

Dear Parent/Guardian:

A growing number of cases of head lice have recently been detected in our school. Of all communicable childhood diseases, only the common cold occurs more often than head lice. Consequently, whenever we learn that a student has head lice, that student is excluded from school until adequate treatment has begun.

Lice infestations can happen to anyone. In fact, clean heads are more likely to become infested than dirty or dandruffed ones. Lice do not normally spread disease, but they can spread rapidly if preventive measures are not taken as soon as the lice or their eggs have been detected. Careful parents can, and must, help us to eliminate this problem at our school and in our community.

Head lice are generally transmitted from one person to another by direct personal contact and by sharing of personal items such as combs and brushes, hats, scarves, and coats.

I am asking for your cooperation and request that you please follow the instructions below:

Examine your children for indication of infestation. Head scratching and intense itching of the scalp are the main signs of head lice. Use good light and a magnifying glass to inspect the hair and scalp. Look for tiny grayish crawling forms and/or tiny whitish oval eggs stuck to the hair shafts about 1/4" from the scalp.

ALTHOUGH AN ANNOYING PROBLEM, HEAD LICE INFESTATION SHOULD NOT TRIGGER UNDUE ALARM...JUST IMMEDIATE ACTION. In most cases, all that is required is shampooing with a good anti-lice preparation, a medicated shampoo available at your local pharmacy without a prescription, or by prescription from your family doctor. All persons in the infested individuals household should also be examined for the presence of lice and eggs. All infested persons should undergo treatment.

In addition to shampooing, where possible, all combs and brushes, clothing, bedding, and upholstery should be disinfected. Infestations usually occur when infested people fail to report them due to a misguided notion of a social stigma attached to the problem. But once detection, immediate reporting, and proper treatment procedures are instituted, the problem can be quickly and easily eliminated.

Sincerely,

Principal