

OXFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL

17 Kent Street

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Mr. Robert Magnuson
Chief School Administrator

Ms. Nancy DeRiso
Business Administrator

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

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Mrs. Svercauski checked some of our students today in a number of grades after a report made to the school this morning that a student was recently treated for Pediculosis. We **did not** find signs of head lice or nits (lice eggs) on any of our students. We have dealt with this appropriately and we feel it is necessary to alert everyone in the building to this issue. The timeframe and the goal of being proactive to ensure everyone is clear, is why I felt it necessary to use SchoolMessenger to inform everyone.

Head lice are spread mostly by direct head-to-head contact. The sharing of hats, combs, and other hair accessories can also spread head lice, but this is not common. Anyone can get head lice. A head lice infestation has nothing to do with cleanliness or parenting skills.

Pediculosis, or head lice, is a condition that each year affects approximately 6 to 12 million children between the ages of 3 and 12 years of age, and about 1 in every 100 elementary school children. Head lice are parasites that are generally found on the scalp, around the ears, and at the back of the neck. The adult louse is about the size of a sesame seed, and can be the color of your child's hair. Eggs, or nits, are smaller and silver in color.

Head lice do not transmit disease. Spread from one child to another can occur during direct head to head contact or by sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes, caps or helmets.

The most common symptom of head lice is itching and head scratching, particularly at night. Red bite marks or sores may also be noticed on the scalp. If you suspect that your child has head lice, he or she should be examined by your health care provider. Safe and effective products to treat head lice are available both over the counter and by doctor's prescription. It is important to follow the directions carefully. In addition, use a fine-tooth comb or special nit comb to help remove the eggs (nits) from the hair. You can also check your child's scalp weekly when the hair is wet to see if there are any new head lice. Parents should also wash in hot water or dry-clean all recently worn clothing, hats, used bedding, and towels. Personal care items such as combs, brushes and hair clips should also be washed in hot water. Toys, such as stuffed animals, can be put into a tightly closed plastic bag for 14 days or placed in a hot dryer for 30 minutes to kill the lice.

Our goal here at school is to provide you with the information you need to safeguard your child's health. If I can be of further assistance, please give me a call here at school.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Magnuson

Courage  Optimism  Respect  Responsibility  Empathy  Citizenship  Trustworthiness