

## Darien Public Schools Department of Nursing Services

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

A case of pediculosis (head lice) has been detected in your child's school. Head lice are a common community issue, and children can get head lice any time they are in close contact with others during summer camp, playing at home or school, slumber parties or sports activities.

Head lice prevention and management of head lice infestation among students in Darien Public Schools relies on current standards in public health and scientific research to guide its practices related to communicable disease and infestation. In keeping with current standards and research, mass screenings for head lice are no longer conducted in our schools. Rather, our emphasis is on prevention through parental education, and home-/school communication and collaboration. Current public health standards and research-based recommendations indicate that routine screening by parents and management at home are the key factors to effectively control head lice. It is important that you screen your child daily for the next week to ten days, and then once a week throughout the year in order to reduce the spread of this pest within the school, your family and the community. Communication with the school nurse when a student is diagnosed with an active case (even if the child has already been treated) is important. Respect for the privacy of those who may have become infested is always a priority.

Approaching the problem of head lice collaboratively, learning the facts, and focusing on containment and prevention will help minimize the incidence and spread in our schools and community. Because head lice are ever present in humans, and will probably never be eradicated, anyone can become infested with them. Preventing infestation and treating appropriately requires knowledge, on-going vigilance, and attention to detail.

Attached you will find a Head Lice 101 overview sheet which provides important information about head lice, nits, as well as interventions for treatment and control. Please contact your school nurse if you have any questions or concerns. A video explaining lice is on the Darien Public School website under the Parent Info Tab or by following this link <http://video.darienps.org/show?video=d58c333b4a50&apg=7a379f2c>.

You can also find additional information about head lice by following these links:

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/UCM382856.pdf>

[http://kidshealth.org/parent/infections/common/head\\_lice.html](http://kidshealth.org/parent/infections/common/head_lice.html)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxA59erWM5w>

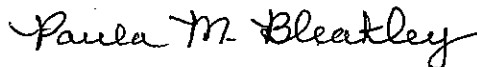
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeKyE3EmPFE&feature=em-share\\_video\\_user](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeKyE3EmPFE&feature=em-share_video_user)

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



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Darien Public Schools  
Director of Nursing Services



Paula M. Bleakley, Principal  
Holmes School