

# *A Wonderful New Year!*

Hello! My name is Mrs. Kucek and I am SO very excited to begin this new school year teaching reading at Pleasantdale Elementary School.

This will be my 11th year teaching elementary students. Before coming to Pleasantdale, I worked as a teacher in New Lenox and then in Riverside. I have taught in a 6th grade classroom for one year, a 5th grade classroom for six years, and I was a K-5 reading specialist for two years. As an undergraduate, I attended Hope College in Holland, MI, where I majored in Language Arts/ Elementary Education and minored in music. I completed graduate school in 2007 from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) with an M.Ed. in Instructional Leadership from their literacy program.

I live in Woodridge with my husband, Rob, my daughter, Allison, and my dog, Riley. In my free time I LOVE reading children's books of all kinds as well as books and magazines that are "just right" for me. I also play piano, run, swim, bike, and visit Chicago and Michigan often.

I can already tell that Pleasantdale is a wonderful place and that 2011-2012 will be an exciting school year. Please, come visit often and tell me what you enjoy reading!