



# Ponca Public Schools

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

## January Newsletter

2008



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### From the desk of:

**William F. Thompson, Superintendent**

*With this newsletter, district patrons will find a list of new phone numbers for Ponca Public Schools. With the recent installation of a new phone system at the school, the District has provided communication access to all elementary and secondary classrooms. Faster and more available communication between parents and teachers can only be a positive factor as we work together for the benefit of your child*

*Beginning January 2, 2008, these will be the only numbers that will access the school buildings in Ponca. Jackson Elementary School phone numbers will remain the same. Please keep these numbers available at home and at work. The District appreciates your cooperation and patience as we have worked through this matter. --- Thank You.*

**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**

*Everyone associated with the Ponca Public School District wishes all constituents of the District a joyous and safe holiday season. Students will have a full two (2) weeks for vacation, with school resuming on Monday, January 7, 2008.*

*The calendar for the second half of the 2007-08 school year shows us that there are more than just 94 days of school until summer vacation. Student activities, games, and events fill practically every evening and weekend on the calendar. This creates hectic schedules at home with parents and students going in all directions. In addition, community, church, and other family obligations have to be squeezed in around, what appears to be, very little free time to do anything .*

*I want to bring a District issue to your attention as we prepare to move through this second half of the year. This issue relates to work of a District Advisory Council empowered by the Board of Education to look at grading patterns in the District's elementary buildings. The Council has been at work since last spring, meeting numerous times to seek input and information. Subcommittees have been formed within the council members to examine finance, transportation and marketing issues related to any proposed change for the 2008-09 school year. The entire Advisory Council will meet again in January to review its findings and to develop a report and recommendation for the Board of Education. The Board will receive this report at their January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, and act upon a recommendation at the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

*Have a happy Holiday Season.*

# January 2008

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>7</b> Chicken & Noodles Peas Peaches Roll/Butter	<b>8</b> Hamburger/Bun Potato Cubes Baked Beans Turnovers	<b>9</b> Chicken Patty Mashed Potato/Gravy Corn Applesauce Roll/Butter	<b>10</b> Mini Corn Dogs Fries Green Beans Pears Cookie	<b>11</b> Ham Sandwich Scalloped Potato Fruit Cocktail Roll/Butter
<b>14</b> Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potato/Gravy Green Beans Apple Roll/Butter	<b>15</b> Chili/Crackers Carrot Sticks Jello/Fruit Cinnamon Roll	<b>16</b> Deli Turkey Sandwich Mac & Cheese Corn Raspberry Applesauce	<b>17</b> Spaghetti/Meat Sauce Lettuce Salad Pineapple Garlic Sticks	<b>18</b> Chic. & Biscuit Peas Peaches Cookie
<b>21</b> Chic. Fajita/Lettuce/Cheese Potato Rounds Peas Krispy Bar	<b>22</b> Hot Dog/Bun Nachos/Cheese Sauce Green Beans Peaches	<b>23</b> Pork Fritter Mashed Potato/Gravy Peas Pineapple Roll/Butter	<b>24</b> Scalloped Potato/Ham Corn Applesauce Roll/Butter Cookie	<b>25</b> Chicken Nuggets Fries Cole Slaw Fruit Cocktail Roll/Butter
<b>28</b> BBQ Chicken Sandwich Potato Wedges Baked Beans Apple Crisp	<b>29</b> Crispito/Chili/Cheese Lettuce Salad Peas Roll/Butter	<b>30</b> Tavern Scalloped Potato Corn Raspberry Applesauce	<b>31</b> Pizza Lettuce Salad Peaches Roll/Butter	<b>1</b> Grilled Cheese Sandwich Chic. Noodle Soup/Crackers Carrot Sticks Pineapple

Milk Served Everyday



## NEW PHONE NUMBERS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup>

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  
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Ponca School Newsletter  
Ponca Public School  
Ponca, Nebraska 68770

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*Little Dorothy Gale of Kansas, like so many girls her age, dreams of what lies over the rainbow. One day a twister hits her farm and carries her away over the rainbow to another world. Come join Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tinman, the Cowardly Lion and Toto as they travel the universe of Dorothy's imagination.*

### PONCA ALL-SCHOOL/COMMUNITY AUDITIONS

January 10-11----Musical Auditions (7-9 P.M. In the music room.)

