

## Back to School Issue

# Room 203B Gazette

## Welcome!



**Keith Alcock**

Welcome students and parents to the fourth grade, classroom 203B, and Your Neighborhood School! My name is Keith Alcock and I am your educational facilitator (teacher if you'd prefer) for the year as well as temporary newsletter editor. I'm here to ensure that our class of 25 students has what it needs in order to learn what it wants to learn. I'll also steer it in the direction of wanting to learn what it needs to learn as determined by students, parents, the school, and society at large. Communication with parents is an essential aspect of this endeavor and this weekly newsletter is one of many ways to serve that purpose. Please watch for it every Monday afternoon.

The majority of these pages will soon be turned over to students, who will take over as editors, but before that happens, please allow me a short introduction. That's my picture above and to the left. Don't hesitate to wave or say hello if you see me about Tucson. I was transplanted here in 2001 after growing up in Minnesota via a roundabout route involving Germany, California, and the Netherlands. My undergraduate degrees from the University of Minnesota are in Electrical Engineering and German and I spent a few decades in the software industry before coming back to education. I was certified in 2005 after taking classes at Pima Community College and the University of Arizona. My hobbies include bicycling, reading, and computing. I look forward to great year!



**Room 203B before  
your arrival**

### Volume 1, Issue 1 August 21, 2007

#### Contents

Welcome!	1
Rules and expectations	1
Homework policy	1
Goals and objectives	1
Contact information	1

#### Calendar

Aug. 21	School begins
Sept. 5	Parent night
Oct. 2	Conferences

## Rules and expectations

Over the next few weeks, the class and I will formulate a detailed set of classroom rules and expectations to ensure educational success. We will learn how to make rules, not just how to follow them. Please watch for updates in this newsletter. Just one rule will get us started: every individual (students, parents, teachers, etc.) will treat others and also be treated with respect. We have one primary expectation, to learn.

## Homework policy

There will be regular homework assignments Monday through Thursday. None is given over the weekend except potential make up work and no homework will introduce new concepts, but rather reinforce topics already discussed in class. Every Friday a folder is sent home showing sample work from the week and detailing any assignments not yet completed satisfactorily. Parents can check up on homework by calling the class answering machine or visiting the class web site. Further details will appear in the homework folder.

## Goals and objectives

The fourth grade curriculum at Your Neighborhood School revolves around problem solving. In math we figure out how to tell if pizza slices are fairly distributed and who should get how much more. In English we write essays to explain our opinions and convince others. Why some of our classroom plants don't thrive is a question addressed in science this year. The entire class will learn to play the recorder and we will be using computers in many of our investigations. Don't hesitate to ask your child for help in solving a problem. We will do our best to find real world issues to tackle.

## Contact information

You are welcome to send written materials (suggestions, complaints, praise) to me in care of the school: Keith Alcock, Your Neighborhood School, 123 Elm St., Tucson, AZ 12345. The school switchboard number is 123-4567 and from there you can dial extension 890 to leave a message during school hours or speak to me directly starting approximately 15 minutes after school is out. In case of emergency, please speak to the switchboard operator who can have your child or me paged. The class will maintain a web site with much more detailed contact information including email and instant messaging addresses at

<http://www.yourneighborhoodschool.edu/203b>