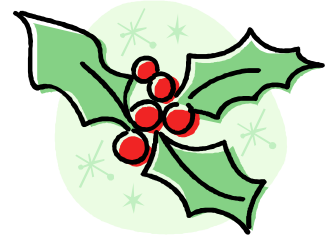


Ponca Public Schools

www.poncaschool.org

December Newsletter

2007



From the desk of:

William F. Thompson, Superintendent

The four (4) weeks between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are as busy and involved as any time during the year. Winter activities with games and concerts are just beginning. Secondary students will be busy studying and preparing for semester exams as the first academic semester is scheduled to end on Friday, December 21st. If this is not enough to occupy their day and evening schedules, there are time demands for family, church, community, job and other responsibilities that can create a busy and hectic lifestyle for students and families at this time of the year. The stress to keep up with all these demands can, and does, have an effect on a student's physical health and mental approach to school. Parents are encouraged to be supportive of their children in working through the demands that activities place upon a child at this time of the year.

Another factor for constant awareness at this time is weather. We encourage families to make plans thoroughly and inform everyone involved when there are considerations for school cancellation, late start, or an early dismissal. In town, if a child lives a long distance from school and is in the lower grades, arrangements might be made with a friend living enroute as a "stop-off" place. Make sure that the parent/guardian is notified if the child stops. In the country, some people with long lanes have asked a neighbor up the road to call them when the bus is coming so they can meet their child. Make arrangements as needed. The ultimate consideration is to **dress students for cold and bad weather**. Should there be a bus breakdown or a bus gets stuck, proper clothing could be a critical matter.

During the winter season, announcements by the District regarding school delay or cancellation will be 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 patrons online. You can access this by going to the school district's website 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.

ATTENTION PARENTS:

With colder morning weather before school, we are seeing more and more parents driving children to school. We would ask your cooperation on the following as a measure for student safety. If you choose to drive and drop off your children at school, please do so on the **north side of the elementary building**. The west side of the elementary is **RESERVED** for students getting off and on school buses in the morning and afternoon. We would ask your same consideration when you pick up your child after school.

The school day for students at Ponca Elementary begins at **8:25am**. Students are not allowed to enter the building until **8:15**. We have seen some children arrive as early as 7:30 without the proper clothing for this time of year. We would ask that students **Not Arrive at School Before 8:10am**.

**Vacation for the Christmas and New Year's Holiday
Season will begin Friday, December 21st, at 3:30 p.m.
School will reconvene on
Monday, January 7, 2008.**



Have a Safe Holiday Season!!!

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

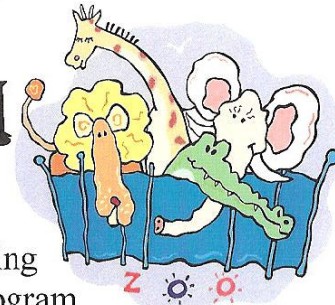
Please find a replacement, if you cannot work.

| DATE & CONTACT PERSON | SPORT & OPPONENT | PARENT WORKERS |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Dec 4- Julie Kramper 632-4748 | G BB Elk- Point Jefferson | Jeff & Shella Herfel Jim Hall |
| 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 & Joanne Book Joni Hangman |
| Jan 12- Sandy Jensen 632- 4588 | B BB Elk Point- Jefferson | Joe & Deb O'Neill Kristin Stoops |
| Jan 18- Maureen Anderson 755-4193 | B/G BB Bancroft- Rosalie | Patty Echtenkamp Janis Keller Mike & Susan Watkins |
| Jan 22- Julie Kramper 632- 4748 | B/G BB Hartington CC | Gary & Sue Way Sandy Woehler |
| Jan 24- Maureen Anderson 755-4193 | G BB Newcastle | Bob & Wilma Logue Berle 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 Koepp |
| Jan 29- Sandy Jensen 632-4588 | G BB Conference Tournament | Paula & Tom Torson Sheryl & William Persinger |
| Feb 7- Julie Kramper 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, December 19 – 6:00 p.m.
at Oscar's

Let's go to the Zoo!!



Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo is sponsoring a **Read Around the World** incentive program starting December 1 and ending March 1. By reading books, students may earn a special day at the zoo with their families on Saturday, March 15, 2008 from 10:00 – 2:00. The day will be filled with activities, stories and special animal presentations.

If you are interested in participating, contact Mrs. Carnell in the Elementary Library or Mrs. Foulks in the High School Library for the details.

Thank you to the following families who donated books to the school library in November:

Thanks

Mike and Jeanne Brandt
Dan and Deb Krause

Thank you to all those who purchased Osborne Books during Parent-Teacher Conferences. Your purchases have helped the school library get new books.



Season's Greetings from Ms. Rinas & Mrs. Curry



As the calendar turns to December, the focus at school turns to the end of a semester, holiday programs, and our winter sports of wrestling and basketball. There is a lot packed into our December school days. Our number one focus is to keep everyone working strong in the classroom as we finish the first semester and write semester tests. Students will be writing semester tests on December 20 and 21. A semester test schedule is printed in this newsletter. A student in grades 9-12 who has a scheduled study hall the first or last testing periods may be excused with written permission from a parent/guardian.

As we enter the winter sports season students and Ponca Indian fans are reminded that positive sportsmanship is our expectation in the stands, on the court and on the mats. We can be proud of earning the sportsmanship trophy two consecutive years at the Boys State Basketball Tournament, but that pride will only last as long as we carry the practice of good sportsmanship into the future. Someone once said that, "In athletics, winning is for a day, but sportsmanship and ethics are for a lifetime."

2007-2008 SEMESTER 1 TEST SCHEDULE

THURSDAY (DECEMBER 20)

| | | |
|-------------|----------|---------------|
| 08:25-09:25 | PERIOD 1 | TEST |
| 09:30-10:03 | PERIOD 2 | |
| 10:08-11:08 | PERIOD 3 | TEST |
| 11:13-11:46 | PERIOD 4 | |
| 11:46-01:03 | PERIOD 5 | PERIOD 5 TEST |
| 01:06-01:45 | PERIOD 6 | |
| 01:50-02:50 | PERIOD 7 | TEST |
| 02:55-03:30 | PERIOD 8 | |

**9-12 STUDENTS WHO HAVE A
SCHEDULED STUDY HALL THE
FIRST OR LAST PERIODS MAY BE
EXCUSED WITH WRITTEN
PERMISSION FROM A
PARENT/GUARDIAN**

FRIDAY (DECEMBER 21)

| | | |
|-------------|----------|----------------------------|
| 08:25-09:25 | PERIOD 2 | TEST |
| 09:30-10:03 | PERIOD 3 | |
| 10:08-11:08 | PERIOD 4 | TEST |
| 11:13-11:46 | PERIOD 1 | |
| 11:46-01:03 | PERIOD 5 | PERIOD 5/HOLIDAY HAPPENING |
| 01:06-02:06 | PERIOD 8 | TEST |
| 02:11-02:25 | PERIOD 7 | |
| 02:30-03:30 | PERIOD 6 | TEST |

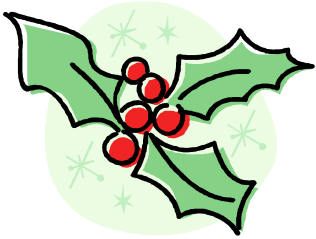


Juniors Experience Job Interview at Ponca School...

As part of the Junior Career Unit the 11th grade students participated in a 15-20 minute videotaped job interview on November 8, 2007. Interviews were conducted by community volunteers: Richard Dohma and Heather Craig-Oldsen. With additional volunteer help of Wendy Masin (who assisted Nancy Walsh as one of the receptionists) the students were provided with authentic interview practice. Students received valuable feedback regarding their resumes and personal presentation skills. The grades earned through the interviews will be incorporated into the students' second quarter English grade.



