

Ponca Public School
505 3rd Street, P O Box 568
Ponca, NE 68770

www.poncaschool.org

January Newsletter
2006

2006!!!



2006!!!

Superintendent Mr. Wineland...

Jackson School/Ponca School Reorganization

Legislation passed last year in Nebraska requires all Class I schools (elementary only schools) in Nebraska to join a K-12 school district. In our area, the only Class I school is Jackson Public School. At this time, it appears that there will be a reorganization of the Jackson School district and the Ponca School district in the summer of 2006. What this means is that the Jackson School District will cease to exist as a school district and the school and all assets and liabilities of that school district will become a part of the Ponca School District. It does not mean that the school in Jackson will close. In fact, the legislation stipulates that the school cannot close.

There is not expected to any major changes that will impact the students or staff at Jackson School. The Ponca School board will be working with the Jackson School Board to make the transition as smooth as possible.

For the record, this reorganization is being forced by legislation. This is not something that the Ponca School District or the Ponca School Board desired to happen or encouraged to happen. Everyone associated with the Ponca School District will make this reorganization a positive experience and we look forward to working with the community of Jackson in the education of their young people.

PONCA SCHOOL WEATHER-RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Weather-related announcements regarding school cancellations, late starts, early dismissals, and cancellations of evening activities can be found at the following sites on the internet:

www.horizons-software.com/iccap/
www.ktiv.com
www.poncaschool.org

All area radio and television stations broadcast school announcements fairly soon after we notify them, so that is another way to keep informed.

The Lewis and Clark Conference instrumental music clinic is scheduled for January 21, 2006, at Wayne State College. During the day students will be rehearsing with a guest clinician to prepare for an early evening concert. Everyone is invited to attend the clinic concert at 5:00 p.m. in the Ramsey Theater on the Wayne State College campus.



Notes from Ms. Rinas....



A new year, a new semester and a new academic assistance program will be underway at Ponca School in January. One of the biggest reasons students have low or failing grades is because homework is not completed. Homework is an essential part of the learning process as it provides the students the opportunity to practice and reinforce what is taught. The practice then carries over to greater success on tests and quizzes. Therefore during second semester, Ponca School will be implementing a new academic assistance program called "Get 'R Done". This program is designed to assist students who do not complete homework assignments or wish assistance in a class. The program is currently designed for students in grades 5-12. A student may volunteer to attend an after school session or may be assigned to an after school session when homework is not completed and submitted to the teacher on time. In this newsletter is a copy of the form that will be issued to 7-12 students assigned to attend the after school academic assistance program. The form for students in grades 5 and 6 is slightly modified.

Happy New Year!!

Get 'R Done

After School Academic Assistance Program (Grades 7-12)

(Student's Name)

(Teacher's Name)

(Date Referred)

(Class)

Assignment(s): _____

You are currently missing the assignment(s) listed. If you turn in the assignment(s) on or before the date you are to attend the after school academic assistance program (ASAAP) your teacher will excuse you by signing this form below. It is your responsibility to get your teacher's signature when you turn in your assignments and submit this form with the teacher's signature to Mrs. Noll to be excused. If you are not excused, you are required to report to room 201 at the designated time. You can earn at least 50 percent of your grade on these completed assignments.

ASAAP Classroom: Grades 7-12 Room 201

- T 3:35-4:30 _____
(Date)
- TH 3:35-4:30 _____
(Date)

ASAAP PROCESS AND STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- The following process will be used for students and homework completion.
 - 1) Complete your work and hand it in on time.
 - 2) Work with the teacher to complete assignments that have not been submitted.
 - 3) Be assigned to attend the after school academic assistance program.
 - 4) Be assigned to detention if you fail to attend the after school assistance program.
 - 5) Be assigned inschool suspension if you fail to report for detention.
- At any time up to option 4, the student can leave once they have submitted their completed work to an ASAAP staff person.
- You must be on time or you will be reassigned to the next ASAAP session or issued a detention.
- It is your responsibility to let your activity sponsor/coach know that you will be late or absent.

