

February 2010

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL



505 3rd Street, P O Box 568
Ponca, NE 68770

www.poncaschool.org

223 North John Street, P O Box 67
Jackson, NE 68743

Notes from our Superintendent, Mr. William Thompson

UPDATE: HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION: The 2010 year is bringing lots of activity to the construction of our new high school complex. Board members, faculty & staff, and administration have spent hours conferring with district architects and financial consultants over the building/classroom design, and cost projections.. A preliminary plan design to the complex has been available to public view at school events. There have been some modifications to this. But, the original concept remains the same: academic high school to the west; and activity centers on the existing block.

There continues to be a wide interest in this project by building contractors, according to our District architect. Plans for the project have been requested by general contractors from throughout the States of Nebraska, Iowa, and even into Colorado. This is good news for the District. The next big "red letter" day for our project will be February 25th. Bids, a cost proposal, from all the general contractors will be submitted that day to the District. After receiving these bids, the Board of Education will take time to review them, and make a decision as to who shall be awarded the contract for the project.

By April, the community should be able to see work activity on the high school site. Construction activity means a high volume of traffic of workers, trucks, and materials flowing into and about the community. Other construction projects are being planned within the community this summer as well.

The next 18-24 month period will mean lots of adjustments for the school district: conducting school everyday near a major construction site; shifting students around to ensure safety; bus arrival and departure sites; student parking; moving from the old high school into the new building in the middle of the project; and eventually planning Open House activities for the new building. This is an exciting time for everyone as we look forward to construction starting, and to the completion of our new complex. -- Thank You.

UPDATE: SCHOOL MAKEUP DAYS: The winter of 2009-10 will be one to remember. At this point in the year, the District has cancelled classes eight (8) days. Six (6) of those days have been weather related with several late starts to the school day as well.

The State of Nebraska does not require that schools must be in session "so many" days of the school year. The requirements state that elementary students, kindergarten through 6th grade, must have 1,032 hours of instructional time. Secondary students, grades 7-12, must have 1,080 hours of instruction. Each full day that students are in session, a total of 6 ¾ hours of instructional time is credited. With each day that school is cancelled, an equivalent of 6 ¾ hours of instructional time would be missed.

A school district's calendar is built each year to ensure that instructional time standards are met. The Ponca Public Schools 2009-10 calendar, originally approved with 178 student contact days, does have some "cushion hours" built in. As we are not quite through our winter months, it would be too early, at this time, to say how much missed time will need to be made up at the end of the school year. The Ponca Board of Education will, most likely, make a decision on this matter either at their February 15th, or March 15th, meeting.

At this time, it would appear that the last day for students this year, will probably extend into the last week of May. I do not anticipate students making up time after Memorial Day, May 31st. This, of course, is contingent on any more missed days during the remainder of this winter and spring.

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Notes from Ms. Rinas...



Hours of practice and hard work have paid off for Ponca Band members. This year Aaron Bostwick and Korah Kramper will represent Ponca school in the Class C All State Jazz Band. Aaron will be on the piano and Korah on the tenor saxophone. Abby Watchorn, Aaron Bostwick and Lauren Conrad represented Ponca School in the Wayne State College Honor Band on January 30. Congratulations band members!

On Thursday, February 11, students in grades five through eight will be competing for the top five places in the Ponca School Spelling Bee. The Spelling Bee will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the east gym. The top five spellers will travel to the Dixon County Spelling Bee on February 23, and compete against other students from Dixon County. The Dixon County Spelling Bee will be held at 1:00 p.m. at the Haskell Ag Lab near Concord, NE. The winner of the Dixon County Spelling Bee advances to the Annual Midwest Spelling Bee in Omaha on March 13, 2010. Inform your spellers that they may access the "2010 Spell It" at the website www.myspellit.com.

