

February 20, 2009

Dear Rosemount Elementary Parents:

Head lice are a common problem for school age children. The incidence of head lice at RES is similar to previous years and it is safe to assume that one or more students may have head lice at any given time during the year. This year we are asking parents to take a proactive approach to prevention and treatment of head lice so our focus at school can remain on teaching and learning.

Head lice are not an infectious disease but are a tremendous nuisance. The district [Nursing Department website](http://www.district196.org/headlice) (<http://www.district196.org/headlice>) contains updated information about preventing, detecting and treating head lice. We encourage all parents to read and familiarize themselves with this information so they know how to prevent, detect and treat head lice on their own children.

It is parents' responsibility to check their children regularly for head lice whether or not symptoms are present. It is very time-consuming for our school nurse to check students for head lice and excludes students from valuable classroom time. If a teacher believes a student is showing symptoms of having head lice, the teacher will send the student to the school nurse to be checked. If the student has lice, a parent will be contacted to pick up their child and the child will remain at home until treatment is complete.

There are many places children can be exposed to head lice. School is one of the least likely places for that to happen. Play dates, sleepovers, and the sharing of brushes, combs, helmets and hats are all common ways head lice are spread. Direct head-to-head contact is almost always necessary for the spread of lice to happen.

If you have questions, please first review information on the Nursing Department website. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Tom Idstrom
Principal

Jeanne Fifield, RN
School Nurse