March 27---1:00---Musical Matinee K-6

March 28-29---7:30---All-School/Community Musical

The Ponca All-School Community Musical is open to children and adults of all ages. Be prepared to read from a script and sing a familiar song of your choice. If you'd rather be a part of the crew, volunteers are more than welcome for a number of assignments.

For example: Lights, Sound, Sets, Back Drops, Costumes, Stage Crew, Student Director, Choreography, Children's Choir, Make-up, Advertising, Programs, Video and Photography and More.

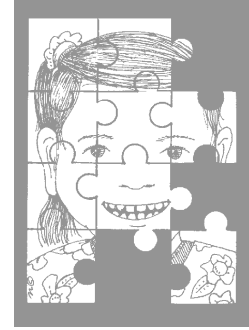
If you are interested or have questions about the auditions or the musical, please feel free to contact us at the school.

Directors: Kari Lowe & Pauline Miller 755-5700



# Can Students Solve Their Own Problems?

One of the most important things we as parents can do for our children is to provide them with coping skills. Being able to handle conflict, to deal with adversity, and to work through problems to find solutions are as important to students' futures as are academic knowledge and proficiency. Kids encounter all sorts of difficult circumstances in their social, academic, and co-curricular endeavor during their 13 years of formal education. How they deal with them on a daily basis – and whether or not they are allowed to deal with them – goes a long way in their social development.



It is extremely difficult for parents to watch a child struggle with social or academic issues and not step in to try to “solve” the problem. In fact, it is one of the hardest things we will ever do. It is natural for us to want to intervene and “protect” our kids. But it is important to know that every time a child is allowed to work through a problem himself, he learns from the experience, stretching his problem-solving muscles and gaining more understanding of human interaction. If we, as parents, tend to step into every problem situation, children may get the message that mom or dad will always solve their problems. Learning dependence on adults, rather than a growing independence, can be the result.

I can still recall my parents turning suddenly deaf whenever my siblings or I started complaining about teachers or friends or other kinds of problems we encountered. They would say things like, “You shouldn’t have been with the group that got into trouble” or “You probably got by with something at another time, so consider this your punishment for that” or “Maybe you should work it out with them or else find some new friends.” It seemed very unfair of them at the time not to take our side. Later in our lives, we understood what the real message was: “Don’t give excuses; find solutions.” (The same was true with our chores or when we broke a piece of farm equipment – we were expected to try to solve it or fix it first before asking for help). Our parents also were acutely aware that the other adults in their children’s lives had our best interests in mind – something else we wouldn’t understand or appreciate until later.

Too often we see conflicts as negatives in our lives. In fact, they can be opportunities to learn and grow. We owe our kids a chance to tackle problems – working through adversity makes them stronger and more able to weather the bigger challenges they’ll face as adults.

Does this mean we shouldn’t advocate for our children? Not at all. Younger children may not yet have the social skills needed to work through their own problems and need our assistance. However, when those situations arise, counseling and talking to our kids about how they might deal with various situations – rather than our just stepping in – can help them to slowly but surely develop those coping skills.

Older students especially should be given the opportunity to do their own problem solving. After all, once we send them off into the real world, drill sergeants, college professors, and bosses won’t be particularly interested in listening to us.

*(Reprinted and shared with permission from: Mr. Gary Schrage, Principal, Emerson-Hubbard High School, December 2007)*

**NOTICE TO PARENTS OF PONCA SCHOOL  
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS  
WHO MAY BE CONSIDERING ENROLLMENT OPTIONS  
FOR THE 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR**

Parents or guardians considering the use of the enrollment options program to enroll their child/ren in another public school district in the state of Nebraska should be aware of the following date:

**March 1, 2008** - Deadline for filing enrollment option application for the 2008-2009 school year unless a waiver of dates is granted.

