Dear Parents,

This letter is being sent as a reminder that many of the upcoming field trips are taking place in the great outdoors. While this has great educational opportunities for our students it does bring about the subject of ticks. There has been an abundance of ticks already this school year and we are recommending prevention strategies prior to, and parent inspection of their own students after their field trips. Please feel free to call Laurie Walker, RN, school nurse with any questions or concerns at 723-4066 extension 106.

Prevention

- Wearing light-colored clothing enables ticks to be seen more easily. Wear long-sleeve shirts and tuck your pant legs into your socks. People who live in areas with high populations of ticks should check their body daily, paying special attention to the head and body folds, such as armpits, backs of knees and groin.

- Consider the use of child friendly DEET containing sprays on clothing and skin (please read bottle labels for proper use) before your student comes to school the day of the fieldtrip.

Tick Removal

- Remove ticks from skin as quickly as possible to avoid attachment and remove embedded ticks with fine-point tweezers. Do not use petroleum jelly, a hot match, nail polish or other substances. With tweezers, grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible and smoothly pull the tick from your skin. Wash the skin with soap and water and apply an antiseptic cream. A rash appearing around the bitten area requires medical attention because it is the first sign of Lyme disease.

Early Lyme Disease

- Ticks transmit bacteria called borrelia burgdorfen, the cause of Lyme disease. Deer ticks feed on infected mice and transfer the disease to humans. The deer tick must attach to human skin for a about 24-hours to transfer Lyme disease-causing bacterium. About 20 percent of infected people do not develop a rash but may show early symptoms of the disease, such as fever, headache, fatigue and myalgia. Detection in early stages of the disease typically means successful treatment with antibiotics; but left undetected, the disease is known to cause severe health issues.

Read more: Ticks in Wisconsin | eHow.com http://www.ehow.com/info_8144779_ticks-wisconsin.html#ixzz1usXXWHaG