



# ALLEN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Riley Education Center ▪ 9601 Vine, Allen Park, MI 48101 ▪ (313) 827-2150

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February 20, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are sending this letter to all elementary school families to increase head lice awareness so that you may take steps at home to help prevent your child from becoming infested with head lice. We are no longer sending classroom letters home when there is a case of head lice identified in your child's classroom. It is important that student confidentiality is maintained. It is recommended that you check your child's head weekly.

Any time children come together, particularly at the start of the school year or following any social grouping like Girl/Cub Scouts, Brownies, Little League, dance groups, or sleepovers, detected head lice cases commonly increase. Recent studies show that head lice are seldom spread in the school setting. Direct, physical, head-to-head contact is the usual method of transmission. Lice do not jump or fly. They survive only for a short time away from the human head and have difficulty crawling or clinging to smooth surfaces.

Check your child's head weekly for lice and/or nits (eggs). Mature lice, which are no bigger than a sesame seed, avoid light and are hard to see. Lice eggs or "nits" are usually found close to the scalp – usually within one quarter inch. They appear as tiny whitish ovals that are "glued" to the hair shaft. They cannot easily be flicked away as dandruff can. Head lice do not transmit disease and are not a serious medical condition. They cannot survive on your pets.

If you find head lice on your child, please notify the school and treat him/her with lice shampoo following package instructions. A second treatment may be required in seven to ten days. Continue to examine the child and all family members for three weeks and treat only if live lice or if nits are found one quarter inch or less from the scalp.

## **Check Regularly – Treat Quickly**


### *Help Keep Head Lice Off Your Child*


- Check your child's head weekly for signs of head lice.
- Teach your child not to share or trade personal items such as hats, combs, brushes, headbands, and barrettes.
- Contain long hair in braids or ponytails, especially in younger children.
- Teach children to avoid head-to-head contact.

For more information regarding head lice or its treatment, please see the attached "Head Lice 101." Thank you for your help and support.

Sincerely,

  
Kathy Lott  
Lindemann Principal

  
Sara Metzger  
Bennie Principal

  
Stephen Zielinski  
Arno Principal