

Paradise Valley
Unified School District
"Where individual excellence is our goal"

"HIDDEN HILLS FAMILY-BE IN IT!"
A 2008 A+ School!!

April 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

This past fall, a third grade teacher, Sandy Ermel, began to take classes in Cognition Ignition Math. Sandy began to plan lessons in math using the CI approach. After just a couple of lessons, Sandy came to me to share how excited the students were in math and that they were doing CI math during recess!!! Sandy asked me to observe a CI math lessons and the students were not only actively engaged in the lesson, there was a buzz of excitement about their ability to solve difficult problems. One day, Sandy even called me to the room because the students had solved a very difficult problem and she wasn't sure how to write the equation!!!

Mid-year, Sandy's third graders took a district math test to monitor their progress in math and Sandy's students showed the most improvement of any third grade in the district. She has several students who have learning difficulties and several students who are in a class for Second English Language and yet each student showed significant improvement across the board. The students feel so confident about their math skills that they are offering to tutor the upper grade students at lunch and during the after school programs!

Using CI math has not only affected their math scores. Our school had all students in third grade through sixth grade participate in a movie making project on computers. Sandy's class did an exceptional job creating their movies and both teachers working on the project stated that this class was the most successful in the project because they are thinking outside of the box. Our students in grades three through six have just completed their state mandated tests and we are anxious to receive our scores in July to see just exactly what this third grade has accomplished. The students are confident that they have aced the tests, as they were bragging to their peers at lunch about how easy the math test was for them to do.

Perhaps the most supportive statement from CI is a statement from one of Sandy's students, "My sister is in middle school (7th/8th grade) and I was able to help her with her homework!" At Hidden Hills, we are thrilled that our district supports the Cognitive Ignition math approach and are training more teachers to implement this program next year.

Sincerely,

Lynette Geake, Principal

Hidden Hills Elementary School, 1919 E Sharon Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85022
602-449-3100 Office / 602-449-3101 Attendance / 602-449-3105 Fax
<http://cmweb.pvschools.net/hhesweb/>