This crazy winter weather keeps us hopping as we postpone and reschedule activities. Keep a close eye on the Ponca School website for the latest information on the school day as well as the cancelling and rescheduling of school activities. As always when making weather decisions our first concern is the safety of our students as they travel to and from school or the activity site.

February 4th is around the corner. Keep this date in mind as it is the middle of our third quarter.

Midterm reports will be given to students on February 10, 2010. Be sure to talk with your child about the Midterm Report and encourage him or her to finish the second half of our third quarter focused on academics and working hard.

Every two years the school district assesses its learning climate. Surveys will be randomly distributed to 50% of the secondary students, 50% of the certified and non-certified staff, and 33 1/3% of K-12 parents. Surveys will be administered the end of February. Student and staff surveys will be administered at school. Parent surveys will be mailed. The purpose of the survey is to help us evaluate our school. The survey results will be shared with the School Board, School Improvement Team and with the district in the school newsletter. If you are a parent who receives a survey, please complete and return it to the school by the date specified. The more survey results we receive, the better we will be able to evaluate our school.



National Honor Society Coat Drive



The Ponca National Honor Society would like to thank Keller Pharmacy, Trading Post Market, and the Ponca School District patrons for their participation in Coats for Kids. Heather Husen and Amber Stark set up Ponca's version of Coats for Kids. Ginny Keller and Marge Stanford allowed them to put receptacles in their businesses. Ben Gehring picked up approximately 50 coats that were donated. The coats will be distributed through the Salvation Army.

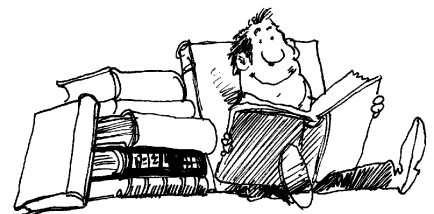
Thank you to all who participated.

Ponca National Honor Society

Thank you to the following, for their book donations to our library!!!!

Alex Markworth Mrs. Sandy Jensen
Mrs. Kristie Hayes Mrs. Fran Hassler

Brian Lentz
Ms. Terri Sampson





Jackson Elementary

Principal Bob Hayes

It has been a cold, snowy start to second semester, but our students' eagerness to learn has kept us going strong. We had a strong start to the second semester!

We have a lot of tardies and absences to begin the second semester. Please make an effort to make sure students arrive by 8:30am. Please monitor absences closely, if a student is ill we understand. Thank you for your effort and cooperation in advance.

Parents please make sure your child has a way home after school. We have situations where students are not picked up until after 4:00pm. The teachers have other responsibilities when school is dismissed, they cannot be responsible for sitting with your child. Please call ahead or make other arrangements if you cannot be here at 3:10. **Parents are not allowed in the building after school to pick up their child. Please wait outside until the students are dismissed.**

The elementary fund raiser will begin shortly. We use these funds to cover field trips and other activities outside the normal school day. Please help your child make a good effort to raise funds for school activities.

Pre-school open house will be April 20 at Jackson Elementary. More information will be in the March newsletter.

The date for kindergarten round-up has been set for April 21st. More details on kindergarten round-up will be in the March newsletter.

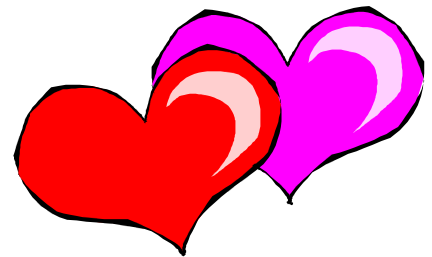
We have a significant number of lost & found items at Jackson Elementary. Please check to make sure your child is not missing items like coats, gloves, hats, etc...

Reminder, the dead line for open enrollment students is Monday, March 15th.

