



# Ponca Public Schools

[www.poncaschool.org](http://www.poncaschool.org)

## November Newsletter

2007



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### From the desk of:

**William F. Thompson, Superintendent**

The school district has recently installed a new telephone system for the Ponca facility. Problems with the old system dictated that the District consider replacement rather than repair. In doing so, we have significantly upgraded our building telephone system whereby calls can be directed to every room in the elementary and secondary buildings. This allows faster communication to classrooms in case of an emergency, passing messages along to students and teachers, and for security situations that could arise. This 21<sup>st</sup> century telecommunication system is a vast improvement over the old system.

With the installation of the new system, there will be some changes for parent and public awareness. The District's phone numbers have changed. The primary number for calling the Ponca School District is **755-5700**. At this time the old number and the new number will ring into the main office. The new number will ring into the superintendent/business office to be answered and then directed to an extension for a District faculty or staff member. All personnel will have an extension number for their room, but it will not be possible to direct-dial into that room. Phone calls made to a teacher during the school day will not be forwarded if the teacher is busy with students during a class period. A message will be taken for the teacher to return at a later time. Parents can call **755-5700** in the morning for attendance and bus information.

The following numbers can all be accessed by **direct dial**. Each of these numbers have **voice mail** for parents to leave a message.

Business Office: 755-5700  
Elementary Office: 755-5700  
High School Office: 755-5701  
High School Guidance Office: 755-5702  
Elementary Guidance Office: 755-5713  
Technology Coordinator (Kristie Hayes): 755-5725  
Athletic Director (Bob Hayes): 755-5727  
Kitchen: 755-5735  
Custodian Office: 755-5747  
District FAX Number: 755-5773

As we move through this transition from old numbers to new, the public can access the school district by using either the phone number **755-2241** or **the 755-5700**. You will reach the Business/Elementary/Superintendent office your call will then be forwarded to the appropriate extension. On January 1, 2008, the old number (755-2241) will be deleted from the system, and only the "new" numbers will actually reach the school.

During the period of time when we lost the "old" system, and were installing the "new" system, we greatly appreciated the public's patience and understanding. We hope that this new system will provide you with easier opportunities to communicate with the school. ----- Thank You.



## WINTER WEATHER - SCHOOL CANCELLATION

With the approach of the winter months, it is important to be informed about the process as to whether school will be cancelled for the day, or whether there will be a late start or early dismissal. There are many factors to be considered before making the decision to cancel classes, to start late, or to dismiss early. First, and foremost, is the safety of students, faculty, staff, and parents. Such a decision is not to be taken lightly.

Technology has helped to provide early warnings regarding the approach of inclement weather. Radar and satellites have helped to make forecasts much more accurate. During the winter months, much attention is paid to these forecasts, the track of such storms, and their potential impact on our area. As storms approach, calls to other school district superintendents are made to see how the weather is affecting their area, and what decisions they are making. Traveling the country and hard surface roads of our district is done to check their condition.

Prior to 6:00am, a decision will be made whether to cancel school, or to start late for the day. Information is entered online. The relevant information for our school district is released from there to area radio and television stations. This information will also be available to our school district patron online. You can access this by going to the school district's website [www.poncaschool.org](http://www.poncaschool.org), click on the "SnowCap" button on the left side of the front page. This will let you see what decision has been made for Ponca Schools.

There are occasions when the weather patterns and forecasts are clearly obvious that a decision can be made the night before. When this happens, the online process will begin to air the announcement on the 10 o'clock news. However, this may not always be possible. Should the decision be made to start school late, this will always be a **two (2) hour late start**. Classes will start in Jackson and Ponca at 10:30am. Buses will run their regular routes, but will be two hours later than normal.

Occasionally, weather conditions will deteriorate during the school day to a point where early dismissal is necessary. We will try to avoid early dismissal if possible because contacting parents is difficult. Parents may, during inclement weather, pick up your child/children at your own discretion. Please make arrangements for the care of your child in case an early dismissal is necessary. In case of the early dismissal, all activity practices will be cancelled.

