



September 2009

What a Great August -Thanks to all of Your Hard Work!!!

- #1 Texas Educational Solutions**
- #2 Unique Solutions**
- #3 Educational Materials Specialists**

**Congratulations to This Year's First Million Dollar Hitters!
Congratulations, Joyce and Nancy!!**



A Homerun for the Coach in Houston, Texas!

Thousands of students in Aldine ISD will be receiving a "lifeline to learning" with *My Reading Coach* this school year with its implementation in

65 schools using over 800 WAN licenses. This decision was reached after extensive previews were conducted at the district's request, incorporating students from an elementary, and intermediate and a middle school, a ninth grade campus and an alternative secondary school. The extensive "try-out" was launched after three high-performing schools in the district had previously purchased the program and had seen phenomenal results in academic achievement and the improvement of student self esteem.

The data gathered after these five previews showed tremendous gains in a short time in these students' lexile and state assessment scores. 42% of the 97 students who had failed the TAKS at one school passed the retest with significant score improvement after a few weeks on the program with one student even receiving Commended status. The data was compared to the test scores of those using Scholastic's new program - *System 44* – also being piloted during this time period in the district with comparable groups.

Joyce Wehnes and Nancy Metz, Educational Consultants with Texas Educational Solutions, have spent countless hours "in the dugout" working with key district personnel and participating principals, teachers and technology staff to ensure the fidelity of these five school previews. Joyce and Nancy were impressed to hear that the principals' first response to the recent announcement that *My Reading Coach* had been purchased for their schools was, "How can we get more licenses?" Good job, Coach . . . you scored big in the Major League!

Please Congratulate Joyce and Nancy for their wonderful success!



Training Corner!!

By Lisa Garcia

Why Didn't Anyone Tell Me That?

PROBLEM: Adding FLRT, RAPS 360 or U-ARC shortcuts to individual desktops or "favorites" is time consuming or the site tech has to be involved in adding them to the start menu. Favorites get lost sometimes and that's no fun!!

SOLUTION: Get help from the school librarian and have her (or him) add the link to the Library or School Home Page. I didn't have to load a single shortcut! It was a quick task and all students in the school have access on any computer anywhere in the school.

PROBLEM: When you click on a desktop shortcut for U-ARC, RAPS or FLRT it used to work, but now it looks different, or doesn't show student names, etc.

SOLUTION: Don't use a desktop short cut unless you make a new one from the original link regularly. Instead, save it to "favorites". I have seen a lot of shortcut problems that somehow point to the oldest version and not the newest. Or something.... ☺ Always keep the original link handy on your e-mail just to update the shortcut or "favorites". Updates are always being added and in this way you are assured the newest connection.

PROBLEM: When logging into U-ARC sometimes it's hard to see all of the classes listed in the column on the right of the screen.

SOLUTION: Click the **F11** key at the top of your keyboard. This opens up the screen and allows you to see more without having to scroll so much.

I always have the kids hit **F11** on FLRT too – just so the screen is larger to see. Hit it once to enlarge, then again to go back.

Price List Change!

We will no longer be selling additional connections for Platinum Version 1 after October 1st.

After that, schools/districts running Version 1 and wanting to add on must upgrade to Version 2.
(Upgrade price is \$50 per connection)

RAPS 360
Now available on the Internet

LAN, WAN and Standalone will be shipping by September 10, 2009. We are currently waiting for the manual to return from the printer.