting the seeds of tomorrow, TODAY.

December 2011

Boise Region Newsletter

Issue 4



## In This Issue:

From the Counselor	1
Parent to Parent	1
Lesson Idea	2
From Tech Support	2
Community Events	3
Student Spotlights	4

## Important Dates:

8 December, 3pm  
**INFO Session**

9 December  
#3 Anchor Due (HS)

19 Dec — 2 Jan  
Boise Center Closed

19 Dec—26 Dec  
Central Services Closed

3 Jan 2012—Return to  
School

## From Marni Wattam, School Counselor

### What's In Your Future?

Graduation in June seems very distant right now. As the first quarter comes to an end and semester exams coming in January there are going to be many deadlines that you and your student need to be aware of. If you have a high school student there are many things that you can work on over their high school years that will help their senior year go smoothly.

### Things to do each year

- \* Meet with your contact teacher and develop an ILP that will meet graduation requirements and requirements to enable you to be accepted to the school or career of your choice. Talk to your teacher about what your post-high school plans and goals are.
- \* Take advantage of the time in the summer or after school hours to find a job, internship or volunteer experience. Make sure to keep track of what you did and the group that was associated with the task to add to a resume.
- \* Get to know your contact teachers/counselor or administrator/community contacts. You will need recommendations for different applications whether it is a job, scholarship or college. The best way to get good recommendations is to build strong relationships with teachers, school counselors and other people in the community.

### Things to do by class

**Freshman:** Work with your contact Teacher to plan the courses you would like to take during all 4 years of high school. Research clubs and activities available in your school and community. Participate in ones that interest you and not just the ones you think will look good on applications. Start looking at future careers that appeal to you.  
**Sophomores:** Start researching both private and public colleges in state or out of state. Make a file of bookmarks on your web browser or start a paper file of different schools and brochures that interest you. Make sure to prepare well for the ISATs by daily study and taking practice ISAT exams before the date of the actual test.  
**Juniors:** Continue to research colleges. There are several scholarships for Juniors and Seniors. Apply to any scholarships for which you meet the requirements. If you are interested in a military academy after high school start contacting the Senator and Representatives from your area to see what their particular process is for their recommendation at their office. In the fall you may also sign up for the PSAT assessment. In the spring (April 18), take the SAT test that the state is sponsoring at no cost to you. You can take it again your senior year if need be, but there will be a fee for you to take it this time. In the spring gather information about the colleges that you are interested in and develop college essays if that college requires one for entrance. If interested in the

military start talking to the different branches and find the right fit for you.  
**Seniors:** Take the ACT or SAT depending on the college requirements or if you would like to improve your score. Request and complete college applications either in a paper version or online. Make sure to note due dates. Attend a campus preview weekend or schedule a campus visit. Many colleges with applications and financial aid date and time stamp when items are received and priority is given to students who complete items before the due date. If you are requesting a letter of recommendation make sure to give the person at least a minimum of 2 weeks to complete the letter or form. In December gather your information regarding your parent's finances to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The form becomes available the first of January and many financial aid offices have early due dates. Place your order for your cap and gown when the email comes out in fall. If your family desires create and order graduation announcements and mail out 2-3 weeks before your graduation ceremony!

Resources for further research:

<http://www.knowhow2go.org/>  
<http://www.fastweb.com/>  
<http://www.go-on-idaho.org/>  
<http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>  
<http://www.actstudent.org/>  
<https://www.commonpp.org/CommonApp/default.aspx>

## Parent to Parent by Lisa Bown, Community Coordinator

Wow! There are so many great things going on around the school this year! Have you had a chance to check out the opportunities available? Students are participating in field trips, spelling club, geography club, writing wizards, science club, and so much more! They're learning while they have fun and interact with their peers. High School kids have had great opportunities to get involved in leadership activities, clubs, and study groups. They even had a mall scavenger hunt! How fun! Aside from the benefits for the kids, out-

ings are a great time for parents to connect and get ideas from one another, and often times they get a chance to visit with their contact teachers outside of portfolio conferences. Club time can offer teaching parents the chance to do some planning, spend time with their children who aren't involved in the club, or even run a few errands! Plus, many of the clubs support the content standards, which may help with ideas for portfolio conferences. Check out the newsletter each month, and look over the flyers in the Boise

Resource Center for more information. You can also email your Contact Teacher or Community Coordinators, and we'll be happy to help you find information!



