

October 27, 2009

Dear Families,

I am writing to inform parents that we have had cases of lice in a few of our classrooms. It is critical that we partner with families in order to avoid further instances. To that end, I want to share the district protocol for responding to lice with you and ask for your support at home. As always, I welcome any questions that you may have.

When a child's teacher or parent informs the nurse that they suspect a case of lice, we evaluate that child. If the child is found to have lice, we send the child home and the parent receives information on how to properly treat lice. The child is not allowed back in school until he or she is "nit free."

As soon as a case is confirmed, we send a letter to all families in the affected child's classroom and work with the nursing staff district-wide to check any students who live with that student. We also check all other students in the affected child's class to ensure that we catch any child that may have been affected.

When a child returns to school, ideally with his or her parent, he or she must go immediately to the nurse for examination. If any nits are seen, the child is sent home again and the parents receive additional information about proper treatment. Once children are able to return to school, they are checked weekly for a period of time to ensure that there is no re-infestation.

Even though we have a rigorous, "nit free" policy in our district, we rely on parents to help us curb the spread of lice. Please take the precautionary measures listed below. Please also know that we are reminding students of these same things each day in school.

- Please check your child's scalp every night for the next few weeks, especially if he or she complains of an itchy scalp. You can also check the heads of other family members.
- If you do find evidence of lice, please call the school immediately. Please keep your child home and seek directions from the school or from a pediatrician about how to properly treat lice.
- Write your child's name in hats or scarves so that he or she knows that they are his or hers.
- Urge your child never to share hats, scarves, combs, headphones or other objects that go on or near the head with another child.

Thank you so much for partnering with us on this. Please feel free to call me (914-631-4144) or Nurse Carey if you have any questions.

Yours,

Meghan Fitzgerald
Principal