



Ponca Public School
505 3rd Street, P O Box 568
Ponca, NE 68770
www.poncaschool.org
April Newsletter
2008



From the desk of Mr. Thompson, Superintendent

From the Superintendent: What a winter!! The unpredictability of the weather this time of year makes every day a challenge. The weather-related delays, early dismissals, and closings that we have experienced certainly create many distractions for our staff and students. I want to commend our staff and students for making every effort to maintain consistency and focus in the classrooms during the distractions of this past winter. They really have done a fine job dealing with the schedule changes, and many positive things continue to happen academically despite our weather-related challenges.

With only seven (7) more weeks remaining, we are fast approaching the end of the 2007-08 school year. There are so many activities and events during this period of time, maintaining the consistency of an academic day is difficult. There are times when things get pretty intense. Please note the Activity Calendar for the month of April, and into the beginning of May. Following are a few dates for your particular attention as you prepare you home schedules.

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We have had a very busy year, both in and out of the classrooms at Ponca Schools. As always, we thank you for your support and involvement in our schools. I really feel good about the manner in which families and schools have worked together. Though at times we may have our differences, open communication and cooperation help us find common ground. We respect that families want the best for their child(ren), and we appreciate that you include us in those plans.

Thanks for a successful partnership.

The Ponca Public School requests your help in locating handicapped children. The school implements the Federal Handicapped Childrens' 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.

Continued...Notes from Mr. Thompson

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS PONCA: For the past three (3) years, our boys' basketball team has been able to qualify for the state tournament held at various sites in Lincoln. This has become an annual March trek for many in our community. Coach Bob Hayes and his teams should be congratulated for having the talent and ability to qualify for three consecutive years, thus putting themselves in a position to win a state championship. This success of our boy's basketball team is something of which our whole community can be proud.

CONGRATULATIONS PONCA: During each of these past three (3) years, Ponca was also selected to receive the Sportsmanship Trophy as presented by the coaches association at the State Tournament. This is an outstanding achievement and honor of which any school or community should be very proud. To receive this award, based on the subjective judgment of a panel of officials, for three (3) consecutive years illustrates the high standard that a school and community places on behavior and conduct. Going into the state tournament this year, I heard so many in our community say how important it would be to receive the Sportsmanship Award for three (3) years in a row. When expectations are set high, receiving such recognition for one's effort makes success all that much more meaningful. Competing at the State Tournament put us on a "stage" to show the rest of the state the premium that we place on sportsmanship. It has allowed us to communicate to others who we are, and the type of community we are. Congratulations to all of you.

High school activities are perceived as the other half of education – that which teaches the values such as character, dedication, desire, sacrifice, discipline, integrity, respect, honesty, and many other values we want for our young people. When you put those values together with a good academic program, you have what it is really all about - good citizenship.

As a reward to our students for being such an integral part in Ponca's receiving the Sportsmanship Award again this year, there will be **NO SCHOOL** for all K-12 students on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30TH**. Originally, this day was scheduled as a two-hour late start for Staff Development. District faculty will continue with the planned activities for that day.

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED!!



The Ponca Public School District is in need of school bus drivers to serve as substitute route drivers, drive for field trips or for extracurricular activities. There are classroom and driving requirements to meet before a school bus driver's license can be granted. Anyone interested in assisting the District is urged to contact Superintendent William Thompson at 755-5700.

Wellness Window

Ponca Boys Basketball Camp

June 10th -
June 12th



Cost \$25.00

Grades 3-5

8:30 - 10:30

Grades 6-8

10:30 - 12:30

(Grade the student will be in during the
2008-2009 school year)

Pre-register by filling out the following form
and returning it to Coach Bob Hayes,
P O Box 275, Ponca, NE 68770 by May 23, 2008.
It is important that you pre-register in order
to guarantee a t-shirt. If you have any
questions, please call (402) 755-2764.

Youth Sm ___ Youth Med ___ Youth Lg ___ Youth XL ___

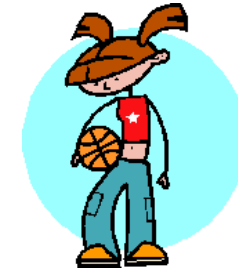
Adult Sm ___ Adult Med ___ Adult Lg ___ Adult XL ___

Name: _____ Grade _____

Phone Number: _____

Ponca Girls Basketball Camp

June 16th -
June 18th



Cost \$25.00

Grades 3-5

8:30

- 10:30

Grades 6-8

10:30 - 12:30

(Grade the student will be in during the
2008-2009 school year)

Pre-register by filling out the following form and
returning it to Coach Kylee Kephart
59093 879 Road, Ponca, NE 68770 by May 30, 2008.
It is important that you pre-register in order
to guarantee a t-shirt. If you have any
questions, please call (402) 755-4127.

