

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



Information from Joan M. Reznicek, Superintendent of Schools

Let it snow!!! I am sure our students would celebrate a heavy snowfall in order to receive a call or text from the SchoolReach emergency contact system to hear my voice stating “No School today at Ponca Public Schools”. The month of February is around the corner and according to the Farmers Almanac, February could be an interesting month of weather.

After the Monday, January 23rd late start call, the school received a few calls from grandparents or other contact names wondering why they were called. Remember, if grandparents are listed on the emergency contact list, they too will receive the early morning calls. Recently, every parent/guardian received a **YELLOW information letter from the school listing all of the numbers that will be used for the SchoolReach Emergency Calling System.** Please understand that the information a parent has under the Emergency Contact/SchoolReach Information Page will be used for the Ponca Public School District snow day dismissals or school lockdown. **Please make changes to your home phone, cell phones, email addresses, and whether you want a text message sent to your cell phones or your child’s cell phone under your PowerSchool Parent Portal.** When updating your children’s information, please do so for **each child**. The number of cell phones is unlimited, so please include your child’s cell phone number. The SchoolReach System will give telephone alerts of no school, late starts, early dismissals, lockdowns, or any other type of emergency calls to the parent and student landline phones and/or cell phones. As in the past, announcements of no school, late starts, and/or early dismissals will continue to be reported on the TV stations.

If you want your grandparents, aunts and uncles, etc. listed as contacts, (for example: your child has a broken arm and parents cannot be reached) these individuals can be listed on the **Parent Information page in PowerSchool.** If you want changes made to your Parent Information page in PowerSchool, please email Kristie Hayes at khayes@esu1.org or Joan Reznicek at jreznice@esu1.org to make the changes for you.

Just as a reminder, during every school year, every school in the State of Nebraska must go to school for a determined amount of hours mandated by the Nebraska Department of Education. Several years ago, every school would have mandatory number of “school days” to complete for the school year. Today, we now have mandatory “school hours” to complete for the school year.

With the cold winter days we are and will experience, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for school especially the elementary students for the times they are outside for recess. Outside recess is canceled IF the wind chill is lower than 10 degrees. Please make sure your child has a coat, stocking cap, mittens/gloves, and boots to help stay warm.

With all of the school activities taking place along with the requirements of the classroom, please make sure your child is getting ample amount of sleep. An elementary student needs 9 to 10 hours of sleep every night. A Jr. High - Senior High student needs 7 to 8 hours of sleep every night. The most important aspect is keeping a routine as to when your child goes to bed. Research states that a person cannot “catch up” from their lack of sleep during the week over the weekend.

Notes from the High School office...

February is a month to toot our horns for our band students! We have had several students who auditioned for and were accepted into area honor bands. Congratulations to Lauren Conrad and Lauren Brickett who were selected for the University of South Dakota Honor Band. Congratulations also goes out to Lauren Conrad, Ethan Swick, Kyley Krueger, and Kelsea Fethkenher for being selected into the Wayne State College Honor Band. Lauren and Ethan were selected into the high school band and Kyley and Kelsea into the middle school band. The Lewis and Clark Conference Band Clinic was held on January 23. Congratulations are extended to Honor Band students Allie Albrecht, Samra Eiler, Krystal Richards, Lauren Conrad, Austin Schweers, Dustin Brewer, Lauren Brickett, Ethan Swick, Spencer Criddle, Brandon Bauman, and Kayla Crosgrove for earning conference medals. Hats off to the people who attended the concert and brought home to Ponca the 2012 award for having the school with the most people in attendance at the concert!



February 2nd is the middle of our third quarter. Midterm Reports will be processed and given to students on February 8. Your child is required to return the Midterm Report to the school with a parent signature. Remember to have a conversation with your child about their midterm report.

Mark your calendar for the Ponca School Spelling Bee. February 9, at 2:00 p.m. students in grades 5-8 who scored the highest on the classroom written spelling test will compete in our local Spelling Bee. The top five spellers will travel to the Dixon County Spelling Bee on February 23, at 1:00 p.m. at the Haskell Ag Lab near Concord, NE. If you have a speller in the family you may access the "2012 Spell" at www.myspellit.com. The public is invited to attend both our local and the county spelling bees!

