

January 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

SCHOOL MAKE-UP DAYS - At the time this newsletter is being published, the Ponca School District has already missed two (2) days of school that were part of the Board approved school calendar for 2009-10. One day was due to participation at the State Football Championships, and another was due to weather. With so much left of the winter season, I want to let you know what the District's position is due to make up for days that are cancelled from the school calendar.

All days missed during the school year will be added to the end of the school calendar. No days will be taken from approved vacation periods or "days off" identified on the calendar. Make-up days for students will be subject to the State Department of Education's requirement for hours of instruction for students at the elementary and secondary levels. Make-up days will insure that these requirement standards are met.

Once it is determined that these hours of instruction for students are met, all other make-up days will be added at the end of the school calendar for faculty curriculum work.

Elementary Fund Raiser - At the end of January, elementary students from both Jackson and Ponca Elementary Schools will engage in a fund raising effort to generate funds for class activities. Similar to an activity conducted last spring, students will take orders for items displayed in brochures. The District is working with **4 Seasons Fund Raising**, Norwalk, Iowa, to coordinate this effort.

The profits from items sold, generally about 35%, will be reserved for the individual elementary classes selling the product. These profits will be kept in a District activity account specifically for the grade. Any unspent funds will remain in the activity account to be carried forward to next year. The cost of admission fees, transportation, food items, and classroom supplies can be used from the funds raised by the students.

The kick-off for this effort is scheduled for Monday, January 25th. Students will be able to sell items for two (2) weeks, ending on Friday, February 5th. Delivery of the products ordered will be in March. Items ordered by Jackson Elementary students will be delivered to Jackson, while products sold by Ponca Elementary students will be delivered to Ponca.

For the past two years, elementary students have conducted this fund raiser. During these two years, elementary students have earned a net profit of \$16,027.00, to purchase classroom supplies, pay for class field trips, and to purchase the aluminized identification letters attached to the exterior of our buildings.

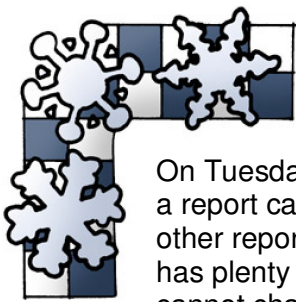
PARENTS: With colder morning weather before school, we are seeing more and more parents driving children to school. We would ask your cooperation on the following as a measure for student safety. If you choose to drive and drop your children off at school, please do so on the **north side of the elementary building**. The west side of the elementary is **RESERVED** for bus traffic and 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 **8:15am**. Students are not allowed to enter the building until **8:10**. 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 8:00am**.

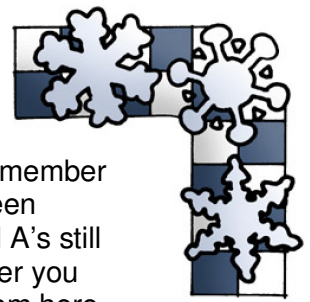
INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Jackson Update & Preschool
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Land 'O Lakes Milk Tops





Updates from Ms. Rinas

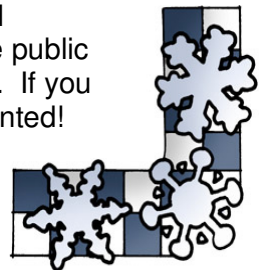
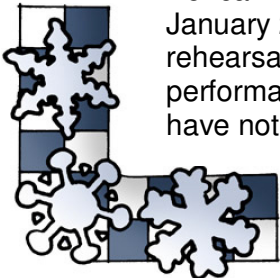


On Tuesday, January 5, students will be given their first semester report cards. Remember a report card is just one small measure of your child's achievement. There have been other report cards in the past. There will be more in the future. A child who gets all A's still has plenty to learn. A child with poor grades still has plenty of strengths. Remember you cannot change these grades. They are what they are. It is where the child goes from here, what is done with the information that is on the report, that is important.

As we return to school in 2010, students will begin a new semester. This an opportune time for parents and to talk with their children, reflect on past work habits, achievements, and missed opportunities in their classes and set realistic goals for improvement. Talk with your child about his/her first semester performance. Start out by congratulating your child on the positive. Talk about the grade the child is proudest of and why. For good grades, ask your child what was done to earn the grade and discuss how to apply it to problem areas. When looking at an unsatisfactory grade, focus on discussing the class itself. Spend time brainstorming a plan of action for improvement. Evaluate whether the child is getting enough time to complete homework or if extracurricular activities or a job is taking up too much after-school time. If you know your child has been trying really hard, contact the teacher about assistance available outside of class time. A new year and a new semester provide Ponca students new opportunities for academic growth and achievement.