Teachers:

- 1) Fill out this form for each student missing assignments. If the form is completed on Monday or Tuesday the student is to be assigned to the next Thursday ASAAP session. If the form is completed on Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, the student is to be assigned to the next Tuesday ASAAP session.
- 2) Give a photocopy to the student.
- 3) Attach the original and a copy to the assignment.
- 4) By 3:35 p.m.
 - Place this completed form Mrs. Noll's mailbox.
 - Secondary students are to report to room 201.
- 5) Completed assignment(s) will be placed in the teacher's mailbox the following day.
- 6) If the assignment is not completed, the student can take the assignment home, but is automatically reassigned to ASAAP the next time it is scheduled.
- 7) If the assignment is completed and submitted to the teacher, the student may request your signature to be excused from the ASAAP. If this is the case, please sign in the box below.
- 8) Students may earn at least 50 percent of their grade for completing assignments in ASAAP.

Happy New Year!
from the Guidance Office

IMPORTANT NOTICE...
The deadline for the Ponca
Community Educational
Foundation Scholarship is
March 15, 2006!

LOCAL MONEY AVAILABLE TO SENIORS
WITH POST-SECONDARY PLANS

PONCA COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Ponca Community Educational Foundation is a local foundation whose purpose is to provide scholarships to graduating seniors of Ponca High School. The Foundation is supported by generous contributors who believe in the youth of Ponca and the benefits of higher education. Endowments are established by individuals and families. The Foundation originated in 1984. At that time a total of \$450 was awarded to four graduating students. Over the years, the membership to the Foundation has steadily increased. Last year the Ponca Community Educational Foundation awarded 48 scholarships (totaling over \$11, 911.00) to 26 graduating seniors. (Should an individual, family, or business wish to contribute to the Foundation, contact Foundation president, Stanley Leigh, Ponca, NE.)

Those Ponca High School seniors who plan to attend some type of post-secondary education after graduation are eligible to apply. In January, members of the Ponca Community Education Foundation Board of Directors will meet with the seniors to discuss the Foundation and the scholarship application process. At that time every senior will receive an application form from Mrs. Hassler. **Completed applications must be submitted by March 15, 2006.** Scholarship selection is based upon the students' academic record, activities/involvement, and the strength of the application itself. Late applications will not be accepted. Scholarship recipients are announced at graduation in May.

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

Packet Registration deadline = January 6, 2006

Testing Date = February 11, 2006



Music Booster Meeting
January 12, 2006 7:00 p.m.
Band Room

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! We will be planning for the annual soup supper coming up on January 20th.

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.

FAFSA: Step By Step

Basic FAFSA Facts

What is it?

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The federal government uses this form to determine your eligibility for financial aid, which includes: grants, work-study, scholarships and loans.

Why fill it out?

The FAFSA is used to determine how much aid you will receive. Think of it this way:

FAFSA → *EFC* → *Financial Need* → *Financial Aid*

EFC is Expected Family Contribution, which is the amount of money your family can be expected to contribute each year to your college costs.

What type of aid can I expect to receive?

Your prospective college will try to meet your financial need through federal, state, school and private sources, as well as loans, grants and student employment.

Step 1: Get the FAFSA

You can get a copy of the FAFSA one of three ways:

1. Get a paper version from your guidance counselor's office or local library
2. Complete FAFSA on the Web: www.fafsa.ed.gov
3. Call **1-800-4-FED-AID** to ask for a copy

Step 2: Fill out the FAFSA

Keep a completed copy for your records. For the 2005-2006 school year, use info from 2004. You'll need the following to fill out the form:

- Social security number
- 2004 W2 and/or tax return (1040, 1040A, 1040EZ, etc.)
- Driver's license (if any)
- 2004 federal income tax return
- Parents' 2004 income tax return (if a dependent)
- 2004 untaxed income records (if any)
- Current bank statements
- Current mortgage and investment records (if any)
- Alien registration card (if not a U.S. citizen)

FAFSA Tips

- Fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1. Early submission maximizes your chances of receiving aid.
- Do not leave any fields blank. If a question doesn't apply, enter "0."
- List your information accurately. Do not enter false information as a way to qualify for more aid. Doing so is a federal crime and can be punishable with fines or prison.
- Take your time and follow the instructions. If you need assistance, ask your guidance counselor or call 1-800-4-FED-AID.
- Sign the application. If you are filing as a dependent, make sure your parents sign too.
- Report ALL required sources of untaxed income (e.g., Social Security or child support).
- Fill out the FAFSA every year, even if you don't think you will qualify for aid. It may be a prerequisite for scholarships.

* Remember that the FAFSA is FREE! If you need help, ask your guidance counselor or call the FAFSA Help Desk at: 1-800-4-FED-AID.

