



# Ponca Public Schools

[www.poncaschool.org](http://www.poncaschool.org)  
September Newsletter  
2007



---

---

## From the desk of:

**William F. Thompson, Superintendent**

Welcome to the 2007-08 school year. It is always so refreshing to welcome the students back to school each fall, share in their excitement and enthusiasm, and to see how much they have grown and changed. I especially enjoy helping to welcome our new kindergarten students as they enter school those first days. They are always so excited and full of wonder as to what to expect at "school." At the same time, to share the experience with the parents as they "struggle" with turning the care of their most important possessions over to our teachers and other professionals really reinforces to me what an incredibly important job we have here at school. On behalf of the wonderful staff we have here at Ponca, please let me assure you that it is a responsibility that we do not take lightly.

It really has been a good start to the school year. Except for the fact that students and faculty have had to put up with oppressing heat in the high school building, things have gone quite well. From all appearances, it shapes up to be a very busy year. "Veteran" parents can tell you that the "busy scale" keeps moving at a faster rate as you proceed, not only through the school year, but also through the years that your child(ren) are in school. What is expected of them in the classroom, academically, really keeps them hopping. Students face multiple challenges within subject matter areas, and within specific grades meeting the expectations set by the school, and by parents. Then, adding in all the activities outside of the classroom, makes the day even more challenging. It can become really intense.

As we begin the fall activity season, a few words to parents regarding student conduct at school events. A big reason why Ponca Schools has won the Sportsmanship Award at the last two (2) boys' state basketball tournaments, was the support for the team by students. I have met with students in the upper elementary grades to let them know of my expectations of them at games and events, both home and away. While at games, it is important that students watch the game in order to support our teams on the court and on the field. I have banned students from bringing footballs, frisbees, etc., and holding such contests behind the stands, under the bleachers, or in the hallway. At the basketball tournament, student conduct and behavior was held to a high standard. There is no reason to expect anything less at home. Parents can help by communicating these same expectations at home, and by monitoring the conduct of your child(ren) at school events. We ask for, and thank you, for your support in this matter.

I feel real good about the manner in which families and the school have worked together. Though at times we have our differences and may disagree, open communication and cooperation help to find a common ground. We respect that families want the best for their child(ren), and we appreciate that you include us in those plans. Have terrific September.

School will return to regular schedule on Monday, September 10, 2007.

School will begin at 8:25 a.m. and dismissal will be at 3:25 p.m. for elementary grades and 3:30 p.m. for secondary students. Bus pick-up and drop-off times will be adjusted accordingly.



# From the Principal's Pen...Ms. Rinas...

"S'more Fun in 2007-08" were the welcome back words of the Ponca Student Council as 7-12 students were treated to s'mores on the school lawn at the end of our first day. Thank-you Student Council for the treat!

We have switched to the new student management program, PowerSchool. If you attended either the elementary or secondary "Parents Nights" you were given the login and password for your student(s). If you were not able to attend you should have received these items in the mail. If you have not received your login and password and would like them, contact Mrs. Hayes or myself and we will provide them for you.



Before the end of September "Midterm Reports" for the first quarter will be processed. Students will receive the reports on Monday, September 24. Parents please review and sign your child's report. In order to participate in or attend school activities, students are required to return the signed report to the school by Tuesday, October 2. Contact the school if you do not receive your child's progress report so one may be mailed to you.

Because the school is concerned with the safety and welfare of our students and spectators at school events, we will not allow children of any age to play unorganized football and group games in the open area surrounding the football fields at home or away games. Parents please supervise your children and do not allow them to bring footballs and other sports balls to football games. Thank-you for helping to keep our sporting events safe for people of all ages!

September 7, is the kick-off date for the annual junior class magazine sales drive. The class uses the money earned to pay for the Junior Prom and graduation expenses. They would love to renew current subscriptions and/or sell new ones to you. Contact the school if you would like a Junior Class member to call on you.

The Jostens Ring and Announcement Company will be at school on Tuesday, September 25, to present their products to sophomores and seniors. They will meet with sophomores at 10:45 A.M. concerning rings and seniors at 11:15 A.M. concerning graduation products. Jostens will return to school on Tuesday, October 2, to take orders. Senior orders are scheduled for 10:45 A.M. and sophomore orders for 11:15 A.M. Senior and sophomore parents are welcome to attend the meetings. Stop in the Principal's office and we will direct you to the room in which the class is meeting.