On January 4, when students are enjoying their last day of the Christmas break, their teachers will be at school learning and working. Teachers will begin their day learning about and discussing RTI. RTI stands for Response to Intervention and is a process used at Ponca School to assist students who are struggling in one or more academic areas. The teachers will use the remainder of their inservice day to continue working on aligning the PK-12 English/Language Arts curriculum.

Ponca instrumental music students will be traveling to Wayne State College on Saturday, January 23, for the Conference Instrumental Music Clinic. After a day of hard work and rehearsal the students will be ready to perform for the public. Everyone is invited to the public performance at 5:00 p.m. in the Ramsey Theater on the Wayne State College Campus. If you have not been to this concert before, consider going this year. You will not be disappointed!



The course synopsis book for Ponca High School is now available for viewing online.

On the schools home page, click on the "Academics" icon and then click on "Course Synopsis". You will be able to view credit requirements and course description.



Lunch Room Substitute



The Ponca Lunch Room is looking for substitute help.

If you are interested, please contact

Mary Lou Smith at the school - 755-5735.

Notes from the Elementary Principal, Mr. Bob Hayes

Happy New Year!! We are excited to start a new year and a new semester. We're looking forward to getting everyone back in their routines. Second semester is always challenging and exciting for the students and staff.

With the winter season upon us, we are asking parents to make sure their children have the following items with them at school: **boots, hat, coat, snow pants, and gloves.** The students go outside for recess on most days and these items are essential.

With the winter weather being unpredictable a big concern is school cancellation, early dismissal, and late starts. We will make every effort to make a decision as early as possible. We will try to make decisions on late starts and cancellations by 6:00am. The announcement will be broadcast on the Sioux City television and radio stations. Please have emergency arrangements made in case of an early dismissal. The early dismissal will be announced in the same manner as a cancellation. **In the case of an early dismissal, the Jackson Elementary will be dismissed 20 minutes earlier than Ponca. This means if Ponca is dismissed at 1:30 Jackson will be dismissed at 1:10.** Please remember an early dismissal means conditions are dangerous. We need to get students and staff out of the building and home as fast as possible. If your emergency plan is different than the usual pickup procedure, please notify the school.

Toward the end of 1st semester a problem began to develop with picking up students after school. The staff has numerous duties to do after school and cannot be responsible for students. Please make every effort to pick students up in a timely manner. If there is a problem, please call school so we are aware of the situation.

Improvements need to be made in the areas of tardies and absences second semester. Students need to be in school on time. Being on time for school teaches responsibility and helps to get the day started off on the right foot.

We have a problem with elementary students not sitting down at basketball games. This creates a dangerous situation for players, referees, students, and spectators. Please make sure your child is seated and watches the games. Students under the 4th grade are not allowed on the stage during games. If your child is asked to sit down more than once during a game they will be required to sit with their parents. Please realize the safety of everyone in the gym is of the utmost importance.

The next school board meeting will be Monday January 18th at 7:30pm.

January 2010 Preschool

				1 No School
4 No School	5 Angelfish	6 Starfish	7 Angelfish	8 Angelfish
11 Starfish	12 Angelfish	13 Starfish	14 Angelfish	15 Starfish
18 Starfish	19 Angelfish	20 Starfish	21 Angelfish	22 No PreK Assessment Day
25 Starfish	26 Angelfish	27 Starfish	28 Angelfish	29 Starfish

Preschool Schedule

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

Dates to Remember:

Jan. 1 and 4 – No School Winter Break
Jan. 5 - Begin 2nd Semester, Welcome Back!

Preschoolers Say...

"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

Lorelai D - Hunter
Briena G- Principal
Emily G- Dentist
Kaylie H- Cheerleader
Ashlyn K - Nurse
Kiley L - Princess
Ellie - Cheerleader
Julia - Cop
Merissa - Princess
Brooklyn - Teacher
Claire B- Doctor
Kemper K - Army man
Nate C- Zoo Worker
Gracen E - Fashion Model
Cole J - Babysitter
J.J. - Tractor Driver
Evan K - Road Worker
Tierney P - Doctor
Alex R - Babysitter
Weston S - Work on Trucks
Katie Jo U- Cheerleader
Natalie W - Mermaid

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 18, 2009. Interviews were conducted by community volunteers: Richard Dohma, Heather Craig-Oldsen, and Rita Langhorst. 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, Mrs. Langhorst and Mrs. Masin for donating their time and expertise with the students!