Youth Sm ___ Youth Med ___ Youth Lg ___ Youth XL ___

Adult Sm ___ Adult Med ___ Adult Lg ___ Adult XL ___

Name: _____ Grade _____

Phone Number: _____



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Ponca Public School's National Honor Society is a local chapter which is established according to the nationwide National Honor Society organization. National Honor Society was founded in 1921 as an organization which would recognize and encourage academic and citizenship qualities in students. National Honor Society continues its traditions in the 21st century.

Membership in National Honor Society is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have a cumulative scholastic average of 85 percent or above and who demonstrate the qualities of service, character, and leadership. Students carrying a scholastic average of 85 or above are given an information sheet to complete. Only those students who return their sheets by the deadline, are eligible for nomination in the National Honor Society. A faculty council comprised of five teachers on staff, individually review each student's information sheet. Private ballots are cast by the faculty council, and those students receiving three out of five "yes" votes are then received as members into National Honor Society.

Every spring, students have the opportunity to be nominated for induction into Ponca High School's local National Honor Society chapter. Information sheets were distributed to those eligible 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students on February 8, 2008. In order to be considered for nomination, students have to submit their completed information sheets to Mrs. Mahler by 3:30 p.m. on February 20, 2008.

On Thursday evening, April 8, 2008, new nominees will be recognized and inducted in a formal National Honor Society Ceremony.

Thank You!

We would like to thank Cheryl Rich and Suzette Curry for their book donations to our library.



Summer Driver's Education Program

Driver's Education class will be held at Ponca School this summer beginning in late May. The cost of the class is \$175 for students who are residents of the Ponca School District and \$240 for non-resident students. Dates for the class will be determined later.

A sign-up sheet is in the high school office and students should sign up and pay the \$87.50 deposit as soon as possible since enrollment is limited. Students need to be 14 years of age by this summer in order to take Driver's Education.

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



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Mrs. Hassler....

The High School Guidance Office

Juniors...
Get Ready!!



ACT TEST DATE

The next administration of the ACT College Entrance Exam is set for Saturday, April 12, 2008. Any student who has registered for this test date is reminded to take time to prepare for the assessment. Tips for taking the ACT include: take a practice exam, "brush-up" on English and math basics, get a good night's sleep, wear comfortable clothing, be sure to bring your admit ticket (which you should have received from ACT through the mail when you registered), a photo ID (driver's license), and several sharpened #2 pencils.

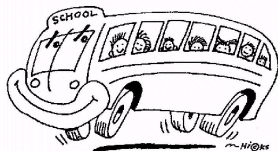
Think "POSITIVE"! GOOD LUCK!!

ACHIEVEMENT TESTING

During the month of March students at Ponca School participated in Spring Achievement Testing. This year Ponca School is administering the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) and the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT).

These standardized tests provide school personnel and parents with feedback concerning students' strengths and instructional needs. It provides a framework for evaluation of students' progress as well as evaluation of curriculum strengths and weaknesses.

Elementary students in grades 2-6 and students in grades 7, 8, 9, and 11 participated in these assessments. We are hopeful that testing results will be available before the end of the school year. Watch May's newsletter for further details.



CCDC – Character Workshop for Grades 7-12

The *Community Character Development Coalition (CCDC)* of Norfolk, Nebraska will be presenting the third of three character workshops on the effects of drug and alcohol use.

“Why not drink in high school? It’s a valid question. After all, it doesn’t seem like that big of a deal. But in the end, it’s just not worth it. What seems like a little harmless fun could ruin someone’s future. And like with any decision you make, you have to begin your decision-making with the end in mind.”

The 50 minute presentation will be performed in the Ponca School Auditorium on Friday, April 11, 2008. Students in grades 7-9 will attend the first session scheduled at 8:30a.m. while the 10-12 graders will attend the second session at 9:30 a.m. *Be sure to ask your son or daughter about this character building workshop!*

RECYCLE YOUR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

(Please no TV's)

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2008

1:00 – 6:00 PM

Ponca's Spring Clean-up Day



*Ponca Public School has contacted a recycler of outdated/damaged electronic equipment. The **Recycle It Company** of Sioux City, IA accepts VCR's, computers, DVD players, overhead projectors, scanners, printers, cables, mice, keyboards, speakers, etc. Computer hard drives will be cleared to factory zero by the company.. The company does all the recycling for the Sioux City and private schools in Sioux City.*

On the spring clean-up day there will be a truck and trailer parked south of the school from the designated time between 1:00 and 6:00pm only. You will be expected to load your equipment onto a trailer or truck provided by the company. A company representative will be available to assist with some of the loading.

INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES FOR PONCA HIGH SCHOOL'S PROM DANCE & AFTER PROM 2008

Parents: Please make sure your son/daughter has purchased a park sticker!

The purpose of the following information is to familiarize parents, guardians, Ponca students and outside dates with the guidelines and procedures for Ponca High School's Prom and After Prom Party. Our objective is for all of our students and guests to have an enjoyable, drug-free and safe evening.

1. A Prom Dance will be held at Ponca State Park Visitors Center on Saturday, April 19th from 8:00 P.M. to 12:00 P.M. for Ponca students in grades 11 through 12 and for their outside dates whose names are registered in the Principal's office by 4:00 P.M. on Friday, April 18th. A Grand March will be held for Seniors and Juniors and their dates at 7:00 P.M. at the Ponca High School Auditorium and everyone is welcome.
2. The Prom Dance will be chaperoned by the Junior class sponsors, the Principal, and other teachers. A police officer will also be on hand from time to time to check on the Prom Dance. If enough teachers are not available to help sponsor the dance, it may be necessary to ask some parents to help out.
3. A Ponca student who has an outside date will be responsible for explaining the rules to their date, and their date will be responsible for following these rules.
4. Juniors and Seniors and their dates will be admitted to the Prom Dance free of charge.
5. Juniors and Seniors and their dates who attend the Prom Dance are required to wear formal attire or they will not be admitted to the dance. This means a formal or dress for the girls and a tuxedo or suit and tie for the boys. This means no blue jeans, shorts, T-shirts, caps, etc.
6. All students who plan to attend the Prom Dance must be at the park by 9:30 P.M. or they will not be permitted to the dance. Any Ponca student or their date that leaves the Prom Dance before it's over, must sign out before they leave the dance and will not be permitted to reenter.
7. If a Ponca student or their date practices unacceptable behavior at the Prom Dance, their parents will be called, and the offender will be required to leave with their parents. If a student is told to leave the Prom Dance, they will not be permitted to attend the After-Prom Party.
8. Ponca students and their dates attending the Prom Dance will be subject to an alcohol breath test by an off-duty police officer prior to admission to the dance.
9. If any Ponca student and/or their date has been drinking or using any form of drug or tobacco, their parents or guardian will be called immediately to come to dance location to be present for a breathalyzer test on their son or daughter and to take them home if they have been drinking or using any form of drug or tobacco. Any student who tests positive for alcohol or drug use will be subject to prosecution by the law as well as being disciplined by the school for violating school rules which apply to the situation.
10. As of January 1, 1994 a new zero tolerance law went into effect in Nebraska which basically states that any minor who gets caught driving while they are under the influence of alcohol of any amount, can have their driver's license revoked on the spot for 30 days.
11. After-Prom Party will be held at Lewis Bowl in Sioux City, IA from 1:00 A.M. to 5:00 A.M. for students in grades 11-12 and their dates. Students must arrive & be breathalyzed at the door by 1:00 A.M. A student may attend the After-Prom Party even if he or she does not attend the Prom Dance. All students who plan to attend the After-Prom Party must register and pay \$5.00 per person in the Guidance Office with Nancy Walsh by 4:00 P.M. on April 18th.
12. Students who plan to attend the After-Prom Party will be given one hour to change clothes and drive to Lewis Bowl.
13. If a student is registered to attend the After-Prom Party, and they do not show, their parents will be notified to let them know that their son or daughter did not arrive.
14. Any student who leaves will NOT be allowed to return, and parents will be contacted.
15. Every student entering Lewis Bowl will be breathalyzed at the door. They will be subject to the same rules, procedures, and prosecution as a person attending the Prom Dance in case of drug, alcohol, or tobacco use or unacceptable behavior.
16. If you have any questions concerning these guidelines, please call the Ponca Public School telephone number at 402-755-5700.



Notes from Ms. Rinas



Awesome productions of a musical like “The Wizard of Oz” happen only with the hard work and dedication of the directors, cast, crew and community support. Once again it was a stellar musical production and the best family entertainment for miles around. Hat’s off to all those who played a part in this years musical!

