
WILD WILD WEST

Volume 1, Issue 4

September 27, 2010

Test Scores Are In!

Last year's KCCT (Kentucky Core Content Test) results are in! The teachers and I are very proud of all of our students, who earned the highest school index in Westside history! Our students earned a 99.5 in Reading, 107 in Math, 105.7 in Science, 88.56 in Social Studies, and 82 in On-Demand Writing. Combined, this gives Westside a school index of 99! This is up from last year's 98.2.

Our Testing Celebration will be held on Friday, October 8th, at 9:00. All students scoring Proficient or Distinguished in one or more areas will be recognized. Family is welcome to attend. A note will come home with your child if they will be receiving an award on this day.

Bus Drivers Thank our Courteous Parents

Westside's bus drivers have asked me to thank you for your courtesy during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times. They tell me that all of you are going out of your way to accommodate them as they transport our students to and from school. I, also, thank you for this favor. Your thoughtfulness makes for a smoother, safer parking lot!

Free Tutoring Available

We are gearing up to begin ESS (Extended School Services) for the year. ESS just means tutoring. During the next few weeks, teachers will be recommending students who they feel would benefit from this extra help.

Much of our tutoring is offered during the day, so there is no need for most parents to figure out transportation.

If your child is receiving tutoring in Reading, he/she will NOT be pulled during their regular Reading class. Tutoring would be extra instruction on top of their regular lessons.

If your child brings home a tutoring form, please sign and return it as soon as possible. We cannot pull your child out for tutoring without your written permission.

Fall Festival This Weekend!

This Saturday, from 3:00-6:30, Westside will hold our annual Fall Festival. It promises to be a great time, with food, games, our silent auction, and all of you! Life moves at a very fast pace most of the time, and it is always nice when we have an opportunity to slow down and just enjoy each other's company.

Thanks to all of you who are planning, volunteering, and sending in items for this wonderful event!

Upcoming Events

October

- 1 4th Grade Safety Day
- 2 Fall Festival (3:00-6:30)
- 2 Homecoming Football Game (7:00)
- 8 Fall Pictures
- 8 Testing Celebration (9:00)
- 11-15 Fall Break
- 20 Report Cards Go Home

Wanted Volunteers

We are in need of caring individuals who are willing and able to give one hour per week to work directly with students. Please call Mr. Hoskins if you are such a person!

Head Lice

Lice aren't dangerous and they don't spread disease, but they are contagious and can just be downright annoying. Their bites may cause a child's scalp to become itchy and inflamed, and persistent scratching may lead to skin irritation and even infection.

Signs of Head Lice

Though very small, lice can be seen by the naked eye. What you or your doctor might see by thoroughly examining your child's head:

Lice eggs (called nits). These look like tiny yellow, tan, or brown dots before they hatch. After hatching, the remaining shell looks white or clear. Lice lay nits on hair shafts close to the skin's surface, where the temperature is perfect for keeping warm until they hatch. Nits look sort of like dandruff, only they can't be removed by brushing or shaking them off. Unless the infestation is heavy, it's more common to see nits in a child's hair than it is to see live lice crawling on the scalp. Lice eggs hatch within 1 to 2 weeks after they're laid.

Adult lice and nymphs (baby lice). The adult louse is no bigger than a sesame seed and is grayish-white or tan. Nymphs are smaller and become adult lice about 1 to 2 weeks after they hatch.

You may be able to see the lice or nits by parting your child's hair into small sections and checking for lice and nits on the scalp, behind the ears, and around the nape of the neck. But it can be tough to find a nymph or adult louse — often, there aren't many of them and they're able to move fast.

Are Lice Contagious?

Lice are highly contagious and can spread quickly from person to person, especially in group settings (schools, childcare centers, slumber parties, sports activities, and camps).

And you may wonder if Fido or Fluffy may be catching the pests and passing them on to your family. But rest assured that pets **can't** catch head lice and pass them on to people or the other way around.

Treatment

Your doctor can recommend a medicated shampoo to kill the lice. Medicated lice treatments **usually** kill the lice and nits, but it may take a few days for the itching to stop.

It's important to follow the directions exactly because these products are insecticides. Following the directions on the product label is also important to ensure that the treatment works properly.

Preventing Lice

Having head lice is **not** a sign of uncleanliness or poor hygiene. The pesky little bugs can be a problem for kids of all ages and socioeconomic levels, no matter how often they do — or don't — clean their hair or bathe.

However, you *can* help to prevent kids from getting lice — or from becoming reinfested with lice — by taking the following precautions:

- Tell kids to try to avoid head-to-head contact at school (in gym, on the playground, or during sports) and while playing at home with other children.

- Tell kids not to share combs, brushes, hats, scarves, bandanas, ribbons, barrettes, hair ties or bands, towels, helmets, or other personal care items with anyone else, whether they may have lice or not.
- Tell kids not to lie on bedding, pillows, and carpets that have recently been used by someone with lice.
- Every 3 or 4 days, examine members of your household who have had close contact with a person who has lice. Then, treat those who are found to have lice or nits close to the scalp.

Will They Ever Be Gone?

If you feel like you're following every recommendation and your child still has lice, it may be because:

- there are still some nits left behind
- your child is still being exposed to someone with lice
- the treatment you're using isn't effective

No matter how long the problem lasts, be sure to emphasize to your child that although having lice can certainly be very embarrassing, anyone can get them.