CCDC – Character Workshop for Grades 7 – 12

The *Community Character Development Coalition (CCDC)* of Norfolk, Nebraska, will be presenting the second of three workshops entitled “**Five Elements of a Good Relationship**”, on Thursday, January 21, 2010. The workshop will address the following five elements it takes to have good relationships. These elements are connected and build on each other.

1. **Time** - You have to give a relationship time; Don't just jump into the deep end.
2. **Know** - It takes time to get to know someone. The formula for knowing someone is time + talk + togetherness.
3. **Trust** - Trust is something that is earned. How do you know whether you should trust someone? Ask this question: Does this person have my best interest in mind and do they show that consistently?
4. **Commitment** - There are different stages of commitment in a relationship: friendship, dating, engagement, marriage. You should never commit to someone more than you trust them.
5. **Touch** - The level of touch should never exceed the level of commitment in a relationship. Therefore until you have made the ultimate level of commitment: marriage... then you should not go to the ultimate level of touch, sex.

It has been said that the leading cause of divorce is marriage. Is marriage really to blame for divorce? Perhaps, it's the failure to plan for marriage and incorporate these five elements into our relationships that really causes divorce.

7-12 Parents:

- Be sure to check the 7-12 Guidance icon on the school's webpage.
- We will be posting information on college, scholarship, and career opportunities on this page. Additionally, there will be articles of interest regarding personal and career information for your children. You will want to check it weekly. Thanks!

PARENTS:

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

**Check out the:
“Big Red Summer Academic Camps” @ the
following website!
www.bigredcamps.unl.edu**

*A Note
of Thanks*

Thanks to everyone who donated
to the Student Council Holiday Cake Raffle!!

We raised \$335.00 for P.C.E.F. Special use Endowment.

BOARD GOALS - 2010

GOAL #1: *The Board of Education will actively explore cooperative agreements with neighboring school districts to share personnel, programs, or services.*

Action Plan:

1. Communicate with neighboring Boards of Education
2. The Board of Education will explore efforts to expand educational opportunities District wide.
3. Administrators will study the behavioral program at South Sioux City as a possible option for Ponca Public Schools.

Who:

Superintendent of Schools/Administration/Board of Education

GOAL #2: *The Administration and Staff will continue District wide efforts to align curriculum in all core areas*

Action Plan:

1. The administrators and/or appropriate staff will provide regular curriculum reports to the Board of Education.
2. The Board of Education will provide support as needed to enable administrators and staff to move forward in aligning district curriculum K-12.
3. The Board of Education and administration will work collaboratively to design a budget calendar and budget process to support the identified needs for curriculum and instruction.

Who:

Superintendent of Schools, Board of Education, Administrators, Staff

GOAL #3: *The Board of Education will identify and adopt a committee structure to support education and decision-making.*

Action Plan:

1. Members of the Board of Education will consider committee options and identify a working structure to support the Board's work and needs.
2. The Board of Education and administrators will utilize the identified committees to streamline the work of the Board of Education and decision-making.
3. The Board of Education will create a "Building Projects" committee to address needs of the construction project and, if necessary, a building and grounds committee to further study the building and grounds needs of the District.

Who:

Superintendent of Schools, Board of Education.

GOAL #4: *The Board of Education, administrators, and appropriate staff will work to identify a plan to address curriculum and technology needs to support education.*

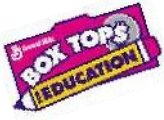
Action Plan:

1. The Board Committee and administrators will appropriate data and goals, related to curriculum and technology to identify needs to support the short and long-term goals of the committee and district.
2. Through the budget planning process, the Board of Education and administrators will identify resources to fund curriculum and instructional goals.

Who:

Superintendent of Schools, Board of Education, Administrators, Staff

Box Top Competition



The students at Ponca Elementary are in a heated competition. The class with the most box tops will win a Super Bowl Tail Gate Party in their classroom!!



They have until the Friday before the Super Bowl, February 7th to turn in as many box tops as possible. Please check for expiration and send box tops with your elementary student.

Please Save Pop Tabs For the Ronald McDonald House

Ponca and Jackson Elementary Schools are, once again, collecting pop tabs and pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Sioux City, IA. These tabs can be collected all year. Please make sure they are clean and free of food items.

Thank you for your help in providing assistance in this project!!



