



---

◆NEWS RELEASE◆

---

*-MATH AND SCIENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS*

## **BSD Students to Compete in Regional Invent Idaho Competition**

Boise, ID -- 02/08/2012 -- This week, students from BSD's Cynthia Mann Elementary School and White Pine Elementary School will roll-up their sleeves and put their creative talents, skills and knowledge on the line, all in the hopes of being named an *Idaho Inventor*. Friday and Saturday (Feb. 10 & 11), students will participate in the annual Invent Idaho Southwestern regional competition held in Boise.

Cynthia Mann Elementary students in **Scarlett Randall's** 3/4 grade GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) class, **Bob Bishop's** 5/6 grade GATE class, and White Pine Elementary School's **Teri Mahler's** 5/6 grade GATE students will participate in the regional competition.

### **Event**

As part of the annual Invent Idaho competition, students will enter their unique invention in one of five categories:

Working Model – build a model or sample that works

Non-Working Model – build a model

Games – board, sport, computer (supply own computer)

Jules Verne – futuristic and fantasy invention

Adaptations – improve on an existing invention

Students use their knowledge in science and math, not to mention art, to design and build their inventions. Entries include: Shredder Chute, Automatic Cup-Holder, Fuzz Brush, Porbeagle Shark Webcam, and many more!

### **When and Where**

The SW Regional Invent Idaho competition is open to the general public for viewing on Saturday, Feb. 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the University of Idaho, 322 Front Street, Boise. At that time, the public will be able to vote for the People's Choice Award winner. **News media representatives and members of the public are invited to attend.**

### **About Invent Idaho**

Invent Idaho, which was founded in 1989 by two educators, is a program designed to foster innovative thinking by challenging students to invent solutions to everyday problems. Thousands of young inventors have participated in the Invent Idaho problem solving process, designing unique solutions and inventions. Young inventors participate in progressive levels of competitions, including three Regional events held across Idaho, culminating in an Invent Idaho State Finals event, to be held on March 9 and 10 at the University of Idaho in Moscow, ID.

The ultimate goal of Invent Idaho is **not** to win competitions or to raise test scores, though these may be pleasant highlights. Instead, Invent Idaho's fundamental purpose is to develop a mindset within our young students, in which creative problem solving is simply a way of approaching life—the way they *think*. Invent Idaho is poised to grow exponentially with the current emphasis in our schools on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. As stated in the 2011 State of the Union Address, “The first step in winning the future is encouraging American innovation”. This reflects a national demand for innovation—one that has grown in urgency in recent years.

Not only does the Invent Idaho program teach higher order thinking skills, it addresses dozens of State Science Standards, as well as the number one Technology and Communication Standard **“Creativity and Innovation”**: **to demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and use information and communication technologies to develop innovative products and processes.**

Invent Idaho encourages American innovation. As one young inventor stated, “I like being creative and Invent Idaho was a great way for me to express my ideas and show other people what I was thinking. I like the Jules Verne category because you can really dream big. I hope one day one of my inventions can actually be made and help in some way.”

As one long-time Invent Idaho parent stated, “Invent Idaho has been a wonderful creative outlet for my kids. It has taught them critical thinking skills and problem solving skills. They would be creatively engaged for hours while trying to get their ideas on paper and making models. What a great way to combine science, math, research, development, marketing, writing, and model making into an exciting learning experience.”

Invent Idaho projects often use parent volunteers and additional resources. Teachers often rely on donations from the Boise Public Schools Education Foundation to fund materials for project-based learning opportunities. Individuals wishing to make a donation may do so by visiting [www.boiseschoolsfoundation.com](http://www.boiseschoolsfoundation.com)

#### **For further information contact:**

**Scarlett Randall**  
**3/4 GATE Teacher**  
**Cynthia Mann Elementary School**  
**854-4680 or 283-0075**  
[Scarlett.randall@boiseschools.org](mailto:Scarlett.randall@boiseschools.org) or [efrandall@msn.com](mailto:efrandall@msn.com)