Greetings Parents

My name is (Miss) Nikki Kukura and I will be your child’s teacher this year. Welcome to Room 7.

The Year 3 curriculum is full of educationally rich and enjoyable challenges. It is also the first year that your child will participate in NAPLAN testing. I will be organizing a varied program of activities throughout the year to ensure that the emotional, social and academic requirements for each child in Room 7 are addressed.

As I am on leave during Week 3 of this term, Room 7’s Information Night will not be held at the same time as the other classes. It will now be held on Tuesday, February 24, from 6pm to 6:30pm. The Information Night will provide you with a summary of class programs, organization and procedures. You will also be able to ask questions of clarification on this night.

Earlier this week your child brought home a suggested homework timetable for you to peruse. Please remember this is only a suggested timetable. I realise that there are many out-of-school commitments so please amend as necessary. Once I have received all parent e-mail addresses, I will arrange for a digital copy of the timetable to be sent to you so you can amend as required.

There will be two class/homework online programs available. One is Bug Club (operational) and the other, Maths Online. For those families that are new to the school, Bug Club is a graded reading program, full of high interest reading topics and a variety of comprehension activities. Maths Online is a school program that will require an annual fee from parents. This program will be available by the end of February.
You will find that your child will thoroughly enjoy both of the above programs as they will receive immediate notification of correct answers and the activities are self-motivating.

A new Spelling program, Sound Waves, has been introduced to the school. All classes from Years 3 to 6 have adopted this program. The Sound Waves approach uses a sound-to-letter strategy, which acknowledges that sounds can be represented in more than one way in written form. It focuses firstly on the basic units in our language – phonemes. It then explores the letters that represent these sounds and how they can be put together to form the written words in our language. The Sound Waves approach promotes deeper understanding by replacing rote learning with strategies for reading, writing and spelling. It includes direct instruction and play-based learning activities.

Your child will be required to use the R.E.A.D.I.T. Home Reading log on a frequent basis. I advise you to read this book thoroughly as it provides parents with handy tips on home reading. You will also be directly involved in the education process with your child. When each page has been completed I am required to sign off and, at times, comment.

The first few weeks of a new school year can be challenging for some students. They need to adjust to a new classroom, perhaps new friends, new classroom routines, increased learning expectations and …… a new teacher!! I have spoken to students about classroom procedures, reward systems, homework, and friendships and have informed them of my expectations. I will also stress that if they are hesitant, unsure, unhappy or need someone to talk to they can talk to me at recess, lunch time, or before and after school. If they are still reluctant to do this, then please contact me either in person or by E-mail. My details are near the conclusion of this newsletter.

With regard to issues, part of my on-going Health program will consist of daily talks on decision-making, especially when it involves friendships. As a class we will discuss hypothetical situations and how we could resolve these amicably. These talks consolidate and contribute to making positive decisions in the future.

I would like to thank Marisa Lombardi for taking on the role of Class Representative. It is the first time that someone has actually volunteered for this position! I look forward to working with Marissa during the school year.

If you wish to contact me for any reason, please E-mail me or request an interview via E-mail. My E-mail address is:

nicole.kukura@education.wa.edu.au

You can also use the above to advise me of any absences your child may incur.

I look forward to meeting everyone in person at the Parent Information Night and, of course, informally before and after school.

Kind regards

Nikki Kukura