Also, don't forget to keep sending in your Hy-Vee Receipts!!!!

Music Booster's Soup Supper

January 22nd 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Lunch Room

Bancroft-Rosalie vs. Ponca Basketball Game



Homemade soup by the
Country Charmers Club.



Music Booster Meeting

January 13th, 2009

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!

Important Musical Dates!



January 23rd

Lewis & Clark Conference Honor Band
@ Wayne State

January 31st

Jr. High and High School
Wayne State Honor Band



SAVE YOUR MILK CAPS!!!!

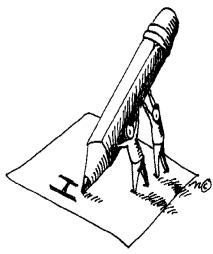
Ponca Elementary Student Council is collecting Land O Lakes milk and orange juice bottle caps.

It is easy to save:

1. Buy gallons of LAND O LAKES[®] Milk, Orange Juice or Chocolate Milk.
2. Save the caps with the Save Five For Schools[™] stickers.
3. Bring the caps (clean and sanitary) to our school.



The Land O Lakes Milk Save Five for Schools Program provides funding to participating schools.



Coming to Ponca....

Mrs. Julia Cook, National Award-Winning Children's Author

Mrs. Julia Cook, national award-winning children's author, from Fremont Nebraska, will be coming to Ponca Public Schools at Jackson and Ponca Thursday, January 7, 2010, from a grant by the Nebraska Library Commission. Julia will be working with K-2 students at Jackson in the morning. She will give a K-2 presentation about "How to Build an Amazing Me" and "Becoming an Author" from 8:50-9:50 and then will go into individual classrooms to work with students and teachers. At 1:15 Julia will give a presentation to students in grades 3-6 at Ponca. She will then meet with students in individual grades.

A presentation by Julia will be given at the Ponca Carnegie Library for the public, and especially for parents of young children at 7:00 pm that evening. The Friends of the Library will serve refreshments afterwards.

NOTICE TO PARENTS OF PONCA SCHOOL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS WHO MAY BE CONSIDERING ENROLLMENT OPTIONS FOR THE 2010 – 2011 SCHOOL YEAR

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

March 1, 2010 - Deadline for filing enrollment option application for the 2010-2011 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.

The Ponca Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance procedures, or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination:

Ponca Public Schools - Superintendent of Schools 505 3rd Street Ponca, NE 68770 (402) 755-2241

Appeal procedures beyond the local level need to be addressed to the following office:

Office for Civil Rights 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037 Kansas City, MO 64114 (816) 268-0550 FAX (816) 823-1404; TDD (800) 437-0833

The Ponca Public School requests your help in locating handicapped children. The school implements the Federal Handicapped Children's Act (PL 94-142) and Nebraska statute, which guarantees a free appropriate educational program for all children between birth and 21 years of age. If you have students or know of any young person who meets these criteria, please contact Superintendent's office.



JANUARY 2010

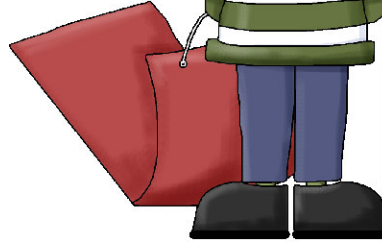
Milk served daily

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4 NO SCHOOL	5 Crispito Chili/Cheese Lettuce Salad Pineapple Roll and Butter	6 BBQ Meatballs Scalloped Potato Green Beans Peaches Roll and Butter	7 Hamb?Bun Smiley Fries Cole Slaw Pears	8 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potato/Gravy Peas Rasp. Applesauce Roll and Butter
11 Chicken Fajita Lettuce Salad Potato Rounds Fruit Cocktail	12 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potato/Gravy Green Beans Pineapple Roll and Butter	13 Deli Turkey Sandwich Mac and Cheese Corn Grapes	14 Chicken and Biscuit Peas Peaches Choc cake and sauce	15 Spaghetti/Meat sauce Lettuce Salad Pears Garlic Sticks
18 Shredded Pork Sandwich Fries Corn Oranges	19 Chili/Crackers Carrots Sticks Apple Sauce Cinn Roll	20 Mini Corn Dogs Nacho/Cheese Green Beans Peaches	21 Chicken Patty Mashed Potato/Gravy Peas Peaches Roll and Butter	22 BBQ Rib Cheesy Potato Corn Pears Roll and Butter
25 Popcorn Chicken Scalloped Potato Green Beans Pineapple Roll and Butter	26 Beef Taco Lettuce/Cheese Tri-Taters Apple	27 Pork Fritter Mashed Potato/Gravy Corn Pears Roll and Butter	28 Chicken and Noodles Peas Fruit Cocktail Roll and Butter	29 Pizza Lettuce Salad Peaches Cookie

Jackson Elementary January 2010



Frosty Days!