February 2010 Preschool

1 Starfish	2 Angelfish	3 Starfish	4 Angelfish	5 Starfish
8 Starfish	9 Angelfish	10 Starfish Valentine's Party	11 Angelfish	12 Angelfish Valentine's Party
15 No School	16 Angelfish	17 Starfish	18 Angelfish	19 Starfish
22 Starfish	23 Angelfish	24 Starfish	25 Angelfish	26 No Preschool Assessment Day

Preschool Schedule
 * Starfish = M, W, F Class
 Angelfish = T, Th, F Class



Dates to Remember

Feb 10 - Starfish Valentine's Party
 Feb 12 - Angelfish Valentine's Party
 Feb. 15 - No School
 Feb 26 - No PreK - Assessment Day

Looking Ahead...

April 20th - Preschool Open House
 April 21 - Kindergarten Round Up

Notes from the Guidance Office...

Look!

Next A.C.T. Testing Date....

Packet Registration Deadline = March 5, 2010

Testing Date = April 10, 2010

SENIORS.....

Deadline for the Ponca Community Educational Foundation Scholarships is:

Monday, March 15, 2010
4:00 p.m.

PEP

**PARENTS
ENCOURAGING
PARENTS**

March 18-20, 2010

Midtown Holiday Inn
Grand Island, Nebraska

Are you a Nebraska parent of a child with special needs? Does your child have an IFSP or an IEP? Then this conference is for you!

NO REGISTRATION FEE

Lodging and most meals provided



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



EducationQuest Foundation

College Planning Bulletin

A monthly college planning guide for Nebraska high school students

February 2010

It's FAFSA Time!

If you're a college-bound senior, it's time to get serious about the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) - the application for state, federal and college-specific financial aid. February is typically the time to apply as many colleges have a March 1 priority filing date. (Contact the colleges you applied to and ask for their priority date.)

Follow these steps to complete the FAFSA...

Step 1: Request a PIN

Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for you and one for a parent at pin.ed.gov. The PIN is your signature for the electronic FAFSA and is used to track your financial aid application.

Step 2: Complete your taxes early

The FAFSA requires current tax information so complete your taxes early.

Step 3: Gather these student and parent items:

- 2009 federal income tax forms and, if applicable, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)
- 2009 W-2 forms
- Student's driver's license number
- Social Security numbers
- Birth dates
- Date parents were married, separated, divorced or widowed
- Current cash, savings and checking account balances
- Current investment values (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs, etc.) excluding retirement accounts
- Value of business (if more than 100 employees)
- Value of investment farm (Do not include the value of a family farm that you or your parents live on and operate.)
- 2009 child support (paid and/or received)
- 2009 Worker's Compensation
- Other untaxed income in 2009 such as veteran's benefits, housing/food/living allowances for military and clergy
- Alien Registration Number for eligible non-citizens

Step 4: Complete and file the FAFSA

Complete and file the FAFSA at fafsa.gov. The colleges you list on the application will receive the results.

If you're filing the FAFSA for the first time and need help completing the form, call the EducationQuest location nearest you to set up an appointment. Call the Kearney office at 800-666-3721, Lincoln at 800-303-3745 or Omaha at 888-357-6300. All services are **free**.

The Ponca Community Educational Foundation (PCEF) announces it's 2010 Funding Opportunities for Ponca Graduates and Patrons of the District.

One of the purposes of the PCEF is to promote and support educational opportunities for the students of the Ponca Public School District. The main avenue of support has always been funding scholarships to Ponca High School graduating seniors.

Because of recent growth from the generous support of its members, the PCEF is excited to sponsor additional funding opportunities. Listed below is a brief description of those opportunities. After reading these descriptions be sure to encourage a P.H.S. connected student, parent, or community member to apply for these resources.

Guideline information, cover sheets, and applications for each program may be obtained by contacting the high school guidance office at Ponca Public School. Additionally, the information and forms may be found on the school website: www.poncaschool.org. (Click on Foundation icon; then click on Grant-Scholarship Opportunities).

