

OXFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL

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Mr. Robert Magnuson
Chief School Administrator

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Oxford Central School Students are C.O.R.R.E.C.T.

February 15, 2017

Parents/Guardian:

There was an insect found at the school today that was identified as a bedbug.

Bedbugs are small, reddish-brown parasitic insects that bite the exposed skin of sleeping people and animals to feed on their blood. About the size of an apple seed, bedbugs hide in cracks and crevices of beds, box springs, headboards, bed frames and any other objects around a bed. They are not known to spread disease. The risk of encountering bedbugs increases when spending time in places such as hotels, hospitals, apartment complexes, dorm rooms, cruise ships, trains, buses and homeless shelters.

In addition to areas where sleeping occurs, bedbugs can also be found under peeling paint and loose wallpaper, under carpeting and baseboards, in upholstered furniture seams and under light switch plates and electrical outlets.

Bedbugs crawl about as fast as a ladybug from place to place. They are great at hitchhiking and can readily move from place to place on clothing, luggage, furniture, bedding and boxes.

It may be difficult to distinguish bedbug bites from other insect bites or rashes. In general, these bites are red, often with a darker red spot in the middle. They are usually located on the face, neck, arms and hands and are arranged in a rough line or a cluster. They are itchy. Some individuals may also experience an allergic reaction to these bites.

Some measures to use to inspect for bedbug infestation include the following:

- Thoroughly examine crevices in walls, mattresses and furniture.
- The inspection may need to be conducted at night when bedbugs are active.
- Look for dark specks commonly found along mattress seams. This is bedbug excrement.
- Look for empty exoskeletons from the insects. These are pale yellow.
- Check for rusty or reddish stains on the areas being checked. These are small smears of blood from accidentally crushed bedbugs.

It is advised by experts that professional extermination should be sought to treat bedbug infestation. It is further advised that all families conduct a **vigilance screening** of their student(s) when they arrive at home this afternoon. If you were to find evidence at home, please

let me know here at school. This information will be held in the strictest of confidence.

Here at school we have taken the necessary precautions to ensure that this incident has not expanded past the single bedbug. We had our representative from Ehrlich's Pest Control come to the school to help us during this process and we will be taking additional measures over the next few days of school to provide further verification that the issue will not be a problem here in the building.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me here at school.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Magnuson
Chief School Administrator