

March 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

Welcome to March!! The unpredictability of the weather this time of year makes every day a challenge, but, hopefully, we are on the downhill side of the most extreme winter weather. The weather-related delays, early dismissals, and closings that we experienced this winter certainly created many distractions for our staff and students. I want to commend all of them for their efforts to maintain consistency and focus in the classrooms during those unsettled times. 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 the warmer weather of Spring sure to come, country roads on our bus routes can be difficult to navigate. If conditions get such on certain roads, the District will institute emergency, hard-surfaced routes only until the roads become more firm. Bus drivers will pass this message along to their students. Please be prepared for this

The Ponca Board of Education, at their March 15th meeting, will determine the last days of school for students. According to our present calendar, that day would have been Wednesday, May 19th. But, with eight (8) days missed this school year due to weather, some days will probably be added into the last week of May.

As the basketball season winds down to tournament games, I just have to comment on the character that our Ponca crowd – students, parents, and supporters – continues to display at our athletic events. As I attend ball games, both home and away, I always like to watch to see how players, coaches, and fans react to play on the court. I do not just focus on how well we, Ponca, responds, but also like to see how other schools represent themselves with their actions at these games. I am always very pleased with the comparison. Ponca has a well deserved reputation for sportsmanship and respect at home and away contests. This goes beyond the three (3) Sportsmanship trophies earned at the boys state basketball tournament. Our actions at such events are indicative of what we think are important to model to our kids and students. While no school is more avid in their support for their school teams, the appearance and image that we project for our school and community is exemplary. --- My congratulations to you all.

Thank you all, and have a great March!

William. Thompson, Superintendent

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Driver's Education
State of the School Report
Jackson Update & Preschool Calendar
Calendars & Menus
Vocal and Band Events
Spring Sports Schedule
Kindergarten Round-Up
"All Shook Up" Musical



More information from our Superintendent, Mr Thompson....

Elementary Fundraiser Delivery: Elementary students at Jackson and Ponca Elementary schools conducted a fundraising project to raise funds to support their annual Spring field trips. Profits from this effort will be distributed to each grade level based upon the amount of items sold.

Products sold by students will be delivered on **Monday, March 22nd**. Delivery is scheduled for the **Jackson Elementary gymnasium at 2:00pm**, and at the **Ponca Elementary East gym at 2:30pm**. Products sold by students will be bulk-packaged with the student/sellers name on the package label. Starting at **3:00pm** at both sites, students and parents should be able to pick up their sale items prior to going home at the end of the day on Monday. Students should plan to deliver sales products to individual buyers on **Monday evening**. A number of items will be delivered frozen, so delivery to buyers should be made as soon as possible.

Parental assistance is encouraged to assist students to pick up and help deliver the products. Students who sold a large number of items may not be able to carry items home with them after school, or get them all on the bus. Parents, please make arrangements with, and for, your child to assist them.

At the end of the sale period in February, students were able to indicate where they wanted their items delivered, for ease of pick up. Students who live in the Jackson area, even though they attend school in Ponca, could choose to have their products delivered to Jackson Elementary for pick up. The same for Ponca are students who attend Jackson Elementary but want to pick up their items in Ponca.

Summer Driver Education Sign-up: Driver Education classes will be held at Ponca School starting in June after school is out. The cost of the class is **\$185.00** for students who are residents of the Ponca school District, and **\$250.00**, for non-resident students. Residence is determined by domicile of the parent with primary custody. Exact dates of the class will be determined at a later date.

Requirements in order to register to take Driver education for the summer of 2010:

1. Enrollment maximum of thirty (30) students.
2. Class sign up sheet located in the High School Principal's Office. Sign up by **May 1st**.
3. At time of enrollment, must pay **\$92.50** as deposit for taking class. Remainder due the first day of class.
4. Must be 14 years of age by June 1, 2010.
5. Must be eligible for a Learner's Permit.
6. Oldest students on sign-up sheet will be given preference to take class.
7. Signing up after May 1st, will put your name on the bottom of the list, regardless of age.

Mr. Dan Loofe will once again be the instructor for the class.



Congratulations!!

2010 STATE WRESTLING CHAMPION

JOSH WATCHORN, SENIOR

215 lbs

Notes from Ms. Rinas...

Ponca senior, Josh Watchorn once again wrestled his way to State competition. He brought home the district championship in the 215 weight bracket and qualified for State. At State he took on four more contenders. After three pins and a 5-2 decision he claimed the championship in the 215 bracket. Congratulations to Josh Watchorn for working his dream and earning the gold medal in Nebraska State class D Wrestling!