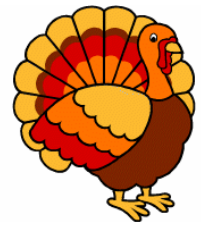


Following are some helpful hints as parents prepare:

- Know your bus route. Know who is picked up or dropped off before and after your stop. Contact other bus patrons on your route for information regarding the location of the bus.
- If you are going to be gone from home and the weather looks questionable, make arrangements for your child to have a neighbor or someone to meet your child, especially younger children.
- Please do not call the school or administration to find out if school is cancelled. Please listen, watch or check online for announcements.
- Parents have the right to make the decision whether to send their children to school when the weather is questionable. If a parent decides that the child will stay home, school work missed will be required to be made up. The child will not be charged with an unexcused absence.



# Message from Principal, Ms. Rinas...



Mark November 5 and 6 on your calendars for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Conferences are scheduled from 4:00-8:00 P.M. each night. First quarter report cards will be given to parents at conferences. Below are some things to do to prepare ahead of time for the conference.

- Look over recent assignments and test grades so that you know how your child has been performing in class. A good place to find this information is in your child's PowerSchool account.
- Look through books and see what your child is learning.
- Ask your child questions, such as what is their favorite subject, what are they having a difficult time with, what subject do they find easiest, and who are their friends at school.
- Write down questions you have for the teacher so you will remember what you wanted to ask.

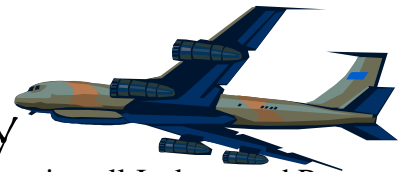
We look forward to talking with each of you at Parent/Teacher Conferences!

Congratulations is extended to senior, Bill Markworth for qualifying for the State Cross Country Meet in Kearney, This is Bill's second year of Cross Country and the second year he has qualified for the state meet. Bill finished 34<sup>th</sup> out of 120 runners.



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## HELP, Support Our Military



Ponca Public Schools would like to show support of our troops by encouraging all Jackson and Ponca community members, students, and staff members to help support our brave men and women in uniform by donating at least one needed care-package item. Please bring your gift to the elementary guidance office at Ponca or the office at Jackson School by Friday, November 16, 2007. Items will be taken to a non-profit organization called, Support Siouland Soldiers in South Sioux City. This organization will package the items and send them to our troops. If anyone knows a soldier and would like to add them to the list of recipients, please let Mrs. Anderson, or Mrs. Hassler know.

Following is a list of requested care-package items: (Please no aerosol cans or home-made goods)

Beef Jerky  
Hard Candy  
Games/Puzzles  
Power Drink Mix  
Coffee/Hot Cocoa  
Tuna Pouches  
Sunflower seeds  
Cracker Jacks  
Red/Black licorice  
Protein bars  
Eye wash/drops  
Fruit snacks  
Breath mints/Gum  
Granola Bars  
Boxed Munchies  
Koozies  
Cough drops  
DVD movies  
Hand held games

Envelopes/Paper  
Playing Cards  
Hacky Sacks  
Books/Magazines  
Dice/Card games  
Crossword Puzzles  
Wiffle Balls  
Letters and Cards  
Nerf balls/Footballs  
Frisbees  
Blank cards  
Deodorant  
Air fresheners  
Pain reliever  
Razors/Shaving cream  
Sewing Kit  
Nail clippers  
Vaseline  
clear fingernail polish

Baby Wipes  
Anti-Fungal foot powder  
Goldbond powder  
Toilet Paper  
Lotion  
Bug spritz/spray/wipes  
Cotton Socks  
Anti-bacterial soap  
Sun Screen SPF 30+  
Lip balm with SPF  
Toothpaste/toothbrush  
Q-tips  
Small fly swatters  
Icy/Hot Patches  
Zip-lock bags  
Shoe inserts  
Dental floss  
Moleskin  
shampoo/moisturizer



# District Advisory Council: Grading Pattern Changes

The Ponca Public School District is a different school district today than it was 2-3 years ago. Students, faculty and staff, and an elementary building were added to the school district's responsibility. The Ponca Public School District is a District of two buildings, one at Jackson and another at Ponca. We are not two (2) buildings that just happen to make up the Ponca District. We are one (1) district with approximately 450 students to educate equally. It is the responsibility of the District to create educational opportunities for our students, while at the same time being efficient and effective with District resources and facilities.

