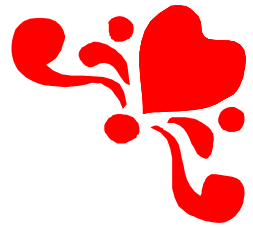


**Ponca Public Schools**  
[www.poncaschool.org](http://www.poncaschool.org)  
**February Newsletter 2009**



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## **From the Desk of the Superintendent:**

January 27, 2009, was not a red-lettered day in the history of Ponca Public Schools. Writing on a bathroom partition indicated that a bomb had been placed somewhere in the school building. Certainly, this was a threat that was not to be taken lightly.

When we first became aware of this threat, administrators convened the District's Crisis Team to set in place procedures for a building Lock-Down, and a building Evacuation. Law enforcement and emergency personnel were notified and arrived on the scene almost immediately. Students were evacuated to designated sites within the community for their protection and safety. The Ponca School building was searched and no bomb, or suspicious object, was found. Students at the evacuation sites, who had not been dismissed to parents, were returned to school for the remainder of the day.

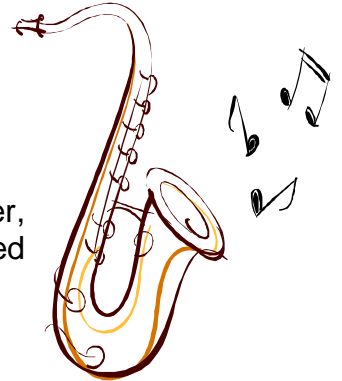
No one associated with Ponca Schools, or within the communities of our district, are proud that this incident took place. This is something serious that influences and impacts all of us. We are working closely with law enforcement officials to follow up with any information or leads that may come to us. The Ponca Community Educational Foundation and the Better Ponca Foundation have sponsored a \$1,000.00 reward for information leading up to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for this act of terrorism. It is very reassuring to see our community organizations be so supportive and involved.

As District Superintendent, I can assure you that the safety of your children is paramount. Thankfully, no one was harmed. What is our next step? The Crisis Team, with district administrators, will be meeting to re-visit our plans in order to provide better communication and assurance to parents and the community.

*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*

# Notes from Ms. Rinas...

Did you know Ponca School had ten students attend the Conference Honor Band Clinic at Wayne State College on January 24, 2009? Did you know Ponca won the traveling trophy for having the most people attend the Honor Band concert? Did you know ten of the ten Ponca students who attended, auditioned and earned a first or second chair medal? Congratulations to medalists Jacob Torson, Abby Watchorn, Katie Anderson, Jake Anderson, Colin Brandt, Aaron Bostwick, Kash Echtenkamp, Korah Kramper, Samra Eiler, and Nichole Lux. Did you know Abby Watchorn and Nichole Lux were selected to play in the Quad State High School Honor Band on the USD campus in Vermillion? Did you know Aaron Bostwick, Abby Watchorn, Jacob Torson, Kash Echtenkamp, Austin Schweers, Krystal Richards, and Lauren Conrad were selected to play in the Wayne State College Honor Band. Great job Indians!



It is time for the Ponca School Spelling Bee! The Spelling Bee is scheduled for 2:00 p.m in the east gymnasium on February 11, 2009. Students in grades 5-8 write a 50 word spelling test. The students in each grade level, with the top five scores on the written test, advance to the oral Ponca Spelling Bee. The top five oral spellers compete at the Dixon County Spelling Bee at 1:00 p.m. on February 17, at the Haskell Ag Lab near Concord, NE. The winner of the Dixon County Spelling Bee advances to the Annual Midwest Spelling Bee in Omaha on March 14, 2009. Inform your spellers that they may access the 2009 Spell It+at the website [www.myspellit.com](http://www.myspellit.com).

In this newsletter, parents/guardians of eighth grade students will find a letter addressed to them. This year Ponca School eighth grade students have been chosen to write the National Assessment of Educational Progress in reading. Students will be doing this on Friday, February 27, 2009. If you are a parent of an eighth grade student, be sure you read the letter in this issue of the Ponca newsletter.