Twenty-two fifth through eighth grade students competed in the Ponca School Spelling Bee on February 11. Kianna Kramper spelled her way to the school championship and advanced to the Dixon County Spelling Bee. Also advancing to the Dixon County Spelling Bee from Ponca School were Kelsea Fethkenher, Lauren Brickett, Lorena Carmona, Tyler Davis, and Zachary Heaton.

The 2010 Dixon County Health Fair will be held at the Ponca Public School on Wednesday, March, 17, 2010. The Health Fair will begin at 1:00 p.m. Secondary students from Wakefield, Newcastle, Allen and Ponca will rotate through four sessions centered on topics for teenagers. The 2010 teen topics are—Teen Dating, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Nutrition and Stress. Students in grades 3-6 will participate in a Health Carnival and special activities for elementary students from 1:00-3:30. The public is invited to attend any or all of the events at the health fair. The health fair is scheduled from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Programming from 3:00-5:00 is especially for seniors and families.

Pre-registration for the 2010-11 school year will take place at Ponca School in March. Students in grades 8-11 will begin the process at school. Students then will bring their pre-registration forms home to be reviewed by their parents. Parents are asked to sign the form and the student is to return it to school. It is important that students take the pre-registration seriously as the schedule for next year is created from the students' selections.

Parent Teacher Conferences for students in grades 3-12 are scheduled for Ponca School on March 18, from 2:00-8:00 p.m. Conferences are an important means of keeping in touch with your child's school progress. We look forward to seeing you at conferences!

"All Shook Up" is the school and community musical this year. Be sure to take time out to experience one of the performances at 7:30 p.m. on March 26 or 27. It will be a rockin' and fun filled evening of Elvis Presley music.

Follow-up Survey of P.H.S. Graduates

The following information indicates the direction our graduates have taken the last five years.

	4 yr. College	2 yr. College	Voc Training	Military	Employ	Others	Total
2005	15	1	0	1	18	4	39
2006	8	4	0	3	13	1	29
2007	17	6	1	0	7	1	32
2008	18	7	1	4	0	0	30
2009	6	13	3	1	5	0	28

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



Jackson Elementary



Principal Bob Hayes

Old man winter will not go away. It seems like every time winter begins to let up another 2 inches of snow dumps on us. Sooner or later the weather will change. March is a busy month at Jackson Elementary. ITBS tests will be given, parent teachers conferences are being conducted, and the end of the 3rd quarter has come.

ITBS testing is scheduled for March 1st thru the 5th. At Jackson, the tests are given to the 2nd graders. These tests are very important for two reasons: the test will measure your child's ability compared with other students through out the country and help the school compare how we are doing compared with other schools. It is important your child gets plenty of rest before and during the testing schedule. Children should eat a good breakfast to give them a good start to the day.

Parent- teacher conferences are scheduled for March 25th. A schedule will be sent home with your child. Report cards for the 3rd quarter can be picked up at parent- teacher conferences. Please be on time for your appointment and be prepared with questions you might have for the teacher. Remember your appointment is 10 minutes, please be prepared!

The deadline for open enrollment forms is March 15th. The forms must be in the superintendent's office by March 15th if you wish to open enroll your child into the Ponca School District. Open enrollment is determined on an individual basis and not according to families.

We are still having problems with parents entering the building before school is dismissed. This is a very busy time of the day for students and teachers and sometimes chaotic. Teachers are trying to separate students into bus rider groups, parent pickup groups and walking home students. Please wait for your child outside the building to ease some of the congestion!

Kindergarten roundup will be April 21st. There will be no school for the 09-10 kindergarten on April 21st.

It's time to start thinking about Pre-school. The Pre-school open house will be Tuesday, April 20th at 6:00pm.

The next School Board meeting is scheduled for March 15th at 7:30pm in Jackson Elementary commons.



March 2010 Preschool



1 Starfish	2 Angelfish	3 Starfish	4 Angelfish Dr. Seuss Night 6:00 p.m.	5 Starfish
8 Starfish	9 Angelfish	10 Starfish	11 Angelfish	12 No School
15 Starfish Open Enrollment Forms Due	16 Angelfish	17 Starfish	18 Angelfish	19 Angelfish 2 hr. Late Start
22 Starfish	23 Angelfish	24 Starfish	25 Angelfish Pre-K Conferences	26 Angelfish
29 Starfish	30 Angelfish	31 Starfish		

Dates to Remember

March 4- Dr. Seuss Family Reading Night at
Ponca Library
March 12 - No School
March 15 - Open Enrollment Forms Due
March 18 - Early Dismissal at 1:10
March 19 - 2 Hr Late Start Staff Development
March 25 - PreK - 2nd Conferences