Since last May, the Ponca Board of Education has empowered an advisory group of District citizens to review the elementary grading patterns for the District. Several meetings early in the summer led to an initial recommendation that the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from Jackson Elementary should attend Ponca Elementary for the current 2007-08 school year. The committee continues to meet this year with the goal of presenting a final recommendation for a district grading pattern to the Board of Education by February 1, 2008.

The advisory council has grown in number since their first meeting to reflect more of the make-up and enrollment in our schools. The council is truly representative of the District. There have been results from the Council's efforts: the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade move from Jackson to Ponca this year. The council continues its task to identify and discuss issues related to the grading pattern change for our two (2) elementary school buildings. As the council seeks to provide the recommendation and guidance for the District, they are guided by the following:

- Jackson is a part of our District now, and for the future. Use the Jackson facility efficiently. Establish a goal to use all the District's facilities efficiently.
- Do away with the combination elementary classrooms that have been in use at Jackson Elementary.
- Provide for a more consistent curriculum presentation for all students at each grade level.
- Provide for a more consistent instructional presentation for all students at each grade level.
- Keep the departmental approach at the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades in Ponca. This provides for a good transition to junior high.
- Busing of students is a concern, whether they are lower elementary or upper elementary students. But, busing will have to be part of the plan.
- Keep kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade together for social age-level contact.
- Keep 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at Ponca.
- There is a need for more rooms to provide some flexibility in the high school schedule.

These points have provided the structure for reaching a recommendation for the Board of Education.

The Advisory Council will make their recommendation to the Board of Education regarding this grading pattern shift for next school year. The Board will make the final decision. The pattern that is recommended for next year may not meet with everyone's approval or satisfaction. Reasons for this could be varied: busing of students, inconvenience, something new, or we have never had to deal with this before. Support for whatever is decided, is important to make it work for the benefit of our students and our District.



# Start talking Before they Start Drinking



## Start the conversation any way you can

### HOW DO I START TALKING?

#### 5-8 Years Old

- Now is the time to begin explaining what alcohol, tobacco and other drugs are.
- Discuss how anything you put in your body that is not food can be harmful.
- Explain the idea of addiction, that drug use can become a bad habit that's hard to stop.
- Praise your children for taking good care of their bodies and avoiding things that might harm them.

#### 9-11 Years Old

- Children this age can handle more sophisticated discussion; use their curiosity about traumatic events (such as car accidents or divorces) to discuss how drugs could cause these events.
- Friends become extremely important at this time, and older children may expose your child to alcohol, tobacco or other drugs.
- Rehearse scenarios in which friends offer drugs.
- "Upsetting my parents" is one of the top reasons preteens give for why they won't use alcohol; give them permission to use you as an excuse, such as, "My mom will kill me if I drink a beer!"

#### 12-14 Years Old

- Adolescence is often a confusing and stressful time as teens try to figure out who they are and how to fit in. Nearly nine out of ten teens agree that "it seems like alcohol is everywhere these days."
- Take advantage of a teen's concerns about social image and appearance to point out immediate, distasteful consequences of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana use: bad breath, stained teeth, smelly hair and clothes.
- Point out that alcohol and other drug use is not only dangerous, but can also lead to broken friendships, even prison.
- Also point out long-term consequences, such as brain damage, cancer, and the potential for accidents, alcohol poisoning or death.

#### 15-17 Years Old

- Older teens have already made decisions about whether or not to use alcohol and other drugs. Now is the time to help them continue to resist peer pressure.
- Use specific reasons to reinforce why using alcohol and other drugs is bad: addiction, birth defects, car accidents, prison.
- These students are thinking about their futures; remind them that illegal alcohol and other drug use could ruin their chances of college acceptance or embarking on their career choice.

#### WHAT CAN I DO AS A PARENT TO PREVENT MY CHILD FROM BECOMING INVOLVED IN ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE?

- Take a "zero tolerance" stand against underage alcohol and other drug use. Using alcohol under age 21 is illegal.
- Get to know your child's friends and talk to their parents. Parents who network often discover that it is simply not true that "everyone else is doing it." Discuss curfews, supervision, etc. Check out overnight plans with the friend's parents and find out if the parents will be home, that no alcohol or other drugs will be present, and that they have similar curfew hours.
- Insist on knowing where your child will be. Many plans for an evening are changed midway through; a phone call should be required to keep you informed. If you will not be at home, let your child know how you can be reached.
- Be aware of what your child keeps in his/her room.
- Set a definite home curfew and observe the Tri-State Curfew Ordinance.
- Be awake or insist your child wakes you up when they arrive home.
- Set and consistently enforce clear standards of behavior and consequences that you are willing and able to enforce, e.g. loss of privileges. The consequences should be logical, natural, and immediate.
- Make reliable arrangements with friends, relatives, or a responsible sitter to live in your home while you are away. You are doing your child a favor as many parties occur without an invitation and are quickly out of control.

