

COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS

817 Washington St., Whiteville, NC 28472

(910) 642-5168

Date

Dear Parent:

A case of head lice has been discovered in your child's classroom. All children in the class (including yours) were checked by school nurse. Your child did not have head lice; therefore, treatment is not necessary. School personnel have taken appropriate measures to correct this condition.

Please do your part to prevent the spread of this condition. Check your child's scalp for lice daily for the next few weeks and on a regular basis after that. If you should find lice, have a question, or need assistance, please contact the school nurse.

Fact Sheet about Head Lice

Head lice are tiny, grayish white oval insects. Lice do not jump, fly, or stay alive for long periods off the human head. They do move quickly on the scalp and are difficult to find. People do not get head lice from cats and dogs.

Head lice are good at hiding in hair; therefore, a diagnosis is usually made by finding nits (eggs). Nits are clear to white in color and are most often found close to the scalp on the back of the neck and around the ears. Nits are attached to the hair by a waterproof, sticky substance. Nits may look like dandruff or residue from hair products, but they cannot be flicked from the hair as dandruff can. An infestation of head lice may cause a person to persistently scratch the head or back of the neck.

The most common transmission of head lice is direct contact – head-to-head. In addition, head lice may be spread by the sharing of combs, hairbrushes and other grooming aids, and the sharing of hats, caps or coats or even earphones. Such items may become infested at school, church, or at a friend's home. Frequent bathing and shampooing with regular shampoos will not prevent or eliminate lice once they are present.

Outbreaks of head lice are common wherever groups of children work and play together. All persons with head lice must receive treatment, remove nits, and follow appropriate cleaning measures to avoid re-infestation.

Head lice do not give infested persons other diseases. The main reason people get upset about head lice is because they are a nuisance.

- To prevent head lice:**
1. Inspect your child's hair weekly.
 2. Change clothes and bed linen regularly.
 3. Teach your child not to share combs, towels, caps, or pillows.

Your continued cooperation and support are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Principal