We hope your child's school year is off to a good start. Make sure to visit us throughout the school year!

Ponca Public School is an asbestos-free facility except for the old art building which has some asbestos in the floor tile in the bathroom. This building which is located south of the Tech Building, is used only for storage and there are no classes which meet there. In the remainder of the school facilities, materials thought possibly containing asbestos were analyzed and no asbestos was found. Contact the Superintendent's office for more information.

As part of Public Law 107-107 and No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, all public schools are required to provide names, addresses, and phone numbers of all secondary students to military recruiters and to post secondary educational institutions. Parents or guardians may ask that this information not be released. Ponca School will comply with this law and release names, addresses, and phone numbers of secondary students unless parents or guardians notify us in writing that this information should not be released.



# Homecoming Coronation



Sat., September 15, 2007

7:00 P.M.

High School Auditorium

7:30 P.M. Adult audience members will also get to vote for their favorite "SPIRIT BANNER" that evening.

8:00 P.M. "He-Man Volleyball" (gym)....the 9-12 boys will play a volleyball game. The winning team will play the all-male faculty team for the championship.

## Bonus Treat:

*Following the He-Man Volleyball games the high school band will perform their Fall Marching Show. The band will entertain you with music from the inspiring movies of Rocky and James Bond.*

## "Remember When"

Homecoming Week Schedule

September 17-21, 2007

Dress up days are for students in grades 5-12.

**Go  
Big  
Blue!!**

Monday, Sept. 17..... "Bling Bling" Day

Tuesday, Sept. 18..... "Decade" Day

Seniors – '70's

Juniors – '50's

Sophomores – '80's

Freshmen – '60's

Jr. High – "The Roaring '20's"

Wed., Sept. 19..... "Beach Bum" Day

Thursday, Sept. 20..... "Switch" Day

2:45 Volleyball/Cross Country Pep Rally

3:15 "Cookie Monster" Victory Treats

5:00 Athletic Boosters Tailgate Party (at the school)



**Friday, Sept. 21..... "Blue & White" Day**

7:45-8:15-----7-12 grades-Tattoo/Sucker Sales  
 8:25-9:45-----K-6 grades – Tattoo/Sucker Sales  
 10:00-----Jackson School – Tattoo/Sucker Sales

Weather Permitting.....1:15---K-12 Victory March to the football field  
 1:35---PHS Band Marching Show  
 1:45---Community Football Pep Rally  
 2:15---Powder Puff Football Game (at field) (7-12 grades)  
 Elementary Students return to school  
 3:15--- 7-12 students return to school  
 4:15 ---Cross Country Team runs at Crofton  
 5:30-7:00---Athletic Boosters Tailgate Party (at the field)  
 7:00--- Football game vs. Wakefield  
 Halftime Royalty Recognition  
 10:00-1:00 A.M.---9-12 Homecoming Dance



In case of inclement weather.....1:45 --- Little Olympic Games (7-12 grades)  
 2:45 --- Community Football Pep Rally  
 3:30 --- Dismiss school  
 5:30 Volleyball games vs. Wakefield H.S.

(Students who come in costume that evening will receive \$1.00 off the price of admission)

# Homecoming Tattoos and Suckers!!

Fundraiser for the P.H.S.  
 Cheerleaders and  
 Student Council.



Friday, September  
 21<sup>st</sup> 7:45 a.m. until  
 school starts!!



Tattoos.....\$.75 each



Suckers.....\$.50 each  
 (one per student)



The Cheerleaders and Student Council Members  
 will go to each elementary classroom to  
 sell tattoos and suckers during first period.

# HUNTER SAFETY CLASSES



A twelve hour Hunter Safety class will be held in Martinsburg from 7-10 p.m., September 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. Students must be at least 12 years old to attend. This class is free of charge. If you are interested please contact Doug Smith @ 945-2833 or Bruce Blatchford @ 755-4184.

## School Pride!!!

To help promote school pride, class unity, and school recognition in school and during out of school events, such as the elementary track meet and class field trips, Ponca Elementary t-shirts will be available to purchase at the end of September. Available sizes will range from youth X small to adult XL. A portion of the sale proceeds will be used to purchase new equipment for the school playground.

Additional information about purchasing t-shirts and the cost will be sent home with elementary students within the next two weeks.

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.

# Picture Day Scheduled..



CLASS PICTURE DAY IS COMING SOON!