Step 3: Review your Student Aid Report (SAR)

The SAR is proof that your FAFSA was received. Review it carefully. If you filed electronically, you should receive your SAR in 2-3 weeks (4-5 weeks if you filed a paper FAFSA).

What if I find errors on my SAR?

Report them immediately to the FAFSA Help Desk and ask how you should make corrections. Unresolved errors could delay your aid.

What if I don't receive my SAR?

Call **1-800-433-3243 (1-800-4-FED-AID)** if you do not receive your SAR in 4-5 weeks. Provide your name, Social Security number and date of birth for verification.

Why is there an asterisk after my EFC?

It means your SAR has been selected for verification (happens to about 1 in 3 SARs). It means your prospective college will compare your SAR with other documents to verify your financial status. If asked for verification, submit the information requested to your prospective college's financial aid office ASAP.

Search over \$1 billion in scholarships for FREE!

(Plus award updates, tips and more)

www.fastweb.com

Questions? Concerns? Contact your school's financial aid office and/or call 1-800-4-FED-AID!



Mr. Gehring.....

---Mr. Trusty's World---

Algebra I

After studying the order of operations and various properties such as distribution, we have worked our way up from simplifying expressions to solving linear equations with one variable. We finished the semester by graphing linear equations with two variables (equations of lines). Second semester will begin with writing linear equations and applying them to statistics. Our skills will improve as we learn to apply them to inequalities containing first one and eventually two variables. After exploring systems of linear equations (two equations with two variables), we will explore exponents and radicals as we prepare for Geometry and Algebra II.

Algebra II

We began the year graphing and solving linear equations, inequalities, and piecewise functions. This led us to working with systems of equations (two or more variables and two or more equations) and discovering how matrices can be used to solve systems. We are presently graphing and solving quadratic equations. Quadratics involve using powers of two and graphing u-shapes called parabolas. While we will cover a broad range of topics throughout the remainder of the year, graphing will be a common link. We will cover a variety of functions including quadratic (parabolas), square root, cube root, exponential, and logarithmic. By year's end, we should be ready for Pre-Calculus.

Pre-Calculus

After reviewing linear functions, matrices, and the nature of graphs, we studied polynomial functions. Calculus was introduced by using derivatives to find critical points and inflection points of the various curves. Rational functions challenged us with asymptotes and holes in the graphs. It is difficult to develop a common understanding of similarities and differences between various types of functions. We finished the semester with our first taste of trigonometry. Second semester will consist of an in depth study of trigonometry and its many applications to the real world.

Math Standards

We are using the Accelerated Math program to generate problems for the students who are working at individual levels. All students started the year by studying the subsets of the real numbers and their properties. After the first couple of lessons, the students began working on material based on their previous experience. Three students are working with pre-calculus topics and five students are working with various aspects of algebra. It is interesting to see how students respond to a non-traditional classroom.

Math 8

We began the year adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with decimals. Our second unit involved an introduction to algebra. We explored calculations with positive and negative integers and writing and solving simple equations. As the semester ended, we completed a unit on converting measures in both the metric and customary systems. Second semester will involve working with fractions and dealing with consumer topics such as percents, wages, and taxes.

Ten juniors and seniors are learning more about the ecology of our Biosphere by taking Environmental Science. We've studied interactions in the ecosystem, ecosystem balance, and learned about the different biomes. We also spent a day on a prairie nature hike and then tested the water quality of the Aowa Creek and Missouri River as we have done in the past. We will look into human impact on the environment and energy resources.

Advanced Biology students are currently working on learning the anatomy of the human body. Specifically the bones and landmarks of the Skull. We will continue learning the skeletal system top to bottom, studying the muscular system and the internal organs.

Biology classes were learning the anatomy and physiology of the cell. We have spent a large portion of first semester on genetics, learning how DNA and RNA regulate the body's metabolism. Second semester we will spend most of our time on animal behavior, adaptations to environment, organism interactions, and natural selection and evolution.

10 years of Ponca Wrestling!!!!

The Wrestling team celebrates its tenth year of existence at Ponca. A new wrestling mat was purchased. Thanks to all that donated and to the school. The Ponca Wrestling Club also purchased new Varsity singlets. Come see the new mat and singlets on Jan 3rd for the wrestlers parent's night vs. Heelan High School.



We have had record numbers of wrestlers in Jr. High and High School, with 17 in both Jr. High and High School. Six of the High school wrestlers are first timers to wrestling. Even though they haven't had much success yet they are working hard and having fun, too.