*Special Thanks to Mrs. Oldsen, Mr. Dohma, and Mrs. Masin
for donating their time and expertise with the students!*



Mark Your Calendar.....

Student Council Holiday Cake Raffle



*When: Thursday Night, December 6
When Ponca Hosts the Randolph
Cardinals in a Boys' & Girls' Double
Header Basketball Game.*

NEXT A.C.T. TESTING DATE...

Packet Registration Deadline.....
January 4, 2008
Testing Date... February 9, 2008

Financial Aid Meeting Is Scheduled...

On Monday, December 3, 2007 at 6:00 P.M., a representative from the EducationQuest Foundation (in Omaha) will present a financial aid workshop for students in grades 9-12 and their parents. While the first part of the session will include general financial aid information for all grade levels, the second part will be geared more specifically for seniors and their parents. **SINCE FINANCIAL AID IS SUCH A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF POST SECONDARY EDUCATION, ANY STUDENT CONSIDERING TRAINING BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL WOULD BENEFIT FROM THIS MEETING. MARK YOUR CALENDARS.**

Seniors and Parents: This is an excellent local opportunity for you to learn about completing the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (F.A.F.S.A.)!



Staph Infection (MRSA)

The emergence of the staph infection MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) in Nebraska schools has heightened our concern about what we can, or should, be doing to confront this issue in our schools. Staph bacteria is one of the most common causes of skin infections in the United States. Most of these infections are minor and can be treated without antibiotics. However, staph bacteria also can cause serious infections that require a more involved treatment process.

Ponca Schools is taking an active approach to MRSA and staph infection. At this particular time of the year with so many teams involved in practices, locker-rooms used by physical education classes and athletic teams, clothing being used multiple times for PE and practice, it is important to take measures to limit the potential for infection to students. Ponca Schools will be doing the following:

- All bathrooms, locker-rooms, and the weight room will be disinfected daily.
- All clothing and towels left on the floor of the locker-rooms by students and athletes will be thrown away.
- Coaches and physical education teachers will check the locker-rooms after each practice or class to make sure no items are left.

In cooperation with efforts here at school, we would ask that parents be actively involved in this process as well. Following are some practices that can help to prevent staph infections from taking place:

- Insist that your child bring athletic or physical education clothing home for washing after each practice or class. This not only keeps clothes clean, but also helps to prevent clothing from being shared among individuals that may have had contact with an infected wound.
- If you notice bruises, open sores, or a rash on your child, please notify the School Nurse, Sheila Herfel, or your athletic coach as soon as possible.
- Insist that your child avoids sharing personal items such as towels and clothing with others.
- Insist that your child practice good hygiene by washing their hands frequently with soap & water or with a hand sanitizer. Keep scrapes and cuts covered with a bandage until healed.

District custodians will follow certain infection control policies and procedures to help eliminate the possibility of a staph infection outbreak. Athletic coaches and PE teachers will remind students to take clothes home on a daily basis for cleaning. They will discard clothing left in locker-rooms by students and athletes. Cooperative efforts between the school and home can help prevent any outbreak from occurring this winter season.

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.

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

Wellness Window

D·E·C·E·M·B·E·R

Is A Good Month To

- Decorate a candle with sequins or sparkles for a holiday gift.
- Make hot chocolate, complete with marshmallows, for your family and friends during a snowstorm.
- Remember to say "please" and "thank you" at appropriate times when dining.



2007-2008



WINTER SEASON ATHLETIC TICKETS

BASKETBALL/WRESTLING
(12 HOME GAMES)

ADULT \$24.00
STUDENT \$18.00



PLEASE PURCHASE IN
THE BUSINESS OFFICE



PONCA HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

1st Quarter 2007-08



SENIORS

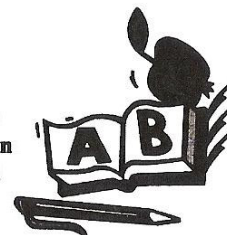
*Jessica Bostwick
Josh Brewer
Melissa Christiansen
Cody Davis
*Sydney Eiler
*Ryann Greenleaf
Colemun Harbaugh
*Haley Keller
*Paige Lux
Jessica McGinty
Josie McRoberts
Brandi Monk
*Sadie O'Neill
Sam O'Neill
*Crystal Rush
*Brent Smith
DJ Smith
Rebecca Walsh
*Jillian Webb

JUNIORS

Jacob Carlson
*Sarah Crosgrove
Colton Kastning
DeAnna Markworth
Jeff Markworth
Brandon Rush
Seth Scollard
Jacob Torson
Nick Watkins

SOPHOMORES

Kelsey Beacom
Josh Bennett
Haley Brown
Jared Curry
*Ben Gehring
*Austin Hansen
*Brittany Heaton
*Heather Husen
Josh Watchorn



FRESHMEN

Aaron Bostwick
Scott Braun
*Kash Echtenkamp
Korah Krampfer
Nichole Lux
Luke Markworth
Allison Pick
Jesse Way

8th GRADE

Katie Anderson
Kayla Beacom
Josh Block
Colin Brandt
Cheyenne Brown
Tylar Greenleaf
Shane Husen
*Andrew Larsen
Megan McLean
Rylee Rich
Kelsi Stoops
Jesse Walsh

7th GRADE

Allie Albrecht
*Samantha Gill
Rachel Krause
Zachery Kvidera
Jonathon Larsen
Heather Lieber
Josh Masin
*Christiana O'Neill
Jacob Oswald
Krystal Richards
Dillon Rickett
Austin Schweers
Mattie Schweers
*Patrick Watchorn

* 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)

Go Big Blue!!!

2007-2008 WINTER ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

BOYS BASKETBALL

| VARSITY (8pm unless noted) | | PONCA | OPPONENT |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------|----------|
| Nov. 29 | Hartington | H | _____ |
| Dec. 1 | Crofton | A | _____ |
| Dec. 6 | Randolph | H | _____ |
| Dec. 11 | Laurel | A | _____ |
| Dec. 14 | Emerson-Hubbard | A | _____ |
| Dec. 17 | Coleridge | A | _____ |
| Dec. 27 | Wisner Tourn. TBA | A | _____ |
| Dec. 28 | Wisner Tourn. | A | _____ |
| Jan. 4 | Allen | A | _____ |
| Jan. 8 | Wakefield | H | _____ |
| Jan. 12 | Elk Point-Jefferson 1:00pm | H | _____ |
| Jan. 15 | Winnebago | A | _____ |
| Jan. 18 | Bancroft-Rosalie | H | _____ |
| Jan. 22 | Hartington CC | H | _____ |
| Jan. 25 | Newcastle | A | _____ |
| Jan. 28 | Conf Tourn | H | _____ |
| Jan. 31 | Conf Tourn | A | _____ |
| Feb. 1 | Conf Tourn | A | _____ |
| Feb. 4 | Conf Tourn | A | _____ |
| Feb. 8 | Homer | H | _____ |
| Feb. 15 | Creighton | H | _____ |
| Feb. 18 | Sub District TBA | A | _____ |
| Feb. 19 | Sub District TBA | A | _____ |
| Feb. 21 | Sub District Final 7pm | A | _____ |
| Feb. 25 | District Final 7pm | A | _____ |
| Mar. 6 | State Tourn. Lincoln | A | _____ |
| Mar. 7 | State Tourn. Lincoln | A | _____ |
| Mar. 8 | State Tourn. Lincoln | A | _____ |

GIRLS & BOYS

| JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL | | PONCA | OPPONENT |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|
| Dec. 15 | Ponca Inv. Boys 9am | H | _____ |
| Jan. 5 | Wakefield G&B 9am | H | _____ |
| Jan. 7 | Allen Boys 3pm | A | _____ |
| Jan. 10 | Laurel G&B 4pm | A | _____ |
| Jan. 12 | Hartington CC G&B 9am | A | _____ |
| Jan. 19 | Homer G&B 9am | H | _____ |
| Jan. 21 | Crofton G&B 3pm | H | _____ |
| Jan. 26 | Ponca Inv. Girls 9am | H | _____ |
| Feb. 2 | Hartington G&B 9am | H | _____ |
| Feb. 9 | Newcastle G&B 9am | A | _____ |
| Feb. 16 | Newcastle Inv. G&B TBA | A | _____ |
| 9th/10th GRADE | | PONCA | OPPONENT |
| Jan. 12 | Wakefield Inv. Girls 9am | A | _____ |
| Jan. 26 | Homer Inv. Boys 9am | A | _____ |
| Feb. 9 | E-H Tourn Girls 9am | A | _____ |

GIRLS BASKETBALL

| VARSITY (6:15pm unless noted) | | PONCA | OPPONENT |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|----------|
| Nov. 29 | Hartington | H | _____ |
| Dec. 4 | Elk Point-Jefferson 7:45pm | H | _____ |
| Dec. 6 | Randolph | H | _____ |
| Dec. 11 | Laurel | A | _____ |
| Dec. 17 | Coleridge | A | _____ |
| Dec. 18 | Sioux City West 7:45pm | A | _____ |
| Dec. 27 | Wisner Tourn. TBA | A | _____ |
| Dec. 28 | Wisner Tourn. | A | _____ |
| Jan. 3 | Allen 7:45pm | A | _____ |
| Jan. 8 | Wakefield | H | _____ |
| Jan. 11 | Emerson-Hubbard 7:45pm | A | _____ |
| Jan. 15 | Winnebago | A | _____ |
| Jan. 18 | Bancroft-Rosalie | H | _____ |
| Jan. 22 | Hartington CC | H | _____ |
| Jan. 24 | Newcastle 7:45pm | H | _____ |
| Jan. 26 | Conf. Tourn. 7:45pm | H | _____ |
| Jan. 29 | Conf. Tourn. TBA | A | _____ |
| Feb. 1 | Conf. Tourn. | A | _____ |
| Feb. 4 | Conf. Tourn. | A | _____ |
| Feb. 5 | Pender 7:45pm | A | _____ |
| Feb. 7 | Homer 7:45pm | H | _____ |
| Feb. 11 | Sub District TBA | A | _____ |
| Feb. 12 | Sub District TBA | A | _____ |
| Feb. 14 | Sub District TBA | A | _____ |
| Feb. 22 | District Final 7pm | A | _____ |
| Feb. 28 | State Tourn. Lincoln | A | _____ |
| Feb. 29 | State Tourn. Lincoln | A | _____ |
| Mar. 1 | State Tourn. Lincoln | A | _____ |

WRESTLING

| | | |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Nov. 29 | Maple Valley Quad | 6:30pm |
| Dec. 1 | Howells Invite | 10am |
| Dec. 8 | Akron Inv. | 10am |
| Dec. 15 | Osmond Inv. | 10am |
| Jan. 3 | Heelan JV | Ponca-7pm |
| Jan. 5 | Elgin Inv. | 10am |
| Jan. 12 | Pender Inv. | 10am |
| Jan. 19 | Oakland-Craig Inv. | 9am |
| Jan. 21 | Vermillion Tri. | 6:30pm |
| Jan. 25 | Greeley Inv. | 2pm |
| Jan. 29 | Conference Quad | 6:30pm |
| Feb. 8-9 | Districts | TBA |
| Feb. 15-16 | State Tournament | Lincoln |

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Ponca School Newsletter
Ponca Public School
Ponca, Nebraska 68770



ECRWS
Postal Patron

Merry
Christmas!!