Completed applications and supporting documentation must be returned to Fran Hassler, PCEF Scholarship Selection Committee Chairperson by Monday, March 15, 2010, 4:00 P.M., in person or via email at: fhassler@esu1.org (Please note: Due date deadlines will not be adjusted in the event of technology difficulties.)

Funding categories presently include:

1. Awards for P.H.S. Graduating Seniors
2. Awards for P.H.S. Alumni
3. Awards for Certified Staff Members at Ponca Public School
4. Awards for Non-Certified Staff at Ponca Public School

Should an individual, family or business wish to contribute to the PCEF, please contact **Foundation President Stanley Leigh**, Ponca, NE, **#402-755-2837**. Thank you.

Funding Opportunities Article
(updated: 1-20-10)

We are proud of our Ponca Band!!

Abby Watchorn
Korah Kramper
Kelsi Holgate
Christiana O'Neill

Students that will be representing Ponca at Lewis and Clark Conference Honor Band

Kash Echtenkamp
Colin Brandt
Allie Albrecht

Aaron Bostwick
Beth Finnegan
Krystal Richards

Jake Anderson
Allison Pick
Alacia Krohn



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO AUDITIONED AND WERE ACCEPTED INTO WAYNE STATE COLLEGE HONOR BAND TO BE HELD ON JAN. 30TH. GREAT JOB ON A HUGE HONOR!

Aaron Bostwick

Abby Watchorn

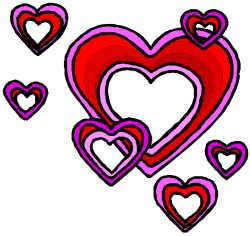
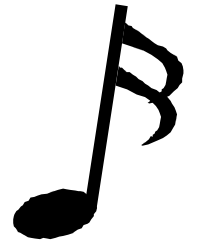
Lauren Conrad



Music Booster Meeting February 3rd, 2010

6:00 p.m. Outlaw Pizza

More members are needed at the meetings to better represent the entire group. If you are the parent of a music student, you are a Music Booster!



Sweetheart Plans Being Finalized by PHS Student Council...



The 9th through 12th grade students will celebrate Sweetheart Coronation and the annual Sweetheart Dance on Saturday evening, February 6, 2010, in the high school auditorium. Coronation is scheduled for 8:00 P.M., followed by the Sweetheart Dance from 9:00 P.M. to midnight.

One senior boy and one senior girl will be crowned 2010 Sweetheart and Beau. The public is invited to attend coronation. Students are encouraged to dress up, too.

The dance is open to all PHS 9-12 grade students.

Cost for the dance is \$5.00 per person, but if you dress up it is \$3.00 person.

Make plans to help PHS celebrate Sweetheart!

Hot Lunch Program

Lunch accounts will be set up as individual accounts, just like last year. If a family owes a total of \$100, we will not serve a hot lunch to the students. Students will receive a peanut butter and jelly sandwich until the account is paid.

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 easily give it to you again.

Announcements from Vocal Music

Congratulations to these 2010 Singing Youth of Nebraska Junior High Honor Choir participants!



Kianna Kramper-Alto

Isaac Bennett-Tenor

Zach Heaton-Baritone

Jacob Oswald-Baritone

Alternates (Lauren Brickett and Christiana O'Neill)



The Nebraska Choral Directors Association sponsored the 8th annual SINGING YOUTH OF NEBRASKA HONOR CHOIR for students in grades 7-9. This event was held Saturday, January 30, 2010 at Holdrege, Nebraska. 120 of Nebraska's most gifted seventh, eighth, and ninth grade singers participated in this honor choir. Cristi Cary Miller was the guest conductor and the event culminated with a great concert for everyone who participated and attended.

