



Building Bridges to the Future

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Dear Parents:

Pediculosis (head lice) has been identified in your child's class. Contracting head lice is a very simple process - borrowing a comb, wearing another person's hat, or using someone else's pillow when staying overnight with a friend. Head lice is a contagious condition. Anyone, no matter how meticulous, may become affected.

Therefore, it is extremely important that parents check their children to make sure that they have not contracted head lice. One sign is that your child may be scratching his/her head very frequently.

Inspection process of the head:

1. Use a bright direct light while looking for head lice.
2. Separate the hair into quarter inch areas and check the strands for nits. Nits are the tiny transparent eggs that are attached tightly to the hair which cannot be removed without sliding it down the hair shaft. In comparison, dandruff flakes or a scaly scalp can be easily removed.
3. The pediculosis (live lice) is grayish brown in color and can be the size of a flea or larger. Inspection should be thorough because lice can be elusive.

If you find that your child is affected please:

1. Notify the school immediately.
2. Ask your pharmacist for an over-the-counter preparation and use as directed.
3. Remove all nits.
4. Sterilize all combs and brushes. Wash any clothes that have made contact or have been in close proximity to the head and neck area.
5. Bed linen should be washed in hot water and dried at the hot setting in the dryer. Change linens daily for one week to prevent re-infestation. Run backpacks through a hot dryer for 30 minutes.
6. Vacuum carpets, upholstered furniture and car seats carefully. Then destroy the vacuum cleaner bag after using.
7. Children should remain at home until the treatment is completed and lice and eggs are no longer visible. The affected children will be screened upon re-entrance to school to confirm they are lice free.

In order to help eliminate the problem at school, all children with head lice have been sent home until all traces are gone.

If you have any questions, please contact your school's secretary.

Thank you for your assistance,

Riverview School District Health Services

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