Looking Forward

April 20th - Preschool Open House
April 21 - Kindergarten Round Up

March Preschool Schedule
 * Starfish =M,W,F Class
 Angelfish= T,Th,F Class

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM

School Purposes and Objectives

1. To provide a curriculum designed to fulfill the current and continuing needs of the students
2. To provide an opportunity for each student to understand the rights and duties of citizens for participation in a Democratic Society
3. To promote self-discipline with consideration for the rights of others
4. To provide opportunities in the fine arts and athletics that will in turn promote proper use of leisure time
5. To encourage curiosity and creativity to the extent that school may be both a challenge and an enjoyment to all
6. To promote a more positive relationship between the home, students, and faculty
7. To provide an opportunity for each student to examine any issue objectively, and freely, and to come to a rational conclusion
8. To develop a high sense of moral and ethical values
9. To help students establish goals and help them realize the effort it will take to attain them

Curriculum Process

The Ponca Public School provides a curriculum designed to meet the basic needs and interests of individual students and prepare student to further their education or enter the world of work. Ponca Public School has aligned its curriculum to the Nebraska Standards. Curriculum areas are revised periodically. A varied program of school activities is also available.

Areas of Curriculum

Fine Arts

Art 1
Art 2
Art 3
Vocal Music
Instrumental Music
Drama

Guidance

Career Planning
Crisis Management
Academics

Library

Reading Enrichment
Research Resources
Research Resources

Foreign Language

Spanish 1
Spanish 2
Spanish 3
Spanish 4

Social Studies

World Geography
World History
American History
American Government
Psychology

Math

Algebra ½
Algebra 2/2
Algebra 1
Algebra 2
Geometry
Pre Calculus
Math Standards
Alternative Math

Science

Integrated Science 9
Integrated Science 10
Anatomy/Physiology
Chemistry
Physics
Environmental Science
General Science

Physical Education

PE 1
PE 2
Weight Training
Health

Language Arts

English 9
English 10
English 11
Advanced English 11
English 12
Advanced English 12
Annual/Journalism
Contemporary Literature

Family Consumer Science

Family and Consumer Science
Adult Living
Housing Design
Child Development
Food Science
Nutrition and Food Preparation
Consumer Education
Fashion Merchandising

Industrial Technology

Introduction to Technology
Cabinetry
Construction
Electricity
Electronics
Small Engines
Auto Maintenance
Welding
Drafting
School to Work

Business Education

Accounting 1
Business Law
Computers
Advanced Computers
Introduction to Business

College Credit

Distance Learning Opportunities

Special Education

Individualized Education Plans

Attention Seniors...College Immunization Info.

Attention Senior Parents,

Your child will soon be graduating and several students will be heading off to college in the fall. This is a perfect time to make sure your child's immunizations are current. The two vaccines that are recommended at this age are:

- 1.) **A tetanus booster (Td)**- which contains tetanus and diphtheria. Bacteria cause both tetanus and diphtheria. Tetanus enters the body through cuts or wounds, where diphtheria is spread from person to person.
- 2.) **Meningococcal Vaccine**-meningococcal disease is a serious illness, caused by bacteria. It is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years old. Meningitis is an infection of fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Anyone can get meningococcal disease, although college freshmen that live in dormitories are at higher risk of obtaining it.

Many colleges require these vaccines prior to entrance. I strongly recommend your child receive these vaccines, even if they aren't required.

***Goldenrod Hills offers an immunization clinic in Ponca, at the United Methodist Church from 11am-2pm on the following days during the spring/summer of 2010; March 9, May 11, and July 13

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the school on Tuesdays or Thursdays at 755-5734.

Mrs. Herfel R.N.
Ponca School Nurse

PONCA SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM 2010 REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for baseball and softball, and we would like you to fill out the bottom portion and return to: Ponca Summer Recreation, P O Box 465, Ponca, NE 68770 by **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010**. **PLEASE USE ONE REGISTRATION FORM FOR EACH CHILD.**

To be eligible, your child must be the following age:

GIRLS: Age 8 by 12/31/09

BOYS: Age 8 by 1-1-10

To help defray expenses, there will be a \$40 registration fee for a SINGLE CHILD or a \$60 registration fee PER FAMILY, which must be returned with the registration form(s). Your child will not be registered until this fee is paid. A late registration fee of \$20 will be charged and the late registration must be returned by **MARCH 24, 2010**. **WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY REGISTRATIONS AFTER MARCH 24, 2010/NO EXCEPTIONS! NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED THIS YEAR.** Please note T-ball registration will be held at a later date.