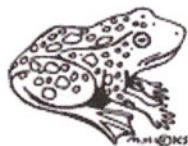
The Ponca Wrestling Club will start practicing on Jan. 16th. This year we will go on Mondays and Thursdays at the Community Center form 7-8 p.m. We hope to purchase singlets for the club as well.



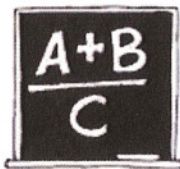
**Happy 2006 from
Mrs. Sprakel's 7th Grade
Life Science & Math classes!**



The students have studied a variety of topics in Life Science during first semester, which include: exploring life, structures of viruses and cell, cell processes and reproduction, heredity, and bacteria. We are very excited about the second semester because we will begin learning about plants, animals, mollusks, worms, arthropods, and echinoderms, and fish, amphibians, and reptiles. We will begin dissecting in our lessons about worms, fish, and amphibians.



During the first semester in math we have been learning and completing assessments about integers, measurement conversions, introduction to algebra, fractions, percents, and decimals. In the second semester, we will be focusing on many more interesting topics. These topics include probability, sequence, divisibility rules, exponential notation, and geometry.



**Physical Science Department
Mr. Huston**

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the physical science department! I guess that both will be over by the time people read this but the thought still goes out to all of you.

If it is time to give holiday wishes, then it is also time to realize that the first semester is coming to a close and semester will be starting. This year we have revamped our science curriculum somewhat to help us meet the science requirements for standards. What does this mean--- we no longer have earth science for eighth graders instead we have physical science and for the ninth graders we have integrated science 9 instead of physical science.



In eighth grade physical science, we have just finished our chapter on heat and thermal energy transfer and are just starting a chapter on electricity. We will learn about circuits both parallel and series. We will study Ohm's Law to name a few things about electricity.

In Integrated Science 9 we have just finished a chapter on momentum and will be studying Newton's Laws of Motion when we get back from Christmas break. We have covered most of the chemistry information and now are getting into the physics portion of the class.

In Chemistry, we just finished up learning about chemical formulas---how to write them, how to calculate formula weights, percent composition, empirical and molecular formulas. When we get back from Christmas, we will be balancing equations and learning how to identify different types of chemical reactions and we will be getting to stoichiometry.

Hope everyone has good holidays and that's all from the physical science department.



Mathematics - Mrs. Larsen's

We have had a busy semester in Mrs. Larsen's math classes. The Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$ group has completed the first two chapters and has begun chapter 3 – solving equations. We will be focusing on this chapter and these concepts for most of the 3rd quarter, as this is a vital part of success in all future math classes. Please encourage your student in this class to bring their work home frequently and look over what we are doing!

The geometry classes have finished the chapters dealing with logic, parallel lines and transversals, and triangle congruence. We will begin the 3rd quarter with more triangles – focusing on right triangles and special segments in triangles. We will be continuing with our quest to conquer the 2-column proof. We have already established in class that “we don't like these”, but I encourage them to continue to try to complete the proofs!

Algebra 2/2 has accomplished a lot this semester. We will begin the 3rd quarter with exponent laws and will move from there into polynomial factoring. If they all continue to work as hard as they did first semester, this semester should be a breeze!

The alternative algebra class will also be focusing on solving equations when we return. We have a very small and enjoyable class. Continue to encourage your student to finish their assignments daily.

All of the classes generally have a great deal of time in class to work – help them to understand the importance of that time and opportunity to ask the teacher any questions that they might have. Please be sure to check out the Centerpoint system, as I do try to update grades daily and lesson plans weekly. If you have any questions, you can contact me through the Centerpoint messaging system.

I hope you all have a wonderful New Year and look forward to seeing your students again in January.



Happy New Year!!



1st Grade New Year's Resolutions!

Mrs. Todd's Classroom

Joel Beacom – I'll read more books so I can get smarter.

Jacob Bennett – I'm going to try to be good because I want to be a nice person when I grow up.

Tristan Bostwick – I'll keep the puppies safe and help my dad do chores.

Justin Carmona – I'm going to read more books and help other people.

Ashley Kneifl - I'll try to get along with my brother because we always fight.

Brenden McDowell – I will clean my room and take out the trash to help my mom.

Russell McLean – I will take care of my puppy.

Abby Millard – I would like to get along and like everybody.

Quincy Rich – I will not bounce on the beds.

Shelby Rickett – Read more books, so I get good at reading.

Jack Rielly – I'm going to take care of my fish so they don't die.