**Limitation** - The enrollment option shall be availability only once to each student prior to graduation unless:

- (a) the student relocates in a different resident school district,
- (b) the option school district merges with another district.

**Eligibility** – Eligibility will be considered for transfer students who have transferred from one school to another when there is not a change of domicile by the parents. Those students who have their transfer papers signed and filed on or before March 15 shall be eligible immediately in the fall. Those students who do not have their transfer applications signed and filed on or before March 15 shall be ineligible for 90 school days.

**Transportation** – The parents of the optioned student shall be responsible for required transportation to the option district.

If you have questions regarding the enrollment option program, please contact the Ponca Superintendent's Office at 755-5700.

Two magazine subscriptions have been added to the school library collection.



Birds and Bloom

Fran Hassler

Reader's Digest

Dixie Olsen

*Thank You!*

Thank for your contributions!!

## January is a Good Month To:

- Mark your friend's and family's birthdays on your new calendar
- Go to an ophthalmologist to have your eyes checked.
- Have a sledding or ice-skating party.
- Shovel an elderly person's driveway.



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

*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.*

# Updates from Ms. Rinas

Second semester will start for Ponca students as they return to school on January 7, 2008. On Tuesday, January 8, 2008, students will be given their first semester grade reports. Be sure to ask to see your child's report card. Talk with your child about his/her first semester performance. Start out by congratulating your child on the positive. Talk about the grade the child is proudest of and why. For good grades, ask, "What went right?" and discuss how to apply it to problem areas. When looking at an unsatisfactory grade, focus on discussing the class itself. Spend time brainstorming a plan of action for improvement. Evaluate whether the child is spending enough time to complete homework or if extracurricular activities or a job is taking up too much after-school time. If you know your child has been trying hard and continues to struggle academically, contact the teacher about opportunities for assistance. Remember that students may get academic assistance at "Get R Done" each Tuesday and Thursday after school.

Selected instrumental music students will be traveling to Wayne two Saturdays in January. The Lewis and Clark Conference instrumental music clinic is scheduled for January 19, 2008, at Wayne State College. During the day students will be rehearsing with a guest clinician to prepare for an early evening concert. Jessica Bostwick, DJ Smith, Sam Woehler, Jacob Torson, Abby Watchorn, Nichole Lux, Kash Echtenkamp, Aaron Bostwick, Cara Erickson, and Korah Kramper were selected for the Lewis and Clark Conference Honor Band. Everyone is invited to attend the conference clinic concert at 5:00 p.m. in the Ramsey Theater on the Wayne State College campus. Three students were selected for the Wayne Junior High Honor Band. Samra Eiler, Krystal Richards, and Victoria Parsley will represent Ponca School at this musical event on January 26, 2008.

## News from the Guidance Office

### **7-12 Parents:**

Be sure to check the 7-12 Guidance icon on the school's webpage.

We will be posting information on college, scholarship, and career opportunities on this page. Additionally, there will be articles of interest regarding personal and career information for your children. You will want to check it weekly. Thanks!

### **PARENTS:**

**Are you looking for great summer academic camps for your kids in grades 8-11?**

**Check out the:  
"Big Red Summer Academic Camps"  
@ the following website!  
[www.bigredcamps.unl.edu](http://www.bigredcamps.unl.edu)**

### **SENIOR PARENTS....Do You Need Help Completing the FAFSA Form?**

**Brown Brad**, a financial aid representative from **EducationQuest Foundation (Omaha office)** is scheduled to be in **South Sioux Nebraska on Monday, February 25, Tuesday, February 26 and March 3, 2008, from 9:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M.**

If you would like help completing the FAFSA form please contact Brad Brown for an appointment. Email: [bradb@educationquest.org](mailto:bradb@educationquest.org) or by phone: 402-391-4033 ext. 22.