Keep in mind that these are not issues of trust – they simply show that you care!! Keep Our Children Safe & Healthy!

Information compiled by Siouxland CARES about Substance Abuse, (712) 255-3188 • [www.siouxlandcares.org](http://www.siouxlandcares.org)

# Start talking Before they Start Drinking

## Basic Facts:

- Children who begin drinking alcohol before the age of 15 are 5 times more likely to develop alcohol problems than those who start after age 21.
- Alcohol kills more young people than all other illegal drugs combined.
- Perceived parental disapproval is the strongest influence on youthful alcohol use. Children who believe their parents would strongly disapprove of their using a particular substance are less likely to do so than those whose parents somewhat disapprove or neither approve or disapprove.
- Parental involvement is another important factor. In 2004, substance use was lower among youths who report that their parents always or sometimes engaged in monitoring behaviors than among youths whose parents are seldom or never involved.
- In spite of the media message that alcohol will make life more fun, it actually is a depressant. Just one drink can impair your brain's ability to communicate, solve problems, and use good judgment. Alcohol can mess up your ability to make decisions.
- Alcohol use among children and adolescents starts early and increases rapidly with age.
- Alcohol use by the end of the sixth grade is reported by 27 percent of our Siouxland youth in 2006.
- Approximately three out of every four students (75 percent nationally and 74 percent locally) have consumed alcohol (more than a few sips) by the end of high school. Nearly half (44 percent nationally and 46 percent locally) have done so by the eighth grade.
- 52 percent of our 12th graders, 43 percent of our 10th graders, and 25 percent of our 8th graders have used alcohol in the past 30 days.
- In fact, 40 percent of our area 12th graders, 30 percent of our 10th graders, and 12% of our 8th graders have reported binge drinking (more than 5 drinks at one time) in the past 30 days.
- In 2006, 39% of the area 12th graders and 24% of our 10th graders had driven a car after using alcohol or other drugs

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# Christmas Concerts



Dec. 7th 7:00pm  
Elementary Concert

K-6 Vocal

5th Grade Band, Elementary Band

Dec. 13th 7:00pm

High School and Jr. High Concert



## Music Boosters' Concession Stand Workers

Please find a replacement, if you cannot work.

DATE & CONTACT PERSON	SPORT & OPPONENT	PARENT WORKERS
Nov 29- Sandy Jensen 632-4588	B/G BB Harrington	Matt & Jennifer Krusemark Dan & Lauri Krause
Dec 4- Julie Krämper 632-4748	G BB Elk Point-Jefferson	Jeff & Shella Herli Jim Hill
Dec 6- Mary Rager 755-2415	B/G BB Randolph	Brad & Carol Conrad Chris & Deanna Bennett
Jan 8- Dawn Bostwick 755-2591	B/G BB Wakefield	Todd & Jeanne Book Joni Hangman
Jan 12- Sandy Jensen 632-4588	B BB Elk Point-Jefferson	Joe & Deb O'Hall Kristin Stobbs
Jan 18- Maureen Anderson 755-4193	B/G BB Bancroft- Rosalie	Paty Echtenkamp Janis Keller Mike & Susan Watkins
Jan 22- Julie Krämper 632-4748	B/G BB Harrington CC	Gary & Sue Way Sandy Woehler
Jan 24- Maureen Anderson 755-4193	G BB Newcastle	Bob & Wilma Logue Berie Arbethnot
Jan 26- Mary Rager 755- 2415	G BB Conference Tournament	Gary & Kari Richards Dennis & Tina Rickett
Jan 28- Dawn Bostwick 755-2591	B BB Conference Tournament	Jeff & Tami Pick Sheldon & Cyndi Koeppe
Jan 29- Sandy Jensen 632-4588	G BB Conference Tournament	Paula & Tom Torson Sheryl & William Persinger
Feb 7- Julie Krämper 632-4748	G BB Homer	Deb & Dan Krause Chad & Lynn Effert
Feb 8- Mary Rager 755- 2415	B BB Homer	Terrance & Kris Goetz
Feb 15- Dawn Bostwick 755- 2591	B BB Conference Tournament	Ron & Mary Jensen Chad & Lynn Effert