Maya Rush – I'll help my mom and dad, clean my room and read to George.

Emily Wilson – I want to be more better to my sisters.

Keoka Zavadil – I will help my cousin Bailey, take care of her dog, if she still has it then.

Mrs. Swetnam's Classroom

Bailey Bennett – I'll clean my room

Jack Charlson – I'll try to do better in school.

Michael Chase – I'll clean my room before I watch t.v.

Kristie Criddle – I'm going to play with my dad.

Taylor Graves – I'll clean my room before I watch t.v.

Rachel Hohenstein – I promise to take care of my baby sister.

Andrew Lamprecht – I will be good all year and do what my mom says and help my baby brother.

Steven Lieber – I'll clean my room until it gets shiny.

Seth Peterson – I'll clean my room because it's a mess.

Hunter Schweers – I'll clean my room.

Cassandra Snow – I'll do better on my papers at school.

Lauren Sullivan – I will make sure my pets have food & water.

Elizabeth Watchorn – I will clean my room.

Ponca Cheer Clinic!!!



WHO: Grades K-6

WHAT: Cheer Clinic

WHEN: Saturday, January 14, 2006 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

WHERE: Ponca High School Gym

COST: \$10.00

CLINIC INCLUDES: t-shirt, snack & juice and lots of fun !!!

Each child is invited to 'show their stuff' during half time of the varsity boys basketball game on January 20, 2006. The kids will be performing cheers and a dance.

PERMISSION SLIP

My son/daughter, _____, will be attending the Ponca Cheerleading Clinic on January 14, 2006. Please return this slip and money to Christy Schweers or Patti Boyle, in the elementary office by January 6, 2006.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

CIRCLE T-SHIRT SIZE: S M L (Youth) S M L (Adult)

January



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2</p> <p>NO SCHOOL BB-JrHi @ Allen-3:00</p>	<p>3 TEACHER WORKDAY NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS WR-Heelan JV @ Home - 7:00</p>	<p>4</p> <p>SCHOOL RECONVENES</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>GBB-@ Allen 6:15</p>	<p>7</p> <p>WR - Wisner Inv-10:15 G&BB-JrHi-Wake-Home 9:00</p>
<p>9</p> <p>GB-JrHi @ Allen- 3:00</p>	<p>10</p> <p>G&BB-Wake-Home-6:15</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>G&BB-JrHi @ Laurel-4:00 Music Booster Mtg-7:00</p>	<p>13</p> <p>GB @ Emer-Hub-6:15</p>	<p>14 K-6 Cheer Clinic 9-12:00 G&BB-JrHi @ HartCC-9:00 GB-9/10 Tourn @ Wake-9:00 WR-West Holt Inv. @ Atkinson - 9:30</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Board Meeting - 7:30 G&BB-JV-@ Wake-6:00 Martin Luther King, Jr Day</p>	<p>17</p> <p>G&BB @ Winn-6:15 Sr Class Meeting-9:15 Annual PCEF Mtg-10:00 Regular PCEF Mtg-11:00</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>G&BB-Ban-Ros-Home-6:15 (K-6 cheer at game) Music Booster Soup Supper - 5:00-7:30</p>	<p>21</p> <p>WR @ Oakland-Craig Inv.-9:00 G&BB-JrHi-Homer-Home-9:00 Conf Honor Band @ WCS Concert @ 5:00</p>
<p>23</p> <p>G&BB-JrHi-Crofton-Home- 3:00</p>	<p>24</p> <p>G&BB-Hart CC-Home-6:15 WR @ Vermillion (dual)-7:00</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>GB-Newc-Home-6:15</p>	<p>27</p> <p>WR @ Greeley Inv.-2:00 BB @ Newc-6:15</p>	<p>28 Prac ACT-Vol. Jrs.-AM. BB-9/10 Tourn @ Homer 9:00 GB Conf Tourn-TBA-6:15 GB-JrHi-Ponca Inv. 9:00</p>
<p>30</p> <p>BB Conf. Tourn.-TBA-6:15</p>	<p>31</p> <p>WR-Conf Quad @ Wake-6:30 GB Conf Tourn @ E-H 6:15</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>BB Conf Tourn @ Wake 6:15</p>	<p>3</p> <p>G&BB Conf Tourn @ Wake 6:15</p>	<p>4</p> <p>G&BB-JrHi-Hart-Home-9:00 G&BB-JV @ Hart-9:00</p>

