

OXFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL

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Mr. Robert J. Magnuson
Chief School Administrator

Miss Milissa Dachisen
Vice-Principal

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

We have had an incidence of head lice (pediculosis) in our school. As a precaution, we are sending you this informative letter. There are 12 million cases of lice in our country yearly, but it is comforting to know that head lice are easily eliminated with relatively easy to use treatment. The following steps will help control the spread of this potential problem.

Examine your child's scalp and hair closely. Examine all family members as well. If you find lice (grayish-tan insects), nymphs (brown, crawling insects) or nits (pearly, attaching to hair), use a pediculicide prescribed by your doctor or purchased at the pharmacy, e.g., Nix.

Re-examine the scalp and hair for 7 to 10 days after treatment. You may need a second application.

Preventive treatment doesn't work. Don't be fooled into thinking that you can avoid "catching" head lice by using an anti-lice treatment before any lice have been found. These products are effective only as treatments, not preventatives.

Isolate all clothing and linen: wash in hot water (130 degrees) and dry in a hot dryer for at least 20 minutes. Soak combs, brushes in hot water (130 degrees) for at least 10 minutes. For personal items and clothing that cannot be washed in high temperatures, dry clean or isolate them in a plastic bag for two weeks. Then, open the bag outdoors and shake each item out vigorously. Vacuum carpets, upholstery, pillows, mattresses and car seats.

Wash hands (yours and your child's) thoroughly, especially under nails. Scratching is one of the early warning signals. Lice can survive under fingernails.

Discourage sharing combs, hats, barrettes, scrunchies, and other personal items.

You may feel free to send a plastic bag to school for your child to store his/her clothing in.

Our school has a nit-free policy. Only children who are nit-free can return to class.

Remember, head lice are nothing to panic or be embarrassed about. Their presence is in no way indicative of a lack of cleanliness and they are easy to eliminate when observed.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Marianne Nyman
School Nurse