Ms. Rinas, High School Principal



Ponca Art Student Included in Sioux City Art Center Exhibition

Sioux City Art Center's 23rd Annual Juried Youth Art Exhibition: High School Students 2012

Please come out and support Ponca's talented art student, Heather Markworth, at the Sioux City Art Center. The Art exhibition starts February 18 and goes through April 8. The exhibit is open to the public for viewing during Sioux City Art Center's regular hours. Opening Reception is Sunday February 19 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. The Awards presentation starts at 2:00pm.

Sioux City Art Center is located 225 Nebraska Street in downtown Sioux City.

Thanks to Ray and Sharen Wingert for their donation of rulers to Ponca School.
The rulers were distributed to the elementary and secondary math classes.

Notes from the Guidance Office...



Look!

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

Packet Registration Deadline = March 9, 2012

Testing Date = April 14, 2012

SENIORS.....

Deadline for the Ponca Community Educational Foundation Scholarships is:

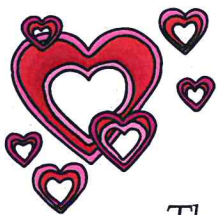
Thursday, March 15, 2012
4:00 p.m.



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



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 25, 2012, in the high school gym. 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 2012 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 \$7.00 per person, but if you dress up it is \$5.00 person.

Make plans to help PHS celebrate Sweetheart!



Elementary News



It's hard to believe January is behind us and February is here! The winter has been kind to us so far; let's hope it stays that way. Second semester has started very smoothly with everyone getting back into his or her routine.

We have a lot of tardies and absences to begin the second semester. Please make an effort to make sure students arrive by 8:15am in Ponca and 8:30am in Jackson. Please monitor absences closely, if a student is ill we understand. Thank you for your effort and cooperation in advance.

I had some questions regarding open enrollment recently. The date for open enrollment is March 15th. All paperwork must be in to the school office by March 15th for a student to qualify for open enrollment.

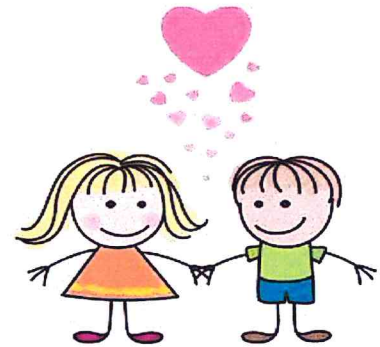
Pre-school open house will be April 3rd at Jackson Elementary. More information will be in the March newsletter.

The date for kindergarten round-up has been set for April 5th. More details on kindergarten round-up will be in the March newsletter.

Spring pictures will be February 14th at Jackson!

FEBRUARY PRESCHOOL

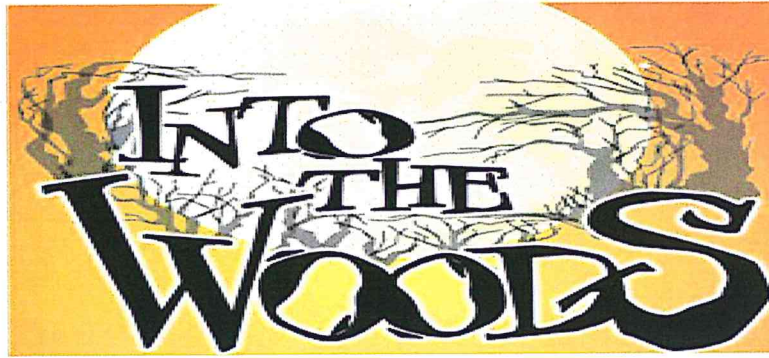
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Starfish	2	3 Starfish
6 Starfish	7	8 Starfish	9	10 Starfish
13 Starfish	14	15 Starfish Valentine's Party	16	17
20 No School	21	22 Starfish	23	24
27 Starfish	28	29 Starfish	1	2 Starfish



In Our Classroom

During the month of February we will be practicing our phone number. We will learn the letters V, L, and O. We will also explore nutrition and healthy choices this month as well. Sandy Preston from the County Extension Office will be making a special visit to our classroom to discuss the food pyramid and healthy food.

Ponca All-School Community Theater Presents:



INTO THE WOODS is a musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine. It debuted in San Diego at the Old Globe Theatre in 1986, and premiered on Broadway in 1987. Bernadette Peters' performance as the Witch and Joanna Gleason's portrayal of the Baker's Wife brought acclaim to the production during its original Broadway run. INTO THE WOODS won several Tony Awards, including Best Score, Best Book, and Best Actress in a Musical (Joanna Gleason), in a year dominated by The Phantom of the Opera. The musical offers up a cockeyed fairy tale including all of your favorite characters Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk) and The Witch and ties them together with a more original story involving a baker and his wife and their quest to begin a family, most likely taken from the original story of Rapunzel by the Brothers Grimm. INTO THE WOODS, is a funny and engaging way to get young people to think about the stories with which they've grown up and the ethical issues raised therein.

