

PRAIRIE CENTRAL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 8

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August 13, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We truly appreciate your partnership in making sure each child has a productive, healthy, and safe school year. As we enter into a new school year, we would like to touch base and briefly review our school district's policy on pediculosis (head lice). Head lice is a nuisance that schools all around the country address during the school year, especially during the winter months.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, head lice do not cause serious illness or carry any diseases. Head lice is usually spread from close, prolonged, head-to-head contact; **head lice cannot jump, hop, or fly.** According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, between 6 and 12 million children between the ages of 3 and 11 are affected by head lice each year. The CDC also emphasizes that getting head lice is not related to the cleanliness of a person or his/her environment.

Our school nurse is prepared to advise parents on treating suspected or actual head lice manifestation. However, in order to reduce the number of head lice cases, **it is imperative that parents complete head checks on a regular basis at home.** Per our school handbook, our district will observe the recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding head lice. Our policies and procedures are outlined below.

- Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has head lice.
- If a case of head lice/nits(eggs) is found at school, the child will be discretely removed from the classroom; the child's parents will be contacted immediately; and, he/she will be sent home from school.
- If a case of head lice/nits is found at school, the child's siblings will be examined, and the child's entire class **may be examined.** Please Note: Parents/guardians will only be contacted if *their* child has head lice or nits (eggs). In order to protect student privacy, we will not inform the entire class or school of the head lice case.
- The school will provide written instructions to parents/guardians regarding appropriate treatment for infestation (upon request).
- **A student excluded because of head lice is prohibited from riding the bus to school to be rechecked for head lice.** He/she will be permitted to return to school only when the parent/guardian brings the child to school to be checked by the school nurse or building principal, and the child is determined to be free of head lice and eggs (nits).
- More information on head lice, how to complete a head check, and proper treatment can be found through a link under "Health Issues" on our district's website at www.prairiecentral.org.

Thank you for working with us to successfully manage head lice in our school. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school nurse or building Principal. Through working together, our goal is to continue providing a safe and healthy learning environment for our students.

"PRIDE IN EXCELLENCE"

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