SAN-Sing Around Nebraska Festival Pierce, Nebraska February 27th

MacKenzie Boyle

Tim Hayes

Kyley Krueger

Kari Rooney

Reid Wimmer

Alexis Anderson

Kelsea Fethkenher

Ashley Gill

Leo Markworth

Tanner Perkins

Holden Schweers

WSC High School Honor Choir February 5th

Isaac Bennett

Aaron Bostwick

Cheyenne Brown

Brittany Heaton

Kayla Herfel

Korah Kramper

Rachel Krause

Nellie Logue

Joel Markworth

Christiana O'Neill

Jacob Oswald

Marissa Peterson

Ollie Reece

Kelsi Stoos

Abby Watchorn

Eric Watchorn

*February 11th-Sioux City Symphony Orchestra
4th grade concert at the Orpheum Theater*

AFTER PROM 2010

Plans are underway for a fun and safe After Prom party. The financial support of parents, grandparents, friends and area businesses would be appreciated. Contributions may be left at the Bank of Dixon County with Sally Eiler. With your help, we will continue the tradition and have another great party for our kids.

Parents, guardians, community members interested in helping with After Prom, please attend the meeting Wednesday, March 17, 7:00 p.m.

Elementary Library, Ponca School

<i>Ponca High School</i>		<i>2nd Quarter Honor Roll</i>		<i>2009-2010</i>			
<i>Seniors</i>		<i>Juniors</i>		<i>Sophomores</i>			
Kelsey Beacom Zach Brewer Haley Brown Jared Curry *Ben Gehring *Austin Hansen *Brittany Heaton Sharrell Logue Joel Markworth		Aaron Bostwick Scott Braun *Kash Echtenkamp Anthony Finnegan Kelli Goodsell Korah Kramper *Nichole Lux Allison Pick Jesse Way		*Katie Anderson *Kayla Beacom Josh Block *Colin Brandt *Cheyenne Brown Samra Eiler *Tylar Greenleaf Cari Hughes Shane Husen		*Andrew Larsen *Nellie Logue Seth O'Neill Rylee Rich Kelsi Stoos *Jesse Walsh Bailey Wimmer	
<i>Freshman</i>		<i>8th Grade</i>		<i>7th Grade</i>			
Allie Albrecht Madison Book Tanner Boyle *Sam Burki *Samantha Gill Zach Kvidera *Jonathan Larsen Laikyn Libby Heather Lieber Josh Masin *Christiana O'Neill		Jacob Oswald Erin Persinger *Megan Pollard Krystal Richards Dillon Rickett *Austin Schweers *Mattie Schweers *Patrick Watchorn		Brandon Bauman Connor Brandt Aaron Carlson Lorena Carmona Charlie Charlson Madison Charlson Hannah Cook *Tyler Davis Anthony Gehring Brandon Hamar Gavin Richards Christian Rush James Stark Jonathan Webb		Angelica Antonio *Lauren Brickett Alexis Eifert *Kianna Kramper Lindsey Kvidera Bailey Maise Mackenzie Niemeier Colton Oswald Hailey Pollard *Alex Rickett *Jada Rush Ethan Swick *Michael Walsh	

<i>Ponca High School</i>		<i>Semester Honor Roll</i>		<i>2009-2010</i>			
<i>Seniors</i>		<i>Juniors</i>		<i>Sophomores</i>			
Kelsey Beacom Haley Brown Jared Curry *Ben Gehring *Austin Hansen *Brittany Heaton Heather Husen Sharrell Logue Joel Markworth Amber Stark Josh Watchorn		*Aaron Bostwick Scott Braun *Kash Echtenkamp Cara Ericksen Anthony Finnegan *Korah Kramper *Nichole Lux Marissa Peterson Allison Pick Nathan Uhl Jesse Way		Katie Anderson *Kayla Beacom Josh Block *Colin Brandt Cheyenne Brown *Tylar Greenleaf Shane Husen *Andrew Larsen *Nellie Logue Seth O'Neill Rylee Rich		Kelsi Stoos Tyler Tramp *Jesse Walsh Bailey Wimmer	
<i>Freshman</i>		<i>8th Grade</i>		<i>7th Grade</i>			
Allie Albrecht Madison Book *Sam Burki Lauren Conrad *Samantha Gill Zach Kvidera Jonathan Larsen Laikyn Libby *Josh Masin *Christiana O'Neill		Jacob Oswald Erin Persinger *Megan Pollard Krystal Richards Dillon Rickett Austin Schweers *Mattie Schweers *Patrick Watchorn		Brandon Bauman Connor Brandt Aaron Carlson Lorena Carmona Charlie Charlson Madison Charlson Hannah Cook *Tyler Davis Anthony Gehring Blake Hamar Brandon Hamar Gavin Richards Christian Rush James Stark Jonathan Webb		Angelica Antonio *Lauren Brickett *Kianna Kramper Lindsey Kvidera Bailey Maise Mackenzie Niemeier Colton Oswald Hailey Pollard Alex Rickett *Jada Rush *Ethan Swick *Michael Walsh	