THE CAST

Narrator - *Marcy Gustman*

Cinderella - *Christiana O'Neill*

Jack - *Zach Heaton*

Jack's Mother - *Lisa Balvantin*

Baker - *Michael Gibbs*

Baker's Wife - *Christina Luebbe*

Cinderella's Stepmother - *Candace Hansen*

Florinda - *Mattie Schweers*

Lucinda - *Kianna Kremper*

Cinderella's Father - *Randy Lukken*

Little Red Ridinghood - *Lauren Brickett*

Witch - *Cheyenne Brown*

Cinderella's Mother - *Dawn Bostwick*

Cinderella's Prince /Wolf - *Dustin Brewer*

Granny - *Valerie Benson*

Rapunzel - *Nellie Logue*

Rapunzel's Prince - *Isaac Bennett*

Mysterious Man - *Christian Rush*

Steward - *Jacob Bennett*

Snow White - *Kelsi Stoos*

Sleeping Beauty - *Megan Rager*

Forest Tree - *Kayla Crosgrove*

Forest Tree - *Caryn Mellick*

Forest Shrub - *Madison Niemeier*

Forest Shrub - *Emma Beach*

Directors: Kari Lowe and Rhonda Stark

Student Helper: Alisha Sullivan



March 30th and 31st



SINGING YOUTH OF NEBRASKA HONOR CHOIR 2012 Grades 7-9

The Nebraska Choral Director's Association is sponsoring the eighth annual Singing Youth Of Nebraska Honor Choir for students in grades 7-9. This event will be held Saturday, January 28, 2012 at The Tassel in Holdrege. We are very pleased to announce that Randy Pagel will be the guest conductor. He has planned a varied and exciting concert for everyone to participate in.

SINGING YOUTH OF NEBRASKA HONOR CHOIR CONCERT "THE TASSEL" Holdrege, Nebraska JANUARY 28, 2012 4:00 P.M.



The 120 most gifted seventh, eighth and ninth grade singers from across the state have been selected to participate in this choir. CONGRATULATIONS to the following Ponca students for being selected to participate in this prestigious choir.

Spencer Criddle	Hunter Schweers	Tanner Perkins	Jacob Bennett
Keoka Zavadil	Kelsea Fethkenher	Rachel Bentz	Kianna Kramper
	Alexis Eifert	Lauren Brickett	



CONGRATULATIONS to the medal winners at Lewis and Clark Conference Honor Band, held January 21st at Wayne State College

First Chair Medals:

Samra Eiler	Allie Albrecht	Lauren Conrad
Krystal Richards	Lauren Brickett	Ethan Swick
	Spencer Criddle	



Second Chair Medals:

Dustin Brewer	Austin Schweers	Brandon Bauman
	Kayla Crosgrove	

Ponca won the "Attendance Award" at Conference Honor Band for having the most audience members present!!

CONGRATULATIONS to the Wayne State Honor Band Members: Ethan Swick, Lauren Conrad and Kyley Krueger



CONGRATULATIONS to the USD Honor Band Members: Lauren Conrad and Lauren Brickett

PEP

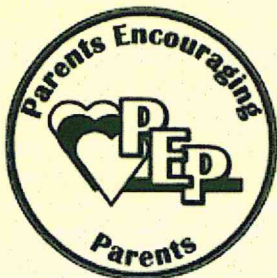
PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS

March 15-17, 2012
Midtown Holiday Inn
Grand Island, Nebraska

Sponsored by Nebraska Department of
Education, Special Education & ESU 16

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



Website: www.education.ne.gov/sped/parentinfo.html

WHAT PARENTS SAY ABOUT PEP

"I learned a lot of great information. I feel relieved
and empowered and know I am
not alone."

"I feel so blessed that I was able to come to PEP. It
has brought my husband and I so close and I feel
we can really be a team and advocate for
our child."

"Life changing! I can't even express how amazing
and encouraged I feel."

"I loved that it was parent focused and we were
encouraged to share our feelings as well as
our knowledge."

"I like that this conference is put on basically by "lay
people" with special needs kids who live this
every day. Thank you!"

