

COMMACK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Commack, New York 11725

North Ridge Primary School

Townline Road

Commack, New York 11725

Katherine M. Rihm

Principal

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Dear Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that a student was found to have pediculosis (head lice). Since this is a condition which is most communicable, it might be helpful to be aware of the following information.

Pediculosis may be communicated by direct contact with someone who has it, by contact with personal items, such as combs, brushes, towels, pillowcases and by contact with clothing, such as hats, ribbons and scarves. If one member of your family has head lice, all family members should be inspected periodically for at least two weeks. Please keep in mind that pediculosis is not an indication of poor hygiene.

Though head lice are difficult to see, you may recognize these signs:

- a. Small, silvery-white egg cases (nits) may be attached to the hair shaft and cannot be easily flicked off the hair, as in the case of dandruff. You can see them if you look closely.
- b. Persistent itching often with infected scratches or rash on the scalp. The nape of the neck and behind the ears should be checked first.

If you suspect your child has Pediculosis, seek medical help and use a medicated product prescribed by your doctor or pharmacist. A thorough shampooing with the medicated product will remove the lice. The nits are not entirely removed by this treatment, so combing with the fine-tooth comb is recommended for this purpose. **All attempts should be made to remove the nits in order to prevent reinfestation.**

Using a medicated product is only the first step. The following steps should also be taken if your child has Pediculosis.

- Clothing, towels, bed linens, stuffed animals, etc., must be washed in hot soapy water and put in the dryer or gone over with a hot iron.
- Disinfect combs, brushes, etc., by washing them with the medicated product.
- Dry cleaning kills lice. Articles that cannot be washed or dry-cleaned should be placed in a sealed plastic bag for at least two weeks.
- Vacuum carpets, upholstery, pillows and mattresses which have been exposed to persons with head lice.
- Keep hair trimmed. Long hair should be worn up off the shoulders, preferably contained in braids or a bun. Spray lightly with hairspray.

Your cooperation and understanding will be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Katherine M. Rihm, Principal

Debra Albrecht, Nurse

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