## Music Booster Meeting

Wednesday, November 28

6:00 p.m.  
at Oscar's



## Lewis and Clark Conference

Vocal Clinic and Honor Choir

November 13, 2007

Bancroft-Rosalie

7:00 PM Concert



Participating schools are: Allen, Bancroft-Rosalie, Emerson-Hubbard, Homer, Ponca, Wakefield, Walthill, and Winnebago.

Each school will bring their choruses for a full day of music. This large mass choir will then perform together on the final evening concert.

There is also an auditioned select 24-member Honor Choir that will be rehearsing and performing. Those members have yet to be announced but will be given conference medals on that final concert.

We encourage and request that parents, family, and friends attend this concert in support of these students and the music activities they are participating in. These students work very hard and are worthy of our positive reinforcement.

**Please support our Ponca music students!**

**JOIN US!!!**

**Concert time 7:00 p.m.**

(A trophy is given to the school with the most audience members present! The host school is excluded)

Admission: \$4 Adults

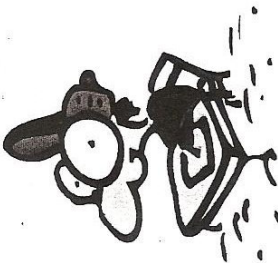
\$3 Students

Pre-school-No Charge

Conf. Passes Are Honored

### Ponca Parents/Caregivers...

Here is a **FANTASTIC website** for you and your children to use! It is designed to help students research careers and colleges. Additionally, individuals may develop resumes and complete the F.A.F.S.A. form (Free Applications for Federal Student Assistance)! All 5-12 grade students will receive training on "**NEBRASKA CONNECTIONS**" throughout the 2007-2008 school year. Check it out!



## Nebraska Connections

(Steps to access [NEBRASKA CONNECTIONS](http://www.poncaschool.org) career program.)

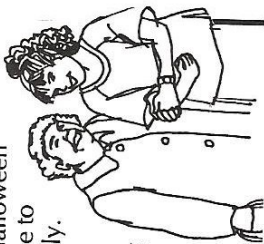
1. Go to [www.poncaschool.org](http://www.poncaschool.org) (home page of Ponca School)
2. On the home page click on "7-12 Guidance"
3. On the 7-12 Guidance page click on "Careers" located on the left side of the page.
4. On this page you will see the phrase "Nebraska Career Connections". Also listed will be our school's access code number: 11569
5. Double Click on Nebraska Career Connections.
6. At the Kuder Systems screen, select "Nebraska" as the state.
7. You will then be on the Nebraska Connections homepage, on this screen go to the left side of the screen and click on "Log In".
8. At log in, you will need to click on the correct user sequence.
9. At the next screen you will enter the correct personal demographic information that is required.
10. Be sure to use your full name and spell everything correctly as you are setting up resume header information at this screen.
11. You will then be able to use any of the options available on the screen.

## N.O.V.E.M.B.E.R

Is A Good

Month To

- Do one errand each week for an elderly relative or friend.
- Cook up your Halloween pumpkin to serve to friends and family.
- Make a special table decoration for Thanksgiving dinner.



Ponca Wrestling

### Jr. High Tournaments

	depart	weighin	wrestle
Oct 30th	1:15pm	Home	3:00pm
Thurs. Nov. 8th	2:00pm	3:00pm	4:00pm
Mon. Nov. 12th	1:51pm	3:00pm	4:00pm
Sat. Nov. 17th	6:30am	8:00am	10:00am
Tues. Nov 20th	10:00am	1:00pm	3:00pm
Tues. Nov. 27th	10:45am	1:00pm	3:00pm

### Parent's Meeting

Tuesday, November 6th

7-12 Grade Parents

8:05 p.m. following Parent-Teacher Conferences - Lunchroom





## 8th Grade Parents / Guardians... Here's a Great Opportunity

Put your hands on some cash – for college!!

