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OzarkAdventistSchool.Org

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

To our dismay, head lice have been discovered on one or more heads at our school.

There is no cause for alarm; head lice are fairly common among school-aged children. Don't worry – a case of lice does not mean the infested person has poor hygiene. Lice infest both clean and dirty heads alike, and actually prefer clean heads. Head lice are tiny parasitic insects that infest human hair, feeding on the human scalp. They lay their eggs, also called "nits", on hair shafts about 1/8 inch of the scalp.

While lice do not carry disease, they are contagious through contact. They cannot hop or fly. They spread by shared brushes, combs, hats, scarves, etc. or through head-to-head contact with an infested person's head. The main symptom is an "itchy" scalp, but not always – so it is important that student's exposed to lice or diagnosed with, are checked frequently. We are asking for your continued help in this process by checking your child's hair on a regular basis over the next 2 weeks

Nits located further than ¼ inch from the base of the hair shaft may very well be already hatched, non-viable nits or empty nit casings. This is difficult to distinguish with the naked eye. Using a magnifying glass can be helpful. Regardless of live or empty nits, this is evidence that lice have had contact with your child's scalp.

The good news is that head lice can be safely treated. Your assistance is key to eliminating lice from our school as soon as possible.

Please use the following steps below in the treatment of lice:

1. Examine every head in your home very carefully for any sign of nits and/or lice. It is best to check for lice when the hair is wet. Be sure to section off the hair and use a bright light, magnifying glass and comb.
2. Tell your children to avoid head-to-head contact and any sharing of combs, hats, barrettes or other personal items commonly worn on the head.
3. Please contact the school if you find lice/nits on your child's head so an outbreak can be contained. Please refer to the treatment process below in eliminating lice.

Please follow label instructions carefully.

A. Treat lice with a pediculicide solution such as Nix[®] Lice treatment or a prescription for Permethrin from your healthcare provider. Nix: (1% Permethrin) lotion is a common over the counter treatment recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control. Due to the length and consistency of hair, two bottles of treatment may be required.

B. The killing of active lice may take a few days after the initial treatment therefore combing out your child's hair daily is essential in the removal of eggs/nits. The pediculicide solution for Lice treatment does not penetrate the shell of the egg/nit therefore it is necessary to remove them manually following treatments. As you comb through the hair and remove lice/eggs/nits it is recommended to wipe off the comb on a paper towel and insert the paper towel in a sealed zip lock bag to suffocate the lice/egg.

"To Educate for Eternity"



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C. A special comb is provided with the Nix® product and will assist you in removing any remaining eggs. The comb should be washed in hot water and soaked for 15 minutes, do not boil the comb. Long or Curly hair can make the removal of lice/nits more difficult and prevent full removal.

D. If you chose to treat your child with a natural product or home remedy, please note that products such as essential oils, food oil, salts, enzymes, mayonnaise etc. have not been studied sufficiently to determine their effectiveness in the treating and eliminating lice.

E. Kill any remaining lice in your home. Vacuum all carpets and upholstered surfaces, hot wash & dry (at least 20 min) all exposed clothing and linens, and for non-washable items, dry clean or tightly seal in a plastic bag for 14 days. Larger items, like couches and beds, car seats, can be treated with something like Nix Lice Control Spray.

4. Following initial treatment, it may take a few days for lice and eggs to be completely removed. Therefore the affected student's hair should be wet and combed through daily for inspection and removal according to previous instruction. Once the hair is free of lice/eggs/nits it is recommended to still check regularly over the next 2 weeks based on the life cycle.

5. Hair should be re-treated in 1 week following the same protocol in order to prevent the hatching of undetected eggs/nits.

6. Any student treated for active lice must be checked before returning to class by Mrs. Lopez.

7. Students must be free of lice or nits < ¼ cm of the hair shaft to return to school.

If you have any questions about lice or how to eliminate them, please contact Mrs. Lopez or your healthcare professional for support and advice. You may also visit www.nixlice.com for illustrated instructions on head lice detection and elimination or the CDC website.

Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to work together in maintaining the health and safety of our students.