## Music Boosters & Concession Stand Workers Please find a replacement, if you cannot work.

|                                  |                       |   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Feb. 3-<br>Wendy Masin 755-2212  | Wrestling- Conf. Quad | Joe & Deb O'Neill<br>Brian & Angie Fernau<br>Blane & Karen Brummond |
| Feb. 10-<br>Lori Heaton 755-4202 | G Bball vs. Pender    | Gary & Kari Richards<br>Sandy Woehler<br>Jim & Maureen Anderson     |

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# Jackson Elementary News

## Notes from the Principal,

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

We have a lot of tardies and absences to begin the second semester. Please make an effort to make sure students arrive by 8:35am. Please monitor absences closely, if a student is ill we understand. Thank you for your effort and cooperation in advance.

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

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

The K thru 2 will be roller skating on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 2:30 as part of their Valentines Day celebration.

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

Reminder, the deadline for open enrollment students is Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Reminder, Monday Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> there is no school for students.

On Monday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> the Ponca School Board will meet at 7:30pm in the Ponca Elementary Media Center. The public is invited.

## February 2009 Preschool

| M                      | T               | W                                      | TH              | F  |
|------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|--|
| 2<br>Starfish          | 3<br>Angelfish  | 4<br>Starfish                          | 5<br>Angelfish  | 6<br>Starfish  |
| 9<br>Starfish          | 10<br>Angelfish | 11<br>Starfish<br>Valentine's<br>Party | 12<br>Angelfish | 13<br>Angelfish<br>Valentine's<br>Party              |
| 16<br><b>No School</b> | 17<br>Angelfish | 18<br>Starfish                         | 19<br>Angelfish | 20<br>Starfish                                       |
| 23<br>Starfish         | 24<br>Angelfish | 25<br>Starfish                         | 26<br>Angelfish | 27<br><b>No<br/>Preschool<br/>Assessment<br/>Day</b> |

### February Preschool Schedule

\* Starfish =M,W,F Class

Angelfish= T,Th,F Class



### In Our Classroom

During the month of February we will continue practicing our home address. Please help your preschooler practice saying this important information to you at home. We will explore nutrition and healthy choices this month as well. Sandy Preston from the County Extension Office will visit our classroom to discuss the food pyramid and healthy foods. Finally, we will make a large classroom quilt when we learn the letter Q.

# Notes from the Guidance Office...

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

Packet Registration Deadline = Feb. 27, 2009

Testing Date = April 4, 2009



## Summer Fun...

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](http://www.bigredcamps.unl.edu)

## SENIORS.....

Deadline for the Ponca Community Educational Foundation Scholarships is:

Monday, March 16, 2009  
4:00 p.m.



## HOSPICE GRIEF GROUPS For CHILDREN AND TEENS

Hospice of Siouxland provides grief support groups for children and teenagers ages 3 to 18 who are grieving the recent death of a loved one or experiencing grief from a past loss. The groups will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of February, March and April from 6:00-8:00 pm at PACE Center (4<sup>th</sup> and Hamilton, part of the Old HyVee store on Hamilton). Supper is provided and daycare may be available for younger children, if we receive the request at least a week in advance.

Families can begin a session in the fall or spring after the death of a loved one and continue to participate in as many sessions as needed to heal. An educational group will meet concurrently for parents and guardians.

Professional staff and trained volunteers provide a safe place where families can move through the healing process. Art, play, drama, music and discussion will be used to express feelings, strengthen memories, learn coping skills and receive information about grief.

There is no set fee to attend the program, however families can make donations for an amount with which they are comfortable. Pre-registration is required. Parents or guardians may call Hospice of Siouxland at 712-233-4144 or 1-800-383-4545.

(John Giorgio, MS, NCC is the Hospice Bereavement Coordinator.)

*"Camp Courage"*  
*dates are set*  
*for June 12-14, 2009*

# We are proud of our Ponca Band!!

## Students representing Ponca at Lewis and Clark Conference Honor Band on Jan. 24th



Jacob Torson  
Abby Watchorn  
Nichole Lux  
Kash Echtenkamp  
Aaron Bostwick  
Jake Anderson  
Korah Kramper  
Colin Brandt  
Katie Anderson  
Samra Eiler

**Congratulations!!**

## Students representing Ponca at Quad State Honor Band @ USD on Monday Jan. 26th

Abby Watchorn  
Nichole Lux

## Jr. High & High School Students who auditioned and were accepted into Wayne State College Honor Band to be held on Jan. 31st.