***Denotes "A" Honor Roll Students (students must earn at least a 93 numerical grade)**

"B" Honor Roll (students must earn at least an 85 numerical grade)



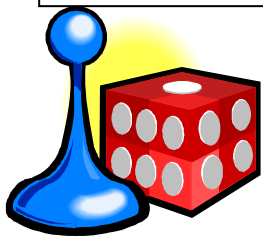
Hospice of Siouxland Family Grief Support Group

Hospice of Siouxland continues to offer a Family Grief Support Group this year. Group meets every other Monday from 6-8 P.M., beginning February 8, 2010. Meetings take place at the Siouxland PACE Center off of Hamilton and 4th Street in Sioux City, Iowa. The primary goal for the group is to support youth and families in the grieving process.

Youth from 6-17 are split into small groups according to age. At the same time, an adult family member takes part in the adult support group. Adults learn about their children's grief as well as processing their own so that they can be prepared to attend the needs of the children. Hospice will also be starting a separate Spanish language adult group. At this time, all children's groups are in English. To register please use the contact information listed below.

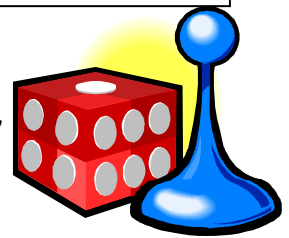
John Giorgio, MS, LMHC-IA, LPC-SD, Bereavement Coordinator

4300 Hamilton Blvd., Sioux City, IA 51104 Phone: 712-233-4144 (Toll Free) 800-383-4545



Game Night at Ponca Carnegie Library

Written by Heather Husen



Ponca's Carnegie Library was active Thursday night with thirty 4th, 5th, and 6th graders who arrived eager for the first ever game night hosted by the library. Inspired by the popular idea of Family Game Night, library director Beth Foulks was searching for a way to bring young people back to the library as well as provide a fun environment for kids. Proof that this goal was reached was evident by the enthusiasm that could be seen on kids' faces as they participated in games such as Monopoly, Sorry!, Pictureka, plus various games for the Wii. The two Wiis the library set up were very popular and helped to keep players active.

The library provided not only games, but snacks, pop, and pizza from Outlaw Pizza in Ponca. Kids were invited to bring their own games to contribute, and many came with hands full of their favorite games. The success of this night wouldn't have been possible without the help from volunteers who made it happen. Ponca National Honor Society members who contributed included: seniors Austin Hansen and Heather Husen, and juniors Aaron Bostwick and Dale Krause. Friends of the Library who came to help included: Vicki Irby, Nancy Dunn, and Lorrie Huston. These volunteers supervised the games, served food, and some even joined in on a game or two with the kids. In response to the success of the first game night, the library board is considering holding another game night in the future and possibly making it a monthly activity.

The Game Night was held at Ponca Carnegie Library on Thursday, January 14th from 3:45 PM to 6:00 PM.

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) 755-5700

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