## By Mary Thompson, Teacher

*The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.*

**Robert M. Hutchins**

Living and schooling in the great Northwest, we are certainly used to long, cold and oftentimes very snowy winters. Day after cold day, we can oftentimes feel as if we'll never see the sun again... This year winter is supposed to be longer than usual, with more snow than we generally have. So I wanted to pass along some ideas to fight the winter doldrums:

- o **Find indoor learning experiences!** Search for indoor learning opportunities in your area like museums, libraries, swimming or music lessons, and theaters that can change up the routine, but still engage kids in learning.
- o **Grab the sun when you can!** Sometimes we just need a break from the everyday school-work routine so that we can take advantage of a short stint of sunshine. If you see the sun pop through the clouds, don't be afraid to drop what you are doing and take advantage of it! Just a few minutes of sunshine in a day can make all the difference!
- o **Bring the outside in!** Plant a little herb garden to take care of

during the winter months. Have your students be responsible for the planting and daily watering of them. Try to choose some herbs that you can throw into a recipe your kids will love, like basil on pizza!

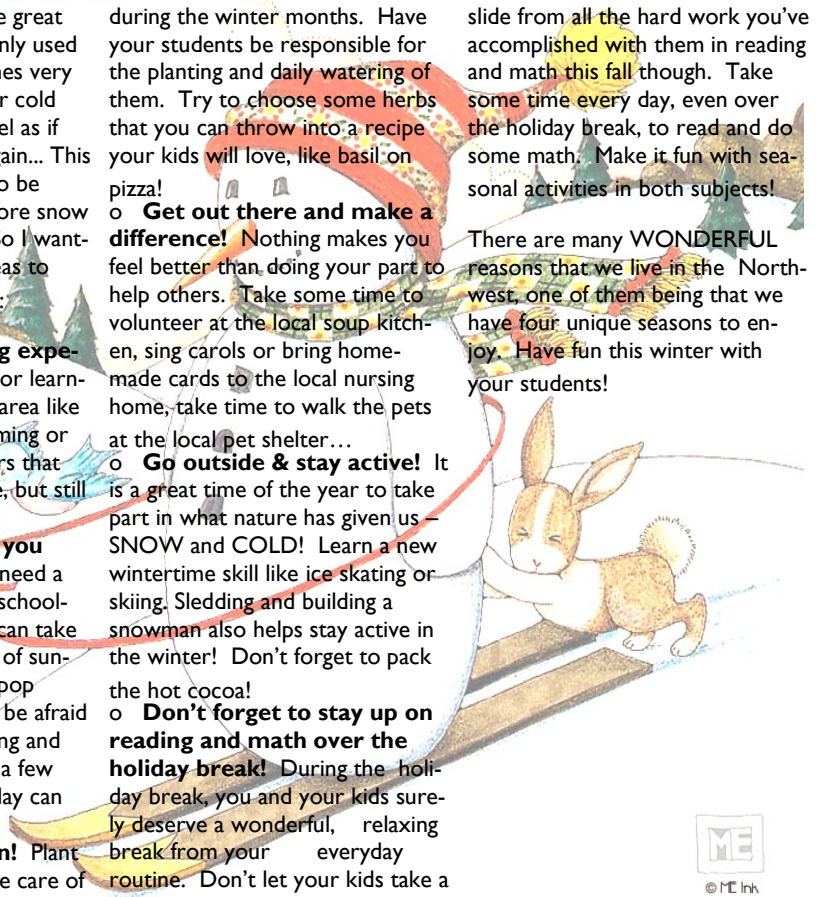
o **Get out there and make a difference!** Nothing makes you feel better than doing your part to help others. Take some time to volunteer at the local soup kitchen, sing carols or bring homemade cards to the local nursing home, take time to walk the pets at the local pet shelter...