Congratulations to the boys’ basketball team on an outstanding season and once again qualifying for the State Basketball Tournament! Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence takes you to the top. Because of the dedication and hard work of this basketball team, Ponca School and community once again had the opportunity to compete for the Class C2 Sportsmanship Trophy. We are proud to report we won it again for the third year in a row. Our students, team, coaches, and fans were phenomenal and untouchable when it came to sportsmanship and cheering for our team. Every person who cheered for the Ponca Indians at the tournament can be proud of the role he or she played in earning this trophy. In this newsletter you will find the process and criteria used for this evaluation. You will also find the Ponca scores each specific category earned for each game, along with the comments.

Parents and students are reminded that the school only provides for supervision of athletes at track and golf meets. Therefore a student who is not on the team will only be released from school to attend the event if the student is with a parent or guardian. All students must be pre-excused before 9:00 A.M. to attend or participate in a school activity.



Thank You!!

Thank You!!

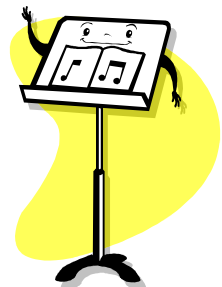
Thank You!!

Thank You!!

A big thank you to the American Legion Auxiliary Ladies. They served goodies to the Ponca Public Teachers and Staff on February 27th. We really appreciate your kindness!!

Mark Your Calendars!!!

April 16 th	Jazz Band Performs @ Senior Citizen Center	12:15 p.m
April 16 th	Music Booster Meeting	6:00 p.m. Oscar’s
April 18 th	District Music Contest @ South Sioux City	
April 24 th	Post Contest Concert	7:00 p.m.
May 15 th	Elementary Spring Concert	7:00 p.m.



Three in a Row!!

2008 Boys' Tournament Sportsmanship Evaluation

PONCA	Player's/ Coaches	Students	Adults	Supervision	TOTAL
Game 1	5.30	5.10	5.10	5.35	20.85
Game 2	5.35	5.45	5.25	5.20	21.25
Game 3	5.10	5.50	5.00	5.30	20.90
Average Score	5.25	5.35	5.12	5.28	21.00
1st Place Team Score				21.00	

Out of a possible 20!!!!

Comments from NSAA Officials:

- 👍 *Positive cheerleaders, good actions from students at introduction*
- 👍 *Well coached and positive*
- 👍 *Poised players, gave great effort and showed control*
- 👍 *Very positive adult fans, great sportsmanship*
- 👍 *Visible and proactive supervision*

A beginning score of 20 is given to each school, five points for each category. The categories are: Players/Coaches, Students, Adults and Supervision.

Deductions:

Visible presence of supervision	-0.10
Inadequate response by supervisors	-0.10
Disrespect during introductions	-0.25
Profanity and profane gestures	-0.25
Chants...racial, ethnic	-0.25
Throwing objects on the floor	-0.25
Chants directed at a player, coach or official	-0.10
Demeaning comments	-0.10
Inappropriate signs/banners	-0.10
Artificial noisemakers or band playing during live ball	-0.10
Inappropriate attire (no shirts, etc.)	-0.10
Flags	-0.10
Technical Fouls	-0.50
Ejection of player or coach	-0.50
Fans rushing floor after game = elimination from further consideration	

Additions:

Visible presence of supervision and adequate number	+0.10
Administrators/Supervisors response to negative activity	+0.15
Sportsmanship like gestures/actions from coach or players	+0.10
Handing ball to official	
Helping opponent up	
Fans display sportsmanship like action toward opponent	+0.10
Cheerleaders lead positive chant	+0.10
Advancement points	
Semis	+0.25
Finals	+0.25

Ponca should be proud of their students, fans, players/coaches. What a great accomplishment – 3 in a row!!! To anyone who has been a part of the Ponca crowd, this award is not a shock. It is a very deserving honor!!!!

Attention Juniors, Seniors, and Parents.... After-Prom 2008!!!!!!

The Ponca After-Prom date is approaching quickly!!! This event will be held at Lewis Bowl in Sioux City. The deadline to register is Friday, April 18th with a \$5.00 charge per student. See Mrs. Walsh in the guidance office to register. Transportation will be provided, if needed. This must be indicated at the time the students register.

The prom dance ends at 12:00 and the students need to be at Lewis Bowl and breathalyzed at the door by 1:00 a.m. We need your cooperation & assistance in relating this information to the students to avoid any misunderstandings. The post-prom committee has hired a hypotist to entertain at post-prom this year. Also, as in the past, there will be pizza and bowling.

Parents **WILL BE** notified if their child registered and did not attend. The Ponca After-Prom party will end at 5:00 a.m.

Please encourage your son/daughter to attend...we are looking forward to a GREAT NIGHT!!

*After-Prom planning meetings will be held:
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 16th Library*

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

ECRWSS
Postal Patron

