

# From the Nurse's Corner

## LICE

My loyal lice-busters have been doing lice checks in your child's classroom. Lice are a common occurrence in schools. They do not transmit disease, nor do they suggest a lack of cleanliness. Although lice do not fly or jump, they can easily be transmitted from head to head. The most common symptom is excessive itching on the scalp.

Lice are a small insect about the size and color of a sesame seed. The insect is usually not seen, but rather the eggs or nits, which attach themselves to the hair follicle of the head, are seen. These tiny nits are usually white or brownish/gray. Unlike sand or dandruff, they are difficult to remove from the follicle.

If a louse/nit is found on a student's head, which child will be sent home and treatment is required before he/she is permitted to return to school. There are several non-prescription products available. All treatments need careful attention to directions to decrease any risk of side effects and to insure elimination of the lice. Use treatments only recommended for head lice, as products recommended for other purposes are not effective. The school nurse must check the child before returning to school. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school nurse.