

Lancaster Community Schools

Laurie Walker, School Nurse

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Head lice are an ongoing problem throughout the school year. This letter is a reminder that it is important for parents to be screening their children for the presence of head lice.

To detect the presence of head lice early, we suggest checking your family members' heads on a weekly basis. This is done by parting the hair in small sections with a comb looking for bite marks, redness, nits or eggs. The nits are usually found about 1/4 to 2 inch from the scalp. They adhere themselves onto the hair shaft and cannot be easily removed. The louse is a small flat, wingless, brownish-gray creature with stubby antennae and six legs each ending in a sharp curved claw. They are most commonly found behind the ears and at the nape of the neck, although they may be found anywhere on the head. The louse can be seen with the naked eye. This check should take 15 minutes or more to do and must be done in good light.

To help prevent infestation, we suggest instructing all family members to avoid borrowing personal items, combs, brushes, hats, towels or clothing from each other or from friends. It is best for everyone to use only their own personal articles at home and at school. If lice or nits are found, they need to be treated with anti-lice shampoo. For more information regarding head lice detection and treatment, please call me at 723-4066 ext 106.

Sincerely,

Laurie Walker, RN, BSN