### GREAT JOB ON A HUGE HONOR!

Aaron Bostwick  
Kash Echtenkamp  
Abby Watchorn  
Jacob Torson  
Austin Schweers  
Lauren Conrad  
Krystal Richards

**Congratulations!!**



# Hot Lunch Program

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

Families are encouraged to review the free and reduced application that is enclosed in this newsletter.

*Just a reminder: You are able to log on PowerSchool and check your child's lunch account balance at any time. If you have lost your parent ID and password, please call the school, and we can easily give it to you again.*

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

Ponca Public Schools - Superintendent of Schools 505 3rd Street Ponca, NE 68770 (402) 755-5700

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

Office for Civil Rights 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114

(816) 268-0550 FAX (816) 823-1404; TDD (800) 437-0833

# PONCA WRESTLING CLUB 2009

## Still time to join.

It is time again for the Ponca Wrestling club to get started. I soon will be receiving entry forms from the surrounding communities for their junior wrestling tournaments. The tournaments are generally on Friday evenings or Saturday mornings from the middle of February through the end of March. There are a couple on Sundays. The age limits vary from preschool to high school age. The PWC works with wrestlers k-8<sup>th</sup> grade. We ask that wrestlers participate in at least **four** club tournaments. It's important to put what you learn in practice to the test of competition. I will inform wrestlers which tournaments I will be attending. We strongly encourage parents to come to practices to learn and help coach. We ask that parents of children 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and under please stay at the practices The Ponca Wrestling Club is a volunteer non-profit organization that provides basic instruction in the rules and techniques of wrestling. We believe that the earlier kids are exposed to wrestling the more they will grow to enjoy the sport. Wrestling is a tough sport from the perspective that in each match there is a winner and a loser. I believe this competition helps instill the philosophy of ***"WHEN YOU GET KNOCKED DOWN YOU MUST GET UP AGAIN."*** WRESTLING IS ONE OF THE OLDEST SPORTS DATING BACK TO BEFORE THE 1<sup>st</sup> OLYMPICS. 13 AMERICAN PRESIDENTS HAVE WRESTLED. WHILE IN OFFICE ,THEODORE ROOSEVELT WRESTLED AGAINST ONE OF HIS ROUGH RIDERS, SEVERAL TIMES, AND LOST.

Practices will begin **Monday Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm to 7:30pm** at the **Community Center**. We will practice **Mondays and Thursdays**. A calendar of practice dates will be provided at the practices. We will ask a \$10.00 donation to join. Family rate- 1<sup>st</sup> child=\$10, additional children = \$5 each

Questions call **-Keith Trusty H.S. Wrestling Coach 755-2319**

CELL 712-898-1179

### PONCA WRESTLING CLUB ENTRY FORM

IN CONSIDERATION OF JOINING THE PONCA WRESTLING CLUB BY SIGNING THIS ENTRY, I HEREBY FOR MYSELF, MY HEIRS AND EXECUTORS, DO WAIVE AND RELEASE ALL CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES AGAINST THE PONCA WRESTLING CLUB, PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THE CITY OF PONCA, AND/OR ALL AGENT REPRESENTATIVES (COACHES) AND ASSIGNS, FOR ANY AND ALL INJURIES SUFFERED BY ME OR MY CHILD DURING THE WRESTLING PRACTICES OR COMPETITIONS.

1.Name \_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_ est. Weight \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2.Name \_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_ est. Weight \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3.Name \_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_ est. Weight \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4.Name \_\_\_\_\_ grade \_\_\_ est. Weight \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency contact \_\_\_\_\_ Ph \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

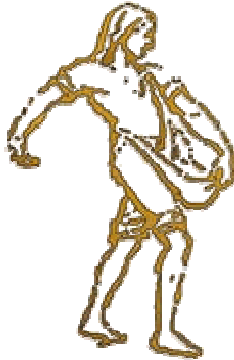
# Thank you for your donation to our library!!