"I came thinking this wasn't for me and I am
leaving understanding more than I could have
imagined"

WHAT EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS SAY ABOUT PEP

"I felt I was able to give some school side
perspective as I visited with parents. It was also
great to talk to parents about the IEP."

"I was able to take my professional hat off and
listen to what parents with a child with a disability
go through from the day they learn about the
disability."

"Very Informative, best conference I've attended
since I started teaching 7 years ago."

**PLEASE COPY AND SHARE THIS
BROCHURE WITH PARENTS OR
EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS WHO
MAY BENEFIT FROM ATTENDING PEP.**

This brochure was funded with Federal funds, Part B, IDEA, grant number
H027A100079 with the State of Nebraska.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 15

Registration (4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)
Dinner
Welcome
Discussion Group

Friday, March 16

Breakfast
The IFSP/IEP Process
Building Positive Parent-School Partnerships
Lunch
Good Grief!
Discussion Group
Dinner (on your own)
Evening free to socialize, network and relax

Saturday, March 17

Breakfast
Concurrent Sessions

- Assistive Technology
- Behavioral Challenges
- Estate Planning for Special Need Trusts
- For Men Only
- The Mediation Process
- Siblings
- Social Skills
- Transition
- You are Your Child's Best Advocate

Lunch
Discussion Group
Pearls of Wisdom
Closing and Evaluations (3:30 p.m.)

Ponca Wrestling Club



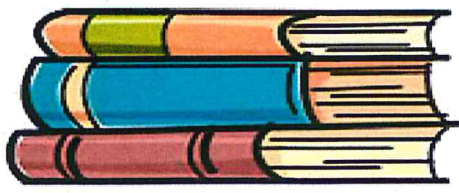
Practices will be begin
February 2nd

6:30 - 7:30 at the
Community Center



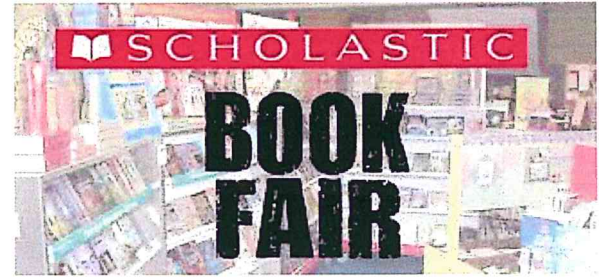
Practices will be held on Monday and Thursdays
You may sign up when you come.

District Wrestling - Ponca will wrestle in the D-2 District Tournament on February 10th and 11th.
Wrestling starts at 3:00 p.m. on Friday and 10:00 a.m. Saturday at Oakland-Craig.



Library News

SCHOLASTIC BOOKFAIR is coming March 12-16 to the library. The fair will be open all week during school hours **and** during Parent-Teacher Conferences. Parents, grandparents, community members, and the public are invited to visit the library and browse the Bookfair.



THANK YOU for your book donations to our library:
Jamie Hamar, Carlena Krueger, and MacKenzie Boyle

A BIG Thank You to Kristie Martin for her generous donation to Ponca's Wrestling and Music Programs!!

SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday, March 29

“Stand for the Silent” Anti-Bullying Presentation by Kirk and Laura Smalley

2:00 p.m. Presentation (Grades 5 – 12)

7:00 p.m. Presentation (Parents and Community Members)

ATTENTION JR. and Sr. PARENTS



Post Prom Meeting

February 29th

7:00 p.m.

Ponca School

If you are a parent of a Junior or Senior student, please attend this meeting.

We need help to finalize the After Prom party arrangements and make this a fun night for the kids!!

Ponca High School
2nd Quarter Honor Roll
 2011-2012

<i>Seniors</i>	<i>Juniors</i>	<i>Sophomores</i>
<p>*Kayla Beacom Josh Block *Colin Brandt *Cheyenne Brown *Tylar Greenleaf Shane Husen Seth O'Neill Rylee Rich *Jesse Walsh</p>	<p>*Allie Albrecht Tanner Boyle Sam Burki Lauren Conrad *Samantha Gill Ryan Hansen Wesley Johnson Zach Kvidera *Jonathan Larsen Laikyn Libby</p>	<p>Josh Masin *Christiana O'Neill Erin Persinger *Megan Pollard *Krystal Richards Dillon Rickett *Austin Schweers *Mattie Schweers Kaitie Todd Patrick Watchorn</p>
<i>Freshman</i>	<i>8th Grade</i>	<i>7th Grade</i>
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Ponca High School
Semester Honor Roll
 2011-2012

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*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)

The Ponca Community Educational Foundation (PCEF) announces it's 2012 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 found on the school website: www.poncaschool.org. (Click on Foundation icon; then click on Grant-Scholarship Opportunities). Additionally, the information and forms may be obtained by contacting the high school guidance office at Ponca Public School (402-755-5702).

