



Dear Parents:

A case of head lice has been detected in your child's classroom. You may be aware that many areas of our province have had increased incidence of head lice during the past few years. Although no one is sure why, they are now a common problem in many communities - including our own.

Head lice are communicable and can spread in any situation where groups gather in close and frequent contact. For this reason, school children are more often infested than adults, although adults can also be affected. Children are also great borrowers and exchangers of combs, brushes, hats and clothing.

It is important to remember that the presence of head lice is not a reflection on the level of cleanliness, parenting ability or social status of a home, nor do they transmit any diseases. They are mainly a nuisance factor because of the itching and irritation they cause.

We are asking you to check your child weekly and notify the school if any infestation is found. If a child has head lice at school, as a precaution for the other children in the class, we have the following procedure:

- Parents will be notified if their child has a suspected case.
- Parent must treat the hair with a special shampoo treatment immediately and remove all nits (eggs attached to hair) and live lice along with the first treatment.
- Please put long hair up in braids.
- Do a Comb out with a good lice comb and thick conditioner every 3 days for 3 weeks to effectively break the cycle and remove all the lice. Once you have 2 consecutive lice/nit free comb outs, your child is lice free.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours truly,

Ms. Shannon Kenney  
Principal,  
Dr. Thomas A. Swift Elementary

#### PARENT CHECKLIST FOR LICE

- Check ALL family members
- Treat affected family members with special lice shampoo
- Remove ALL nits from hair with nit comb or fingernails – a vinegar and water rinse will help loosen the nits from the hair shaft. A thick conditioner worked through the hair will immobilize the lice and enable you to comb them out easier.
- Soak all combs/brushes in very hot water and bleach solution
- Wash all bedding and towels and hats in hot water
- Put blankets and pillows in a hot dryer for 20 minutes or the freezer for 24 hrs.
- Vacuum the mattress, carpets, and upholstery
- Inform the office or classroom teacher so that a letter can go home to all families who have children in that classroom

**••• Remind your child not to share hats, scarves, etc., or to play with other children's hair**