30th May 2014

Dear Parents,

Today the whole school was checked for head lice by the Volunteer Head Hunter Team. There was a significant increase of cases since our last check. The Preps, Year 1 & Year 4 classes had many cases of head lice, though every year level was infected. It was also noted that many girls had their hair down and not tied back.

We ask that all parents check your child/ren's hair for head lice as soon as possible.

If they are infected, please,

- Use a recommended (chemist/health shop) treatment to kill the adult lice or eggs
- Please follow the instructions carefully and adhere to the follow-up procedures.

Under the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, students are required to be excluded from school if found to have lice or eggs, and readmitted after treatment has commenced.

We will be able to eradicate the problem quickly if every family takes these steps.

Head Lice Prevention Tips

The most important things to remember in order to prevent head lice are:
1. If your child has long hair, tie it up for school every day (plaits or braids are great) and if you like, spray their hair with hairspray. Many mothers swear by hairspray – after you’ve tied up your child’s hair, keeping it under control with hairspray seems to help.

2. You can buy (or make your own) head lice resister sprays which you can spray into their hair and inside their hats. Most of the sprays have essential oils – mainly tea tree, eucalyptus, geranium and lavender – which lice don’t like. It’s an effective repellent.

3. Make absolutely sure that you follow any treatment program as per the instructions. No treatment exists that kills both the head lice AND the eggs in one go. Repeating a treatment is always needed because the live lice die, but the eggs in your child’s hair will hatch soon after, so you need to make sure you get them out before they are old enough to reproduce – around 7-10 days is a good time to repeat a treatment.

4. Use tea tree shampoo and/or conditioner for washing your children’s hair.

5. Make sure you check yourself and your partner for head lice. Kids love to be up close to your face and hair, especially when they snuggle, so you may have transmitted head lice between you before you realised head lice was around.

Yours Sincerely,

Sherrill Duffy
Principal