Child's Name

____/____/____
Birth Date

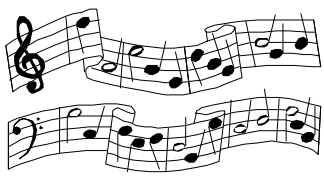
Age

GIRLS: AGE AS OF 12-31-09 BOYS: AGE AS OF 1-1-10

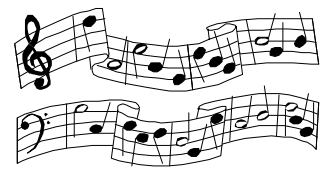
Parent/Guardian Signature

Telephone #





Ponca Music



Mark Your March Calendars!!!!

March 2	JH and High School Pops Concert
March 9	Middle School Music Contest @ WSC (Grades 5 th – 8 th)
March 10	Music Booster Meeting @ Outlaw Pizza 6:00 p.m.
March 18	USD Coyote Jazz & Swing Choir Festival @ Vermillion
March 20	Class C All State Band @ Kearney
March 25 th	“All Shook Up” Musical Matinee for Elem. Students @ 1:00
Mar 26 th -27th	“All Shook Up” Musical Performances @ 7:00 p.m.
March 29	Northeast Jazz & Swing Choir Festival @ Norfolk
April 23	District Music

Wayne (WSC) Middle School Music Contest
 Grades 5th - 8th
 Vocal Solos and Ensembles
 March 9th, 2010

Vocal Solo Entries:

1. Zach Heaton.....Prepare Thyself Zion
2. Christian Rush.....Simple Gifts
3. Lauren Brickett..... Se'tu Mami
4. Lorena Carmona.....All Things Bright and Beautiful
5. Hannah Cook.....Dodi Li
6. Kayla Crosgrove.....This Shall Be For Music

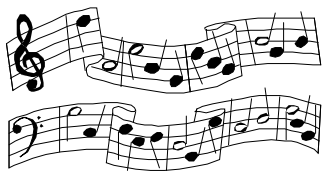
Vocal Ensembles:

1. Mixed Duet.....Kianna Kramper and Zach Heaton
2. Mixed Duet.....Alexis Eifert and Christian Rush
3. Mixed Duet.....Lauren Brickett and Spencer Criddle
4. Boys Duet.....Colton Oswald and Taylor O'Neill
5. Girls Duet.....Hannah Cook and Kim Stowe
6. Girls Quintet.....Maddie Kinnear, Kim Stowe, Lorena Carmona, Hannah Cook, Angelica Antonio
7. Girls Sextet.....Alexis Eifert, Hailey Pollard, Kianna Kramper, Bailey Maise, Tara Millard
8. Girls Quartet.....Mackenzie Niemeier, Emilee Brewer, Alisha Sullivan, Savannah Rager

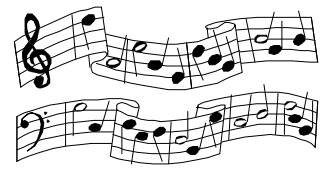
istant Shore & Song Inside Me
 Tendslin & Ja-Da
 row Oighten My



the following sou
 was a success and the soup was
 Cindy Uthof Kelly
 Kathryn Crosgrove Nikki Carnell
 Norma Rickett Sally Eiler
 Lorrie Huston



Ponca Music continued...



Congratulations to students who auditioned and were accepted into Class C All State Band:

JAZZ BAND

Aaron Bostwick – Piano

Korah Kramper – Tenor Sax

SYMPHONIC BAND

Abby Watchorn – Clarinet

Jake Anderson – Baritone,

Lauren Conrad - Trumpet

Ponca Carnegie Library is hosting a Dr. Seuss Birthday Bash on Thursday, March 4th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for children preschool aged to 2nd grade.

Have a piece of Birthday Cake in honor of Dr. Seuss!

Meet the Cat in the Hat as he prowls about the library!

(Don't forget to check out his cool car!)

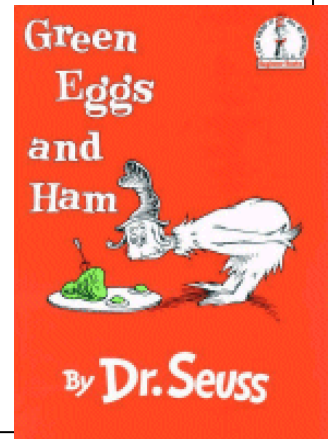
Fill your tummy with yummy pizza!

Have your face painted in a Seuss-ational design!

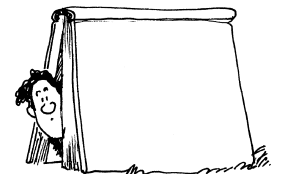
Make a Green Eggs and Ham placemat!

Check out more crafts and story time!

Take home free prizes!



Library Updates



Jeanette Hopkins, author of *The Lady Bug Waltz*, and husband, Bruce visited Preschool through 3rd grade classes in February to share her book with the students. They have also worked with fifth grade students at the Ponca State Park Expo in recent years.

