

**NORTH PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT
LANSDALE, PA 19446**

KNAPP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Dear Parents:

This is the time of year when head lice are prevalent in the school age population. I want to call this to your attention so that you can keep close watch on your family members. **Students with head lice or nits will be sent home and may not return until they are nit free.**

These lice could have come from almost anywhere - a classmate, an upholstered seat in a movie theater, or another child's sweater or hat. Lice outbreaks are common among schoolchildren and even the cleanest child can easily become infested. It's important that you act IMMEDIATELY to prevent their spread to other members of your family.

Inspect each member of your family daily for at least two weeks. Head lice should be suspected when there is intense itching and scratching of the scalp and the back of the neck. If you look closely at the scalp, you will see small, whitish eggs firmly attached to the hair shaft, especially at the nape of the neck and above the ears. Although these eggs may look like dandruff, dandruff can easily be removed from the hair while the eggs are not easily removed by pulling. A fine-toothed comb may be helpful in removing a louse egg.

If you find evidence of lice on your child, you may:

1. Consult your family physician.
- Or**
2. Consult the pharmacist at your local drug store for available product.

By the time you learn that one member of your family has lice, they may already have spread to others in the family. Therefore, it is essential that you do the following at once:

1. If your child has lice, the following must be done on the same day:
 - a) Follow exact steps on box of lice shampoo. It is a good idea to shampoo hair with normal shampoo before using lice shampoo. Do not use conditioner.
 - b) Pick out nits by hand and throw away in plastic bag. This process could take at least two hours. Combing hair will not remove all nits. It is a good idea to watch a video while picking out nits; it helps the child sit still for a longer block of time. When all nits are removed, take the plastic bag and tie it tightly shut and place bag outside the house in a trash can.
 - c) Wash all bed linens, pillows, clothing, towels, coats, hats, etc. the same day as shampooing. Use hot water (130 degrees F). To be sure the lice are killed, put the laundry in the dryer for at least 20 minutes or until dry.
 - d) Clean combs, hairbrushes, barrettes, etc. in boiling water for 10 minutes.
 - e) Place stuffed animals, and other items that cannot be washed, in a plastic bag. Tie the bag tightly shut and place bag away from children and other household items for 10 to 14 days.
 - f) Vacuum all carpets, sofas and any other household areas the child's head may have touched. This includes the child's mattress, which should be vacuumed and flipped over.
 - g) Remove vacuum cleaner bag and dispose in a tied plastic bag.
 - h) Firmly instruct your child not to share hats, scarves, etc. Also, teach your child not to hang his/her coat next to a classmate's coat. Coats should either be hung far enough apart so that they do not touch or on the back of your child's homeroom class chair or alone in a plastic bag. Finally, teach your child to store his/her hat or scarf inside the sleeve of his/her coat, not in a pile where other classmates may throw their headwear.
2. If other members of your family become infested, follow the aforementioned procedure.

Sincerely,

Principal

School Nurse