Happy New Year!!

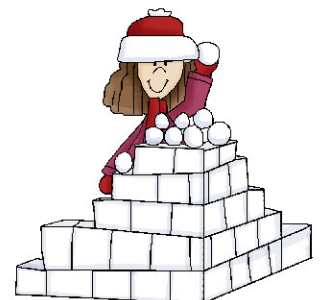
	Tue	Wed	Fri	Sat	
			1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	
		Pizza Tri-Taters Banana Ice Cream	Chicken Strips Mashed Potatoes With Gravy Green Beans Roll with Butter	Tomato Soup Grilled Cheese Potato Wedges Celery with P.B.	Cheese Quesidilla Corn Applesauce
10	11	12	13	14	
	Cheeseburger French Fries Apple	Cream of Turkey Soup with Crackers Bread Stick Orange Slices	Soft Shell Taco Lettuce with Ranch Dressing Tater Tots Cookie	Pancakes Sausage Strawberry & Banana Cup	Dog on a Log Curly Fries Mandarine Oranges
17	18	19	20	21	
	Chicken Fajita Lettuce Tater Tots Chips & Cheese	Creamed Turkey over Biscuits Corn Apple	Chili with Crackers Cinnamon Roll Carrots w/Ranch Peaches	Breaded Chicken Patty Mashed Potatoes with Gravy Green Beans Roll w/ Butter	Pizza Carrots with Ranch Dip Pineapple Sugar Cookie
24	25	26	27	28	
	Mac & Cheese Mini Corn Dogs Peas Pears	Ham & Cheese Rollup Lettuce with Ranch Dressing Tri-Taters	Baked Turkey Mashed Potatoes with Gravy Cooked Carrots Roll with Butter	Hot Dog on a Bun Baked Beans Mandarine Oranges	Vegetable Beef Soup Roll with Butter Grapes

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Jan. 5th ~ Classes Resume for 2nd Semester



PLEASE make sure your children have boots, gloves, hats, and snow pants at school. We go outside for recess when the temp is above 10.



2009-2010 WINTER CONCESSION STAND SCHEDULE

(Check newsletter calendar for game times)

**Re-Scheduled
Game**

January 9th—GBB vs. Elk Point-Jefferson

Contact Person: Wendy Masin
Brett and Jenny Eifert
Chad and Missy Chicoine

January 16th—BB vs. Elk Point-Jefferson

Contact Person: Julie Kramper
Gregg and Donna Pollard
Derek and Staci Holgate

January 26th—G&B BB vs. Hartington CC

Contact Person: Carol Conrad
Jim and Maureen Anderson
Bill and Sheryl Persinger
Jeff and Stacey Swick

February 11th—GB vs. Homer

Contact Person: Kari Richards
Brian and Angie Fernau
Miranda Kinnear
Marcia Millard

January 12th—G&B BB vs. Wakefield

Contact Person: Kari Richards
Brad and Lynelle Krohn
Jeff and Heidi Rush

January 22nd—G&B BB vs. Bancroft-Rosalie

Contact Person: Dawn Bostwick
Gary and Sue Smith
Jeff and Tami Pick
Bob and Michelle Finnegan

January 28th—GB vs. Newcastle

Contact Person: Wendy Masin
Dennis and Tina Rickett
Kevin and Angie Niemeier

February 12th—BB vs. Homer

Contact Person: Julie Kramper
Jack and Sally Eiler
Bob and Carrie Lux

Substitutes:

Bernadine Merical
Duane and Patti Boyle
Steven and Christy Schweers
Rod and Holly Brown
Dan and Debbie Stowe
Mary Granato
Mikel O'Neill
Joaquin Vasquez and Ana Flores
Sheldon and Cyndi Koepp
Lisa Peterson



Thank you to Chip and Melissa
Watchorn for their donation of books
to our library!!!

**Go
Big
Blue!**

**Blue Drawstring Bags with
"Ponca Go Big Blue" imprinted
on front. \$5.00 each while
supplies last.**

**Please contact Mrs. Hartman at
the school, if you are interested.**