



Central Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

75 Hunter Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1P9
Phone: 905.522.9690
Fax: 905.522.9801

EMAIL: central@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: T. Hamill

www.hwdsb.on.ca/central

November 21, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to provide you with information on the prevention and treatment of Head Lice. "Head lice are tiny bugs that live only on the scalp of human beings. They are about the size of a pin head. They do not have wings, so they cannot fly or jump, and are not found on cats, dogs or other household pets. The bites from head lice can cause itching and scratching. Scratching may cause sores which can get infected" (Facts of Lice, 2003, Hamilton Public Health and Community Services Department). "Anyone can get head lice. School children get lice more than adults. When children play, their heads often touch. Lice crawl from head to head. Head lice are spread by direct head to head contact only" (HWDSB and Facts of Lice). Anyone can get head lice, and it is not a sign of poor hygiene.

In order to prevent the spread of head lice, it would be helpful if all parents/guardians could be aware of the signs, and know how to check for and treat head lice. Please follow these procedures:

- Be aware of the symptoms
- Check for head lice regularly (Public Health Services recommend every 3 to 4 days)
- Refer to "Facts of Lice" to determine how to check for head lice
- Identify infestation of head lice and inform the school
- Complete appropriate treatment (See "Facts of Lice" handout)
 - Note, no product kills all of the eggs, so a 2nd treatment 7 to 10 days after the 1st treatment is needed in order to kill the newly hatched lice.
- Complete the *Verification of Treatment* form and hand it into the office upon your students return to school

For your convenience, I am providing the following information from the City of Hamilton's **Bug Buster Clinics** which provide free head checks for all family members, treatment demonstrations and information from a Public Health Nurse. **Clinic days/times and locations are as follows:**

Mission Services

196 Wentworth Street, North
(Between Cannon and Barton)
Every Tuesday, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys' and Girls' Club

45 Ellis Avenue
Every Thursday, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

For more information regarding the Bug Busters, please call 905-546-2489, or visit www.hamilton.ca/publichealth

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school.

Thank you,

Ms. Tannis Hamill
Principal