Dear Parent/Guardian:

We have had an occurrence of head lice in your child’s class. Head lice do not carry disease, nor does their presence indicate that someone is dirty. Any one can get head lice. **Please notify the school nurse if you suspect that your child may be affected.** Please read the following information and help us to control the spread of lice.

Usually, when head lice is found on a child, it is the nits (eggs) that are visible. The actual louse, or bug, can be seen, however, it hides from light often making its detection difficult. Nits are whitish looking eggs that sometimes can be mistaken for dandruff, a dried hair cast, or droplets of hair spray. Dandruff can be easily removed from the hair, while nits seem to be glued to the individual hair shaft and are more difficult to remove. Normally lice or nits are found in the hair behind the ears and around the back of the neck at the hairline. **SYMPTOMS CAN BE SCRATCHING OF THE HEAD, MOVING INSECTS OR WHITISH-GRAY SPECKS ATTACHED TO THE HAIR SHAFT CLOSE TO THE SCALP.**

**INSPECT** the hair (including beards) of all family members for lice and/or their eggs. If infestation is confirmed, **TREAT** each affected individual with the over-the-counter treatments that are available at your local drug store, or contact your pediatrician for advice. **PLEASE READ THE DIRECTIONS AND FOLLOW THEM CLOSELY. OVER TREATMENT CAN BE HARMFUL.** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends retreatment within 7-10 days. Remember, the treatments do not kill the eggs. **YOU MUST REMOVE THEM.**

**REMOVE** any nits that you can find. This is just as important as the shampoo treatment. If any nits remain on the hair, reinfestation will occur. **IT IS THE PARENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO THE SCHOOL FOR RE-EXAMINATION AND RE-ENTRY BY THE SCHOOL NURSE.**

**CLEAN** all clothing, towels, hats, coats, book bags, pillows, and bed linens in **HOT WATER.** (Desired temperature is 130 degrees). Dry clean any articles that can not be washed or seal these items in plastic bags for a minimum of two weeks. (This includes stuffed animals) Lice can not live for more than 24 – 48 hours off of the human host. **VACUUM** all carpets, upholstery and mattresses and throw the vacuum bag out. This includes the car. Combs and brushes should be soaked in hot water for 10 minutes.

**PREVENT THE SPREAD.** Lice do not fly and they do not jump, but they can crawl very fast. Do not share combs, brushes, hair accessories, hats, coats, etc. or any articles that come in contact with the head, neck and shoulders.

**HEAD LICE CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE. IT IS NOT A SIGN OF POOR HEALTH HABITS OR BEING DIRTY.**

Please contact your school nurse if you have any questions or concerns.