

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Head lice (Pediculosis) is a common pediatric problem. In 2001, it was reported that an estimated 6 to 12 million infestations occurred annually. A case of head lice does not mean there is a problem with hygiene or uncleanness. Although these insects cannot hop, jump or fly, they can easily move from one child to another by crawling. Lice are not known to be carriers of disease. However, they will cause an unpleasant and persistent itching.

All of us at our school are asking your help to prevent any outbreaks of head lice within our school community through awareness of the following head lice facts:

- Lice are usually transmitted directly from head to head, from one person to another.
- Transmission of lice usually occurs in the home where family members have close proximity.
- Bed sharing increases the risk of transmission.
- Lice may also be transmitted through the sharing of personal items such as combs, earphones, hair ornaments, bike helmets and the like.
- Bed linens, pillows, stuffed animals, and carpeting may also serve as a means of transfer (head lice can live up to two days without a human host).
- Transmission is more common in warmer climates and many cases arise in the fall.

Head lice and their eggs are very small. If your child complains of an itchy head, here are a few things to look for:

- Tiny grey-white specks at the base of the hair shafts, especially around the ears and nape of the neck.
- Specks that will not move from the individual hair when an attempt is made to brush them away.
- Red, irritated patches of scalp caused by repeated scratching.

Another sign that may raise your suspicions is the sudden onset of inattention, restlessness, or irritability in an otherwise well-behaved child. Sleeplessness is also a common sign, since lice prefer the dark and are more active at night.

The presence of head lice requires immediate attention and action. If you find evidence of head lice in your child or have concerns about a possible infestation, please contact the school nurse for follow-up. Your assistance with this matter will help to make our school a safer and healthier environment for all students.

With kindest regards,

School nurse

Staying Home From School

To safeguard the health of all students, we ask parents/guardians to monitor their children for possible communicable diseases and follow district recommendations on attendance accordingly.

Students must stay home from school if they:	Students must remain home:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have a fever over 100.2° ▪ Have an undiagnosed rash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For 24 hours after an elevated temperature returns to normal without anti-inflammatory medication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have vomited in the past 24 hours ▪ Have diarrhea more than once in past 24 hours ▪ Have copious yellow/green mucus discharge from nose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For 24 hours after vomiting has ended ▪ After a throat culture -- until the results are available (regardless of healthcare provider advice)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have a severe sore throat with symptoms indicating possible strep throat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For 24 hours after their first dose of medication with a diagnosis of strep throat, to prevent spread to other students
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complain of severe earache, with or without fever ▪ Have conjunctivitis (pink eye) with discharge ▪ Have a skin wound, sore or lesion that appears infected, e.g. is red, swollen or draining fluid ▪ Have an active infestation of head lice ▪ Have a communicable illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For 24 hours following treatment for bacterial conjunctivitis or conjunctivitis with discharge ▪ Until they are adequately treated for head lice, scabies or other infestation, communicable illness or skin infection and assessed by the school nurse or have been assessed by a physician and determined to be non-communicable. ▪ A physician's note may be required to return to school based on nursing judgment.