o **Go outside & stay active!** It is a great time of the year to take part in what nature has given us – SNOW and COLD! Learn a new wintertime skill like ice skating or skiing. Sledding and building a snowman also helps stay active in the winter! Don't forget to pack the hot cocoa!

o **Don't forget to stay up on reading and math over the holiday break!** During the holiday break, you and your kids surely deserve a wonderful, relaxing break from your everyday routine. Don't let your kids take a

slide from all the hard work you've accomplished with them in reading and math this fall though. Take some time every day, even over the holiday break, to read and do some math. Make it fun with seasonal activities in both subjects!

There are many WONDERFUL reasons that we live in the Northwest, one of them being that we have four unique seasons to enjoy. Have fun this winter with your students!



## From Andy Archer, Technology Support

Sometime in the near future you will be seeing a change in the way your email looks, so don't be alarmed. As of November 1<sup>st</sup> Google is rolling out a progressive update to improve and enhance their current email system. So far the update is in the initial phase where you can opt into it by clicking on the "Switch to the new look" in the bottom right. Eventually they will switch all accounts to the newer version, but so far that date has yet to be announced. The new design slightly changes the appearance while adding in new functionality.

There are a few things to know about this update that will

help in the transition. The first in which you will probably notice right away is the size of all the components. They are greatly increased from their previous size but that can quickly be changed by going to the gear towards the upper right and changing the display density.

A few design changes include simplified menus at the top using pictures instead of wording, as well as a new layout to make reading through your email threads easier.

The last feature I would like to highlight is the new improved search features. By clicking on the drop down arrow in the search

box you will now find a list of searchable subjects as well as being able to add filters which should make it easier and faster to find what you are looking for.

A list of the new features as well as a video can be found at the Gmail Official Blog at this [link](#).

*Change your thoughts and you change your world.*

**Norman Vincent Peale**

**New  
Look**

## Community Events

**High School Speech**  
**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](mailto:pattiboliou@idahoidea.org)  
 RSVP: [mwhitworth@idahoidea.org](mailto:mwhitworth@idahoidea.org)

**Discovery Center of**  
**Idaho for all grades**  
**Tuesday, December 6**  
**11am—1pm**  
**131 Myrtle Street**  
**Boise, Idaho**



**Free for parents & students**  
 Tour the Exhibit Hall: **"Resonance Rings"**  
 Demonstration Class: **Matter and Molecules**

**Space Limited—RSVP Early!!!**

RSVP: [mwhitworth@idahoidea.org](mailto:mwhitworth@idahoidea.org)

**Jump Time Idaho**  
**Thursday, December 15**  
**1pm—3pm**  
**1375 E Fairview Ave**  
**Meridian, Idaho**  
 (on Fairview, just west  
 of Locust Grove)



High School & Middle School Students & Families

Join us at the Jump Time Idaho!  
 Jump—Obstacle Course

Trampoline Dodge Ball  
**COST: \$8 per jumper**

More Info: [pattiboliou@idahoidea.org](mailto:pattiboliou@idahoidea.org)

RSVP: [mwhitworth@idahoidea.org](mailto:mwhitworth@idahoidea.org)  
 (include number of participants)

**ROARING READERS is BACK!**  
**(Read your way to a Roaring Springs ticket!)**  
**Kindergarten — 6th Grade Students**



**Sign up by December 16, 2011**—E-mail [lisabown@idahoidea.org](mailto:lisabown@idahoidea.org)

include student name, grade, and contact teacher's name.

Reading forms will be e-mailed to those who register by December 16.

