

IDAHO DISTANCE EDUCATION ACADEMY

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

December 2011

Northern Region Newsletter

Issue 4



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Important Dates:

December 12, 2011
Math Day

December 16, 2011
IDFY Party

December 19, 2011
Movie Night

Center Closed
December 19—
January 2, 2012

Christmas
December 25, 2011
Center Closed

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 are going to 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.commonapp.org/CommonApp/default.aspx>

Parent to Parent by Karen Ashenbrenner, Community Coordinator

How to avoid becoming lost...

What to do if it happens

Here we are 3 months into the school year, and I-DEA parents have been busy fulfilling obligations that of a Parent-Teacher. We parents have; set up class rooms, built ILP's, chose curriculum, and wrote schedules. We have spent time teaching, organ-

izing, wrote MPU's, and helped our children build Portfolio's. We can avoid becoming lost when we, parents take the I-DEA process step by step. This organization allows parents to accomplish these tasks over a period of time.

We all know that Parent-Teaching is not our only job. We wear many

hats, and cover many bases, so it is understandable how one could get the feeling of being lost or overwhelmed. I want to assure you that if this is where you are, you are not alone!

So, what do you do if you are feeling lost or overwhelmed? We can avoid becoming lost by taking **Cont. pg. 3**

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 home-made 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. Sledging 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!



Change your thoughts and you change your world.

Norman Vincent Peale

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 1st 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](#).

**New
Look**

Outstanding Student



Emily Haas

Emily is a Junior with the Idaho Distance Education

Academy. She loves Chinese Food; her favorite restaurant is the Flaming Wok. Emily likes to hang out with friends, take pictures, and listen to music. She likes many artists, so it was difficult to choose, but one of her current favorites is Francesca Battistelli.

Math is currently Emily's favorite class. This surprised her, because she used to hate math. Emily has been working with Mrs. Schultz, who "makes math fun," and joining in on Mrs. Turner's live

math sessions. Emily wasn't sure she really liked the live math sessions at first, but says that once she got used to them, they've become really helpful.

Emily is our Student of the Month at I-DEA. She's a great example of a successful student; she is working hard in her classes and showing great gains in knowledge and maturity. In addition to that, she makes the whole staff smile when she comes to the center. Way to go, Emily!

Parent to Parent, cont. from Page 1

re-think, organize, and take steps to fix what is not working, when it isn't working! As we head toward winter break; it is a good time for you to consider changes you can make that help will lighten and balance your load for next semester. Start by writing down your most time intensive tasks, prioritize those, and take a hard look at what changes could be made to get those tasks balanced. We can also ask ourselves, "Am I making the most of the resources I-DEA makes available to me?"

What to do if it happens...

Resources and tips-

Contact Teachers/Secondary Teachers- Don't put off calling with questions or asking for help. I-DEA teachers can save you some time-they don't know you need help unless you ask. This goes for the student too!

Utilize on line resources- Incorporate free online resources like Learn 360 and Brain Pop into the school day. These are fun ways to support concepts that you are teaching, this will free up some time for you.

Course Catalogue/standards- check out the suggested daily outline. Depending on the grade level and how many classes as student is taking will depend on the length of a school day. If your 3th grade student is in the school room 10 hours a day- IT IS TIME TO CALL.

Avoid- over scheduling. Realize that you are only one person, balance is important; find some time out of the busy day-for you.

Portfolios- collect samples over time- encourage your student to help by choosing a work sample each week that is added to the Portfolio. DON'T WAIT until the night before the conference to build a Portfolio.

Work shops/Info Sessions/New Parent Orientations/Parent work days- are all designed to give parents tools that will make their Parent-Teacher job easier!

Web site-a tool for you! Handbook, calendars, email, and upcoming events.

Schedules-If you and your student do not have a schedule, making one would be a good place to start.

Community Events



Math Day!

K-3 students will have fun learning and practicing math skills with fun games and hands on activities!

PFRC Lab

December 12, 2011, 2-4pm



IDFY Christmas Party

Pizza Factory Post Falls~December 16, 3-5pm

No cost to IDFY Members

Non members \$5



I-DEA Family Movie Night

December 19, 2011 7pm

Post Falls Movie Theater

1486 W Seltice Way, Post Falls

\$1 per person—Family and friends are welcome

G-Rated movie title to be announced



November/December IDFY Annual Sock Drive

Help IDFY students meet their goal of 250 pair of socks! Socks will be distributed by One Ministries-a local soup kitchen that meets the needs of the less fortunate. Drop off new socks at the PFRC office.



Pizza Hut Book-It!

It's not too late to request Pizza Hut Book-It coupons!

Pizza Hut Book-It is for students in Kindergarten through the 6th grade.

It's easy: Parents set reading goals for their student, student meets their reading goal, parent rewards

student with a Pizza Hut Book-It certificate!

If you would like your children to participate:

Send a self addressed, stamped envelope to:

Karen Ashenbrenner
22904 N El Dorado Dr.
Rathdrum, ID 83858

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 on there and see the same info.

Karen Ashenbrenner
Community Coordinator
(208) 661-5099
karenashenbrenner@idahoidea.org

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

Science Help with Ms. Rightler
10 to 12 MST
Wednesday and Friday
<https://idahoidea.ilinc.com/join/fpjjkt>

Help from Mrs. Turner
Wednesday Pre Algebra,
9:30am to 10:30am MST
Algebra AB, 10:30 to 11:30am
Algebra CD, 11:30am to
12:30pm MST
For more info contact her at
reginaturner@idahoidea.org

Help From Mrs. Pappas
Tuesday Algebra I, 9:30am to
10:30am MST and Geometry
10:30am to 11:30am MST
Thursday Algebra II 9:30am to
10:30am MST and Pre Calculus
10:30am to 11:30am MST
<https://idahoidea.ilinc.com/join/ccjcmhw>

 **IDAHO
DISTANCE
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Educating Through Partnership One Child at a Time