

Dear Parent/Guardian:

A case of pediculosis (head lice) has been identified in your child's classroom. This is not a cause for alarm. Pediculosis is not considered a health problem because it is not a carrier of communicable disease. However, head lice multiply quickly and can spread from person to person, easily. It is not associated with age, sex, race, social class or hygiene. Anyone can get lice. Therefore, to prevent its spread, we request that you be alert for pediculosis in your child. Watch for persistent itching and scratching of the scalp and examine your child's head.



▲ Magnified head louse

Head lice are tiny wingless greyish-white insects with flattened bodies. They are about 1-2 mm long and can take on the colour of the hair to which they are attached. As a result, they are very difficult to see.



▲ Magnified egg (Nit)

More easily seen are the eggs or nits. Nits are oval-shaped, brownish in colour when alive, and often mistaken for dandruff. They lie very close to the scalp, especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck and are firmly attached to the hair shaft.

If lice are discovered then information regarding treatment can be obtained from your pharmacist, family doctor or from your local Public Health Department. Please notify the school and the families of your child's friends if you discover an infestation.

Even if pediculosis is not found at this time, it is recommended that you continue to inspect your child's hair every few days. Other means of prevention include:

- encouraging children to keep their hats and scarves inside coat pockets & sleeves.
- discouraging children from sharing combs, brushes, hats, scarves or hair accessories.
- tying long hair in ponytails or braids.

Your co-operation is an important part of the efforts being made to completely control the spread of pediculosis in our school.

Thank you.

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PLEASE NOTE:

**Any student who has had a case of head lice, must check into the office before being re-admitted back to class.**

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