Between January 1, 2012 and March 20, 2012, **Kindergarten—4th Grade Students must read 600 minutes** and **4th—6th Grade Students must read 800 minutes** to earn a ticket to Roaring Springs. Any recreational reading including newspapers, comic books, novels, magazines, etc. counts. Students can read on their own, or parents can read to younger students. Homework and home lessons do not count.

**Completed forms must be returned by March 23 and mailed to:**

**I-DEA, 8620 W Emerald, Suite 190, Boise, ID 83704** Attention: Lisa  
**Must Include Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope**

\*\*\* Please note: Roaring Springs is not providing tickets to teachers. We still encourage you to take advantage of the program for your Kindergarten—6th Grade students.

**We're on Facebook!**  
<http://www.facebook.com/Idaho.charterschool>

We will continue to send out newsletters and regional updates via email, however this is another (perhaps more convenient) way to access a live feed with that info. You just simply hit "Like" on the school Facebook page and the info will go into your news feed as soon as we post it. Please note when you "like" a page on Facebook, it does not allow the owners of the page to access any information about you other than your name and profile picture--so your personal information on Facebook will remain secure. You do not have to join Facebook to access the school page; you can simply add the link above to your favorites and access it anytime you like! We also have a Twitter account--you can follow [idahoidea](http://idahoidea) on there and see the same info.



**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**

[pattiboliou@idahoidea.org](mailto:pattiboliou@idahoidea.org)

208-585-7244

Science Help with

Mrs. Rightler  
 10 - 12

Mountain time

Wednesday and Friday

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

[fpjikt](mailto:fpjikt)



**LIVE with Mrs. Turner**  
**Mountain Time**  
 Each **Wednesday**



**Pre-Algebra**

9:30-10:30

**Algebra AB**

10:30-11:30

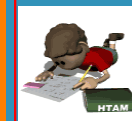
**Algebra CD**

11:30-12:30

FMI contact:

[reginaturner@idahoidea.org](mailto: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](mailto:nikipappas@idahoidea.org)

**TECH**  
**SUPPORT**  
**1-866-904-4332**

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Tyler Cox

Tyler Cox is a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student at I-DEA. Tyler is a runner that has proven his speed, stamina, and determination in several races over the last 6 months. Tyler ran in the Mad Hatter Relay Race in the spring of 2011. The Mad Hatter Relay is a 2 mile, 2 leg, 2 person, Relay Race. The total distance covered is 8 miles. Each team participant runs 4 miles, 2 miles each time they run, running twice. Tyler's time on the first leg of his race was 17 minutes 46 seconds. His score on his second leg was even better at 17 minutes and 45 seconds. Tyler also ran in the Beat Coach Pete 5K run last spring. A 5K is 3.1 miles. Tyler did beat Coach Pete, the coach of the B.S.U. Football team, with a time of 24:59!

Tyler went on to run the Famous Idaho Potato Race last May and the Meridian Barn Sour Run last June. Both of these races were 10K races which is equivalent to 6.2 miles. Tyler's time in the Famous Idaho Potato Race was 55:35. He placed 2nd in the 14 and younger division and 119 out of 586 total participants. In the Meridian Barn Sour 10 K Run Tyler placed 1st in the 10 and younger division with a time of 59:35. Tyler is sponsored by Team BEEF. We are proud of Tyler's accomplishments!



## Taylor & Reid Smalley

I-DEA students, Taylor Smalley, (4th Grade) and Reid Smalley, (1st Grade) shared their talents for the theater in the recent musical, *The Wizard of Oz*, as part of the Music Theater of Idaho. I-DEA students, as well as Treasure Valley students, were able to attend a special performance sponsored on behalf of a Fred Meyer grant. It was an energy filled afternoon of watching a live choreographed production of this classic story. Thank you to the Smalley family and the cast of *Wizard of Oz* for making us all smile!

## Students Helping with the Festival of Tree Decorations



# Congratulations!