Parents of eighth graders will soon receive *Exploring College Funding* – a publication from EducationQwest Foundation. The newsletter provides information about:

- ways to save for college
- the financial aid process
- profiles of professionals who used a variety of options to pay for college
- the national KnowHow2GO to College campaign

This publication is part of a pilot program in which EducationQwest is providing college and career planning materials to parents of eighth graders at 14 Nebraska middle schools – including ours!!!

If you don't receive *Exploring College Funding* or have questions about the pilot program, contact Mrs. Hassler.

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## Seniors to Begin Application/Scholarship Writing Unit

This semester all the seniors at PHS will partake in a scholarship/job application writing unit in their English classes. As part of their coursework, the students will be developing their writing skills while working on class requirements. A series of 11 application/scholarship questions were developed through the English department and the guidance office. The seniors will be expected to complete two rough drafts and a final copy for class evaluation. Not only will the students earn a grade for their written work; they will also be able to use their final drafts as a starting block for job and scholarship applications, which they will soon be completing. Be sure to ask your senior about this project!



## Senior Citizen Passes Available...

Passes are available in the Business Office for those patrons of the district who are over 65. The passes are good for any activities at the school.



The Ponca Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance procedures, or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination:

Ponca Public Schools  
Superintendent of Schools  
505 3rd Street  
Ponca, NE 68770  
(402) 755-2241

Appeal procedures beyond the local level need to be addressed to the following office:

Office for Civil Rights  
8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037  
Kansas City, MO 64114  
(816) 268-0550

FAX (816) 823-1404; TDD (800) 437-0833

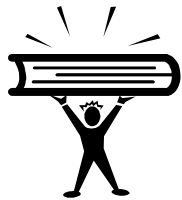


## LUNCH ACCOUNTS AND PAYMENTS

Parents: Please remember that your lunch account is on a pre-payment plan. If your child's lunch account falls below \$0.00, we need payment at that time! If needed, you can apply for free and reduced meals at any time



*Just a reminder: You are able to log on PowerSchool and check your child's lunch account balance at any time. If you have lost your parent ID and password, please call the school, and we can*



## Library News



Congratulations to ninth-grader Aaron Bostwick, son of Troy and Dawn Bostwick, who has been awarded the position of Student Library Intern at Ponca Carnegie Library. Upon completing an application and interview process, and being selected by the Board of Trustees, he began his intern work this past Saturday. He will be working with Mrs. Foulks on Saturdays and Mrs. Moore during children's storyhour on Fridays.

Aaron has a history of librarians in his family. His late grandmother, Billie Brewer was a librarian in Sioux City and served on the Ponca Carnegie Library board of trustees. His great grandmother, Dorothy McMillan served as the librarian at Ponca Carnegie Library for many years. Aaron remembers, as a child, playing library with his book collection at home. The Board of Trustees and staff of Ponca Carnegie Library are pleased to have Aaron use his gifts and talents at the library.

The Nebraska Library Commission offered grants to libraries for student internships, with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Librarians for the 21st Century initiative. These internship grants are intended to introduce promising high school and college students to the varied and exciting work of Nebraska libraries, by providing a \$1,000 stipend for each student to finance approximately one-hundred hours spent working with library staff on a variety of projects and activities.



## Ponca Cheer!



Reminder: Mark Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 on your calendar. It is the Community Days sale at Younkers. The cheerleaders are selling coupon books for \$5.00 each. The book includes a \$10.00 coupon plus eight 20% coupons. Contact a PHS Cheerleader to buy your books. We also have some available in the elementary office.

Thanks for your support!!!  
PHS Cheerleaders

## Reading is a Gift.

A Fundraiser that is  
a Gift of a Lifetime!



### It's a Book Fair!!!

Browse the Usborne Book Fair in the Elementary Library during Parent Teacher's Conferences on Monday and Tuesday, November 5 and 6. You will be able to order books from a wide selection of children's books. Books make excellent gifts.

Proceeds will be used to increase the school library collection.

Thanks for your help!!

