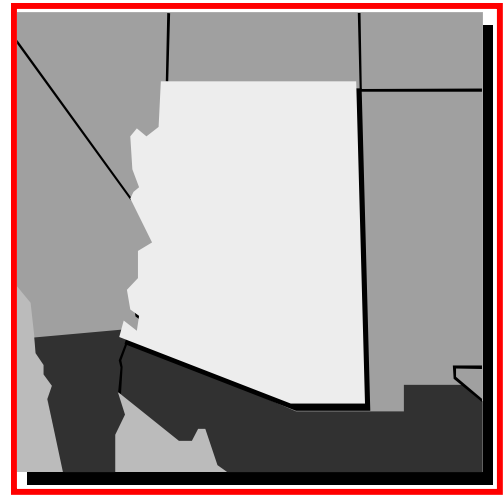

Staying on the Cutting Edge: Success in Arizona



By Diana Stephens, Facilitator

**Lake View Elementary School - SFA Year 8, MathWings Year 7, Leadership Academy Year 2
Page, Arizona**

At Lake View Elementary School in Page, AZ, we are in our 7th year of instruction with SFA. We also use Getting Along Together, MathWings and KinderCorner. The longer we use SFA the more success we see and the more enthusiastic we become.

Last year we implemented FastTrack Phonics at the semester and the results were startling. The year before FTP, only 14 percent of our first graders began the year mastering stage three or above. This year, after only one semester using FTP in Kindergarten, we had 57 percent of our first graders begin the year mastering stage three. The SAT-9 results were equally amazing. On word study skills, the year before FTP was implemented our first graders scored on the 56th percentile. After FTP was implemented, they were at the 75th percentile.

We have been receiving the SFA training on clarification with noticeable results. Our students are beginning to realize when they don't know a word, and they now have more than one strategy to help them figure it out. They are beginning to "chunk it" and "read on to see if it makes sense." Before the clarification strategies were taught, if sounding out a word didn't work, they were lost.

We have found that SFA keeps us on the cutting edge of reading education. We especially appreciate that SFA stays current with the research. Many times the SFA training has enabled us to implement strategies that our district becomes aware of later.

One of the most appreciated attitudes of the SFA Foundation is that they really listen to the people in the trenches when we tell them what is working and what isn't. We have seen many improvements made in the program in our seven years that were exactly what we thought were needed.

Thanks for all the successes you have brought us, and for listening.