Picture Day for all students (Jackson and Ponca) in Kindergarten through 11<sup>th</sup> grade is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

Pre-school pictures may be taken from 8:00 a.m. through 8:30 a.m. on that day at Ponca only.

### TO ALL PARENTS OF STUDENTS ENROLLED AT PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

As a parent of a student at Ponca School, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers. It also requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

1. Whether the Nebraska Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
2. Whether the Nebraska Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
3. The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
4. Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact the Superintendent's office.



# Nurse Notes

*Notes from the School Nurse, Sheila Herfel, RN*

A quick reminder that all students must meet state requirements for immunizations, birth certificates, physicals and eye exams. If you have received notice from the school that your child is missing these items, please bring these records to the school as soon as possible. If your child received any immunizations over the summer, please send a copy, so we can update our records.

## **BACK TO SCHOOL TIME TO CHECK FOR HEAD LICE**

Now that school has started, parents are encouraged to check for head lice as part of their family's regular routine. Families should make checking for lice as basic an activity as brushing their teeth or washing their hands. Head lice are common among elementary school students because young children have a lot of contact with their classmates.

Lice are reddish-brown wingless insects; lice eggs, or nits, are grayish-white, always oval shaped and are attached at an angle to the side of the hair shaft.

Products over the counter can be purchased to control the lice. If it continues to be a problem, you should see your physician.

### **Some tips in combating head lice are:**

- \*Check children and watch for signs of head lice, such as frequent head scratching
- \*Remove all nits with a comb or fingernails to assure total lice treatment
- \*Use a medicated shampoo, lotion or cream rinse, but remember that all lice-killing products are pesticides and label directions should be followed.
- \*Check with your physician before using lice treatment pesticides if the child has allergies, asthma or epilepsy.
- \*Wash bedding and clothing in hot water and dry in a hot dryer.
- \*Articles that cannot be washed can be vacuumed or placed into a plastic bag and sealed for two weeks to kill all lice and nits.



## *Make New Friends @ Your Library*



*Ponca School Libraries welcome students, teachers, parents, and community members to the 2007-2008 school year.*

*Please feel welcome to visit and use our three libraries:*

*Jackson Elementary Library*

*Ponca Elementary Library*

*Ponca High School Library*

## **Thank You!!**

*Thank you to the following families who donated books to the school library recently: Kramper, Larsen, Markworth*

**PLEASE HELP KEEP A.S.K. ALIVE!!!!  
(Always Say Know To Drugs & Alcohol)**

**Students at P.H.S. are excited about beginning the school year by organizing fun events for the A.S.K. group. If you are interested in helping with this outstanding program, please contact Ponca School, Bill Thompson or Chip Watchorn @ 755-2241.**

**Volunteers  
Needed!!!**

**Volunteers  
Needed!!!**

**Without additional adult support  
A.S.K. will no longer  
be available for our students.  
Please Help Support a great organization!!!**



# MUSIC BOOSTER'S MEETING



September 19<sup>th</sup>



Wednesday

5:00 Band Room

## *Who is a music booster?*

1. Anyone who has a student in one of the junior high or high school ensembles. JH and HS Band, JH and HS Chorus.
2. Any parent, friend, or community member who supports the Ponca Music program by donating their time, money or talents.



## *What is the purpose of the music boosters?*



1. Support the music education program at Ponca Public School.
2. Organize fund raisers with the purpose of purchasing equipment and classroom materials that the school district is not able to provide.
3. Operate the concession stand at sporting events with the proceeds going towards items such as music trips, instruments, uniforms and robes.
4. Sponsor music activities such as Band Day, Conference Clinics, Contests, Musicals and Dinner Theaters.
- 5.

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE NEXT  
MUSIC BOOSTER'S MEETING!!



They are coming...

## A note from Carol Conrad/SLP Speech-Language and Hearing Services



On Monday, September 10, 2007 all of Ponca's elementary and secondary students will have had their hearing screened and or tested. The ESU's audiologist (Verna Luhr) and several of the speech language pathologists, will either screen and/or test the entire student body's hearing. Those parents, whose children have a known hearing loss, as well as those with possible medical concerns will receive a letter, sent on that day, stating such. Any child who was discovered on the 10<sup>th</sup>, to have a possible new hearing loss will have their hearing tested again, to confirm the new hearing loss, within one month. If a loss is confirmed, at that time, a letter will go out to the parents informing them of their child's hearing loss. If you do not receive a letter by the end of September concerning your child's hearing difficulties, you may assume he/she has passed the hearing screen and has normal hearing levels. I am, again, in the Ponca School on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. If you have any questions concerning your child's hearing or speech/language development, please feel free to contact me.

