

March 16, 2010

Dear Pine Lake Preparatory Families,

Head lice continue to be one of the most prevalent communicable diseases among children, and outbreaks are possible whenever and wherever children gather. The National Pediculosis Association recommends the No Nit Policy as the public health standard to keep children lice free, nit free, and in school.

As lice continue to become resistant to pesticides used in prescription and over-the-counter treatments, the likelihood of killing 100% of nits is extremely low. Therefore, the non-removal of nits is one of the primary causes of treatment failure. With nit removal absent from school policy, children with nits that may hatch are readmitted to the group setting.

Therefore, after much consideration, we have decided to adopt a NO NIT POLICY at Pine Lake Preparatory. There are several medical and social advantages to this policy, which include:

- Prevents continuing infestations caused by the surviving and hatching of nits.
- Maximizes the opportunity to eliminate repeated chemical treatments aimed at killing head lice that hatch from remaining viable nits.
- Eliminates confusion -- *Were these eggs here before or do they represent a new Infestation?*
- Contributes to improved standards of personal hygiene and self-esteem, protecting children from ridicule and rejection.
- Enhances uninterrupted class time for the majority of the children and prevents lost days at work that can be costly for parents.

Effective Wednesday, March 17, 2010, Pine Lake will implement the No Nit Policy. Therefore, children previously identified as having lice must be screened by the school nurse prior to return to school. Children identified as having nits present upon screening or re-screening will be dismissed from school for follow-up treatment.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation,

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