Thank you to the following: *Jamie Hamar,  
Jeanne Brandt and Keoka Zavadil*

On top of the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln, stands a 19,000 pound, bronze statue known as the **Sower**. He stands barefoot and without hat, sowing seeds in the most primitive manner. He is symbolic of the state of Nebraska as a major agricultural state. He is not merely sowing seeds of grain, but something much greater. He is the symbol of sowing the seeds of agriculture, life, hope and prosperity.

The **Sower** was chosen as the symbol of the **Nebraska children's choice literary award** for similar reasons.

The award's sponsors, the Nebraska Library Association, hope the program will sow seeds which:



- ~ stimulate children's thinking
- ~ introduce different types of literature
- ~ encourage independent reading
- ~ increase library skills
- ~ foster an appreciation for excellence in writing and illustrating.

Whether readers are seeking information or reading for pleasure, quality literature presented through the Nebraska Golden Sower Award program will enrich the lives of Nebraska's children and sow seeds of the future. Nebraska's young readers are encouraged to visit their local public library or school library media center for the 2009-2010 Nebraska Golden Sower Award books. Find out more: <http://www.goldensower.org/about.htm>

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## Parents Encouraging Parents Conference

*Are you a Nebraska parent of a child with special needs? Then this conference is for you!!*

A conference for PARENTS ENCOURAGING PARENTS (PEP) has been scheduled for March 19-21, 2009 at the Midtown Holiday Inn in Grand Island, NE. There is no registration fee and lodging and most meals will be provided.

The purpose of PEP is to bring parents of children with disabilities together in an accepting and confidential environment, giving them the opportunity to share ideas, feelings and common concerns, and to obtain information on parenting and educating a child with a disability. A major objective of the weekend is to help parents realize that each is doing the best he/she can do at this time. By the end of the conference, parents will go home with renewed energy, spirit, hope and a desire to work closely with professionals who serve their child so that every child can experience the fullest life.

Who should attend? This conference is open to all Nebraska parents who are raising a child with a verified disability. The child with the disability must have either an active IFSP or IEP. Enrollment is limited to 100 participants and registration is on a first come, first serve basis.

For more information, please contact Ann Figard at the Nebraska Department of Education, Special Populations Office, at 402-471-2471 (Voice/TDD)





## ***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 7, 2009, in the high school auditorium. Coronation is scheduled for 8:00 P.M., followed by the Sweetheart Dance from 9:00 P.M. to midnight. One senior boy and one senior girl will be crowned 2009 Sweetheart and Beau.*

*The public is invited to attend coronation. Students are encouraged to dress up, too. The dance is open to all PHS 9-12 grade students.*

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

*Make plans to help PHS celebrate Sweetheart!*



If you would like to be removed from the SNOWCAP notification alerts when school or activities are cancelled or postponed, please email Mrs. Kristie Hayes at [khayes@esu1.org](mailto:khayes@esu1.org).

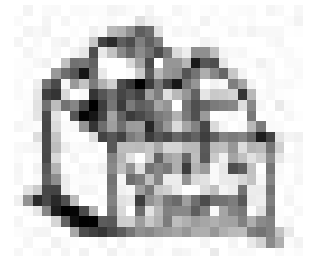


## **Lost & Found**

Parents:

Our "lost and found" pile has grown very large. We have coats, boots, snow pants, gloves and all sorts of clothes. Please have your child check for anything they have lost or stop and look in our lost and found boxes..

Thanks!!



## **After Prom 2009**

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

Parents, guardians, community members interested in helping with After Prom , please attend the meeting Wednesday, February 11th, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

Elementary Library, Ponca School



# SAVE!! SAVE!! SAVE!!

Ponca Schools collect the following items:

-Old Cell Phones

-HyVee Receipts

-Pop Tabs

-Box Tops

Please drop off these items in the Elementary Office.

Also, don't forget to turn in plastic bottles and aluminum cans in the recycle bins in our lobby.

Ponca School Newsletter  
Ponca Public School  
Ponca, Nebraska 68770

Non-Profit Organization  
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ECRWSS  
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FEBRUARY