# Parent-Teacher Conferences

The District has scheduled Parent-Teacher Conferences to be held at Jackson Elementary and Ponca according to the following schedule:

Monday, November 5 <sup>th</sup>	-	Ponca K-12, 4:00pm - 8:00pm
Tuesday, November 6 <sup>th</sup>	-	Ponca K-12, 4:00pm - 8:00pm
	-	Jackson Elementary, 4:00pm - 8:00pm
Thursday, November 8 <sup>th</sup>	-	Jackson Elementary, 4:00pm - 8:00pm

These conferences are one of the best ways you can learn about your child's educational experience. We invite all parents to attend conferences to communicate with teachers regarding your child, or children's, progress in school. The conferences at the elementary schools will be held in the child's classroom and are scheduled at 15 minute intervals. Elementary teachers have sent notices home with children with the scheduled times for parents to conference with teachers. Secondary teachers will be available in the west gym for parents to see on a "drop in" basis. Please try to keep secondary conferences to 10 minutes. If parents feel as though more time is needed to conference with your teacher, please make an appointment for another time.

Here are some tips that can help you have a more successful parent-teacher conference:

- **PLAN FOR IT** – Before you come to conferences, write out questions that you would like to ask the teacher. Here are some suggestions:
  1. Does my child get along with others?
  2. How is my child's behavior in class?
  3. Does my child read at the level you would expect for this grade?
  4. Is my child able to do the math that you would expect for a student at this grade level?
  5. What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- **KEEP AN OPEN MIND** – Your goal is to work for cooperation between you and your child's teacher. Even if the teacher says something you may disagree with, try to listen to what she/he has to say.
- **ASK TO SEE YOUR CHILD'S WORK** – There is no better way to see how your child is progressing than to look at his/her school work.
- **ASK FOR SUGGESTIONS** If your child is doing well, ask what you can do to keep things on a positive track. If there are problems, ask what you can do to help.

## GET INFORMED!

Sign up at [www.snowcaponline.net](http://www.snowcaponline.net) to receive a text message or email anytime Ponca Schools uses **SNOWCAP** to dispatch alert announcements affecting you or your school activities, such as delays or cancellations, parent meetings or other reminders. No more waiting by the television or radio.



Signing up is easy!  
Just look for the cell phone and laptop on our website, click on the button next to school, type Ponca in the blank, click on the search button, select Ponca Public Schools from the choice list, then complete the contact information on the next page.

Once you've completed signing up, you will receive a verification text and/or email. Follow the link to activate your registration. That's it!

[www.snowcaponline.net](http://www.snowcaponline.net)







## WINTER WEATHER - SCHOOL CANCELLATION

With the approach of the winter months, it is important to be informed about the process as to whether school will be cancelled for the day, or whether there will be a late start or early dismissal. There are many factors to be considered before making the decision to cancel classes, to start late, or to dismiss early. First, and foremost, is the safety of students, faculty, staff, and parents. Such a decision is not to be taken lightly.

Technology has helped to provide early warnings regarding the approach of inclement weather. Radar and satellites have helped to make forecasts much more accurate. During the winter months, much attention is paid to these forecasts, the track of such storms, and their potential impact on our area. As storms approach, calls to other school district superintendents are made to see how the weather is affecting their area, and what decisions they are making. Traveling the country and hard surface roads of our district is done to check their condition.

Prior to 6:00am, a decision will be made whether to cancel school, or to start late for the day. Information is entered online. The relevant information for our school district is released from there to area radio and television stations. This information will also be available to our school district patron online. You can access this by going to the school district's website [www.poncaschool.org](http://www.poncaschool.org), click on the "SnowCap" button on the left side of the front page. This will let you see what decision has been made for Ponca Schools.

There are occasions when the weather patterns and forecasts are clearly obvious that a decision can be made the night before. When this happens, the online process will begin to air the announcement on the 10 o'clock news. However, this may not always be possible. Should the decision be made to start school late, this will always be a **two (2) hour late start**. Classes will start in Jackson and Ponca at 10:30am. Buses will run their regular routes, but will be two hours later than normal.

Occasionally, weather conditions will deteriorate during the school day to a point where early dismissal is necessary. We will try to avoid early dismissal if possible because contacting parents is difficult. Parents may, during inclement weather, pick up your child/children at your own discretion. Please make arrangements for the care of your child in case an early dismissal is necessary. In case of the early dismissal, all activity practices will be cancelled.