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





Ponca School Newsletter  
 Ponca Public School  
 Ponca, Nebraska 68770

E C R W S S  
 Postal Patron



Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Permit #1  
 Ponca, NE 68770

# PONCA HIGH SCHOOL

# INDIANS

## 2007 FALL ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

### FOOTBALL

VARSITY	DATE	TIME	POINCA	OPPONENT
AUG 31	Hartington CC	H	_____	_____
SEP 7	Plainview	A	_____	_____
SEP 14	Randolph	A	_____	_____
SEP 21	Wakefield	H	_____	_____
SEP 28	Homer	A	_____	_____
OCT 5	Laurel	A	_____	_____
OCT 12	Emerson-H	H	_____	_____
OCT 18	Ponder	H	_____	_____
OCT 25	Playoffs	A	_____	_____
OCT 31	Playoffs	A	_____	_____
NOV 5	Playoffs	A	_____	_____
NOV 10	Semi-Final	A	_____	_____
NOV 16	State Championship	A	_____	_____

JR. VARSITY FOOTBALL

SEP 10	Wakefield	H	_____	_____
SEP 17	Laurel	A	_____	_____
SEP 24	Homer	H	_____	_____
OCT 1	Emerson-H	A	_____	_____
OCT 8	Hartington CC	H	_____	_____

JR. HIGH FOOTBALL

SEP 10	Wakefield	H	_____	_____
SEP 17	Laurel	A	_____	_____
SEP 24	Homer	H	_____	_____
OCT 1	Emerson-H	A	_____	_____

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

VARSITY	DATE	TIME	POINCA	OPPONENT
AUG 30	Tri *E-H	A	_____	_____
SEP 1	IV *E-H Tri	A	_____	_____
SEP 4	Coleridge	H	_____	_____
SEP 8	Bancroft-R	A	_____	_____
SEP 11	Tri *Ponca	H	_____	_____
SEP 13	Homer	H	_____	_____
SEP 18	E-H	A	_____	_____
SEP 20	Wakefield	H	_____	_____
SEP 24	Newcastle Inv.	A	_____	_____
SEP 25	Newcastle Inv.	A	_____	_____
SEP 27	Winer-P	A	_____	_____
OCT 2	Lutheran NE	A	_____	_____
OCT 11	Tri *Newcastle	A	_____	_____
OCT 13	Hartington Inv.	A	_____	_____
OCT 16	Laurel	A	_____	_____
OCT 22	Conf. Tourn.	TBA	_____	_____
OCT 23	Conf. Tourn.	TBA	_____	_____
OCT 26	Conf. Tourn.	TBA	_____	_____
OCT 29	Subdistrict	TBA	_____	_____
OCT 30	Subdistrict	TBA	_____	_____
NOV 1	Dist. Final	TBA	_____	_____
NOV 9	State Tourn.	TBA	_____	_____
NOV 10	State Tourn.	TBA	_____	_____

JR. HIGH VOLLEYBALL

SEPT 18	Emerson-H	A	_____	_____
SEPT 22	Ponca Inv.	H	_____	_____
OCT 1	Allen	H	_____	_____
OCT 8	Ponca Inv.	H	_____	_____
OCT 8	Homer	H	_____	_____
OCT 9	Laurel	H	_____	_____
OCT 16	Wakefield	A	_____	_____

### CROSS COUNTRY

AUG 30	Winer Inv.	A	_____	_____
SEP 7	Norfolk C. Inv.	A	_____	_____
SEP 11	Wayne Inv.	A	_____	_____
SEP 21	Crofton Inv.	A	_____	_____
SEP 27	S. Sioux Inv.	A	_____	_____
OCT 5	Bloomfield Inv.	A	_____	_____
OCT 11	Dist. Meet	TBA	_____	_____
OCT 19	State Meet	TBA	_____	_____

JR. HIGH CROSS COUNTRY

SEP 25	Pierce Inv.	A	_____	_____
SEP 27	So. Sioux Inv.	A	_____	_____
OCT 2	Wayne Inv.	A	_____	_____
OCT 9	Yankton Inv.	A	_____	_____