PARENT BULLETIN

Head Lice

A case of head lice (pediculosis) has been reported in your child’s school. Lice are a common occurrence in schools. Head lice do not transmit disease.

When a child gets lice, it does not suggest that the child is not clean. It only indicates that the child has been near someone with lice.

All families are being informed so that parents can examine their children’s scalp and hair carefully each day for head lice.

Lice may cause itching and scratching of the scalp.

Head lice are insects the size and color of a sesame seed. They do not fly or jump but scamper on the scalp. Lice are spread by head-to-head contact or shared items.

Lice eggs (nits) are tear drop shaped and white or hair color. They are tightly attached to the hair shaft, usually behind the ears and at the back of the neck. Nits cannot be “flicked off.”

If a head louse is found on your child, treatment is required before the child is permitted to return to school. All treatments need careful attention to directions to decrease any risk of side effects and to ensure elimination of the infestation. Use only treatments recommended for head lice as products intended for animals or for other purposes will not be effective. Please contact your school nurse or healthcare provider for recommendations on treatment. The school nurse can also provide more information about head lice and school district policies.

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School Nurse

Figure 21.2  ■  Lice assessment letter.