

Dear families,

A case of head lice has been reported in your child's classroom. It is important to remember that head lice like any other concern are best solved by a strong partnership between families and school staff. By working together we can make sure your child's classroom does not become a place where lice like to live.

When live lice are detected in a classroom a student will be sent home immediately. If only nits and no live lice are found the health room personnel will work with the family to ensure appropriate treatment and nit removal takes place. When the student returns to school following initial detection with lice and/or nits, the child will be checked in the health room for the absence of lice and nits, and again after 7-10 days to ensure all nits are removed and the child is nit free.

At school there are a number of strategies we can implement to help prevent the spread of head lice. These may include:

- 1) Class activities that do not encourage head to head contact
- 2) Reminding students to avoid the sharing of clothing and grooming items
- 3) Keeping student jackets and backpacks orderly
- 4) Consider curtailing the use of headphones for a period of time.

As a parent you can support this effort in the following ways:

- 1) Check your child's hair, parting the hair into sections and checking one section at a time, from front to back and side to side. Lice like to lay their eggs on hair shafts in the thickest part of hair growth behind the ears, above the neck, and on top of the head.
- 2) Look for the eggs (also called nits). They are tiny, oval shaped, whitish/grayish, and hard to remove from the hair. Nits are very small so a magnifying glass may be needed along with bright light. Outdoor light is best for checking.
- 3) Notify the health room if you suspect or detect head lice. All reports are kept confidential.
- 4) Keep long hair in a braid or pony tail.
- 5) Remind your child not to share clothing, grooming, and other personal items that are close to the head or neck.
- 6) Perform weekly head checks to look for lice and nits.

Families may find more information on the Snohomish Health District website

<http://www.snohd.org/snoLiceArentNice/index.htm>. Please call if you have questions. Our goal is to support families in a successful effort to control and eliminate head lice without disrupting learning in your child's classroom.

Sincerely,