Following are some helpful hints as parents prepare:

- Know your bus route. Know who is picked up or dropped off before and after your stop. Contact other bus patrons on your route for information regarding the location of the bus.
- If you are going to be gone from home and the weather looks questionable, make arrangements for your child to have a neighbor or someone to meet your child, especially younger children.
- Please do not call the school or administration to find out if school is cancelled. Please listen, watch or check online for announcements.
- Parents have the right to make the decision whether to send their children to school when the weather is questionable. If a parent decides that the child will stay home, school work missed will be required to be made up. The child will not be charged with an unexcused absence.



# Veteran's Day Program

Ponca Public School will present a Veteran's Day Program in the west gym at 10:00 a.m. on November 9, 2007. The public is invited to attend this program along with the Ponca, Jackson, and Martinsburg Veterans/ Auxiliary Women, K-12 students/staff from Jackson and Ponca Schools to help recognize the service and commitment of our Veterans, Auxiliary Women, and active military men and women.



## One-Act Competition

This year's One-Act cast has been hard at work preparing for competition over the past month and a half. This year's play portrays an adaptation of a well-known Christmas story, The Gift of the Magi, by Dan Neidermyer. The play takes the audience through a couple's frustration with finding the perfect gifts for each other, while dealing with financial difficulties.

We look forward to competing for the conference title in Bancroft on November 19 and districts at Laurel-Concord on November 28. We will also have a parent's performance prior to conference competition on Sunday evening, November 18.

### CAST

Jim Young ..... Aaron Bostwick  
Della Young ..... Sadie O'Neill  
Mr. Crockerty ..... Nick Watkins  
Madame Sofronie ..... Casey O'Neill  
Mrs. Mayer ..... Kylie Eifert  
Narrator ..... Jillian Webb  
Shopper ..... Sydney Eiler  
Shopper ..... Caitlin Mahon

### CREW

Jared Crosgrove  
Michael Jensen  
DeAnna Markworth  
Sam O'Neill  
Crystal Rush  
Brent Smith  
Brandon Watchorn  
Directors: Mrs. Swetnam & Mrs. Balvantin



# Jr. High Dance!!

## Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

### 7:00 - 10:00

**Only Jr. High Students in the Ponca School system will be allowed to attend.**



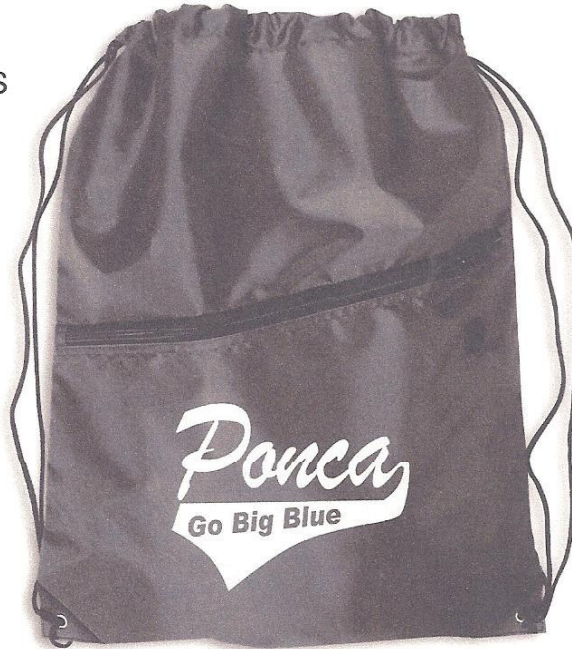
*The Ponca Public School requests your help in locating handicapped children. The school implements the Federal Handicapped Children's Act (PL 94-142) and Nebraska statute, which guarantees a free appropriate educational program for all children between birth and 21 years of age. If you have students or know of any young person who meets these criteria, please contact Superintendent's office.*



## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A CHRISTMAS IDEA?

The Ponca 6<sup>th</sup> grade class is selling Ponca – Go Big Blue bags as a fundraiser for their field trip to Lincoln in the spring of 2008. You may order yours today by filling out the enclosed form along with your check payable to Ponca School and returning it to the school. You may also give the form to one of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. The bags will be on display at school and will be sold at some of the home basketball games starting in December.

BAG IS ROYAL BLUE  
WITH WHITE LETTERS  
AND MEASURES  
21 ½ X 15 WITH A  
FRONT ZIPPER  
POUCH



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Bags Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Due

Make Checks payable to Ponca School.

Thank you for your support!

If you have any questions, you may contact Jamie Hamar (755-4128) or Joli Gehring (755-4292)