



## **Banks Elementary School**

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Tucson, Arizona 85735  
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August 4, 2011

Dear Banks Parents,

***Welcome back for another exciting year at Banks. It is always great to see everyone again and share in the excitement of the Staff who are rolling in as well as new Bobcats and returning students who have dropped in to visit.***

- We've got to share the challenges along with the successes, so I'll get right to the point and let you know that we did not do particularly well on our AIMS tests last spring. Because of this, we will work harder than ever to make sure that our students not only do well every day, but also perform strongly on achievement tests.

-We have bought even more technology in the form of computers and teaching tools that should assist learning.

-We are instituting a system of "learning families" in grades 4 and 5 for Science and Social Studies that we believe will help across the curriculum and make learning even more exciting for our intermediate students.

-We have acquired the assistance of a Learning Supports Coordinator from the District to help provide supports for students in all aspects of their school life.

-We have achieved the status of a "Schoolwide" Title I program that will be aimed at all students at Banks rather than just a targeted few.

-Math is the area in which we need the most help. We will work hard to standardize instruction time and intensify our pursuit of mastery with our great new Math program, *enVisions*. We need your help to work with your children and talk to your teachers to ensure that Bobcats are able to show what they know.

***Tests are not the only thing upon which we measure our performance. They are important. We are not satisfied and we will improve. Count on it.***

- We will continue to have, "Desert Environmental Education", as a school focus. This is a natural for those of us that live here on the beautiful westside of Tucson. Again, we seek to make learning a natural part of our overall lifestyles.
- We will introduce an "Artists in Residence" program at Banks this year. The focus will be to provide students and teachers with specific instruction and experiences in an area of music, visual art and dance at different grade levels. The idea is that the Fine Arts master teacher will come in and provide the basis that can be carried out throughout the year.
- Debbie Valenzuela and Darlene Germann will continue to serve as PTO Officers this year. Be on the lookout for ways to help.

Joe Herrmann

Principal

***Students returning to Banks do not need to reregister, but it is really important to be on the lookout for new paperwork the first few days of school that must be filled out!***

New Student Registration is Wed. 8/10/11 from 1-6 PM & Thur. 8/11/11 from 9-12 AM. Original Birth Certificate, Shot Records and 2 forms of proof of residence is required. Any info from previous schools is helpful.