

Dear Parents/Guardians:

During the winter months, incidences of pediculosis (head lice) among the children in our school become more frequent. When head lice is noticed, the student's hair is examined as well as other students in the same classroom. If the student is found to have head lice, he/she will be excluded from school until the problem is rectified.

It is each parent's responsibility to check the hair of his or her own child.

It is expected that a temporary exclusion coupled with home treatment along the lines outlined below will be successful in ending any cases. Excluded pupils will be returned to school after treatment and inspection of the hair and scalp show elimination of the lice and nits.

Your pharmacist can recommend a suitable product, or you may want to contact your physician. But shampoo is not enough; you must remove the nits. Remember these three steps: Shampoo vigorously; rinse thoroughly; remove nits carefully.

Please understand that we have found only a few cases among our children. This is no reflection in any way upon a person's personal hygiene or cleanliness. This condition is found wherever large groups gather and can be picked up in any place upon contact with a person having this condition. This letter is to make you AWARE rather than alarmed.

Sincerely,

Sean Gildea, Principal

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Some prevention hints:

1. Warn your children not to lend their comb or brush to anyone. Have your child leave his or her comb and brush at home.
2. Keep hats, gloves, scarves, and possibly coats in book bags, instead of coat closets.
3. Check and wash your child's coat, particularly those having fur-lined collars or hoods.
4. Advise your child not to try on other children's hats or coats.
5. If you purchase or receive new clothing for your child, wash it before wearing.