Completed applications and supporting documentation must be returned to Fran Hassler, PCEF Scholarship Selection Committee Chairperson by Thursday, March 15, 2012, 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 Lionel Froseth**, Sioux Falls, SD, **#605-357-8086**. Thank you.

cut back on your kid's sweet treats



10 tips to decrease added sugars

Limit the amount of foods and beverages with added sugars your kids eat and drink. If you don't buy them, your kids won't get them very often. Sweet treats and sugary drinks have a lot of calories but few nutrients. Most added sugars come from sodas, sports drinks, energy drinks, juice drinks, cakes, cookies, ice cream, candy, and other desserts.

1 serve small portions
It's not necessary to get rid of all sweets and desserts. Show kids that a small amount of treats can go a long way. Use smaller bowls and plates for these foods. Have them share a candy bar or split a large cupcake.

2 sip smarter
Soda and other sweet drinks contain a lot of sugar and are high in calories. Offer water, 100% juice, or fat-free milk when kids are thirsty.



3 use the check-out lane that does not display candy
Most grocery stores will have a candy-free check-out lane to help moms out. Waiting in a store line makes it easy for children to ask for the candy that is right in front of their faces to tempt them.

4 choose not to offer sweets as rewards
By offering food as a reward for good behavior, children learn to think that some foods are better than other foods. Reward your child with kind words and comforting hugs, or give them non-food items, like stickers, to make them feel special.

5 make fruit the everyday dessert
Serve baked apples, pears, or enjoy a fruit salad. Or, serve yummy frozen juice bars (100% juice) instead of high-calorie desserts.



6 make food fun
Sugary foods that are marketed to kids are advertised as "fun foods." Make nutritious foods fun by preparing them with your child's help and being creative together. Create a smiley face with sliced bananas and raisins. Cut fruit into fun and easy shapes with cookie cutters.

7 encourage kids to invent new snacks
Make your own snack mixes from dry whole-grain cereal, dried fruit, and unsalted nuts or seeds. Provide the ingredients and allow kids to choose what they want in their "new" snack.



8 play detective in the cereal aisle
Show kids how to find the amount of total sugars in various cereals. Challenge them to compare cereals they like and select the one with the lowest amount of sugar.

9 make treats "treats," not everyday foods
Treats are great once in a while. Just don't make treat foods an everyday thing. Limit sweet treats to special occasions.

10 if kids don't eat their meal, they don't need sweet "extras"
Keep in mind that candy or cookies should not replace foods that are not eaten at meal time.

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In 2008, the U.S. used enough plastic water bottles to stretch around the Earth more than 190 times.



If every household in the U.S. reused a paper bag for one shopping trip about 60,000 trees would be saved.

RECYCLING!

Can you believe recycling is **FREE**?! Helping save the Earth is **FREE**!!

If you live within the city limits and have Gill Hauling garbage services, you can get a recycling bin at no cost. Gill Hauling recycles all types of paper, plastic, cardboard, and aluminum and tin cans*.

You don't even have to separate your recyclables into separate bins!

Did we mention it's **FREE**!!

Simple steps to start recycling NOW:

1. Call your City Hall
2. Get your **FREE** recycling bin delivered
3. Start collecting your recyclables
4. Put out your bin every Friday morning!



**CALL
TODAY!**

Ponca City Hall: (402) 755-4165

Recycling 1 ton of paper of paper saves:

- 17 trees
- two barrels of oil (enough to run the average car for 1260 miles)
- 4100 kilowatts of energy (enough to power the average home for 6 months)
- 3.2 cubic yards of landfill space
- 60 pounds of pollution



If all of our newspapers were recycled, we could save about 250 million trees each year!

*They do **NOT** recycle glass or styrofoam!

**NOTICE TO PARENTS OF PONCA SCHOOL
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS
WHO MAY BE CONSIDERING ENROLLMENT OPTIONS
FOR THE 2012 – 2013 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 15, 2012 - Deadline for filing enrollment option application for the 2012-2013 school year unless a waiver of dates is granted.

Limitation - The enrollment option shall be available 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.

Ponca School Newsletter
Ponca Public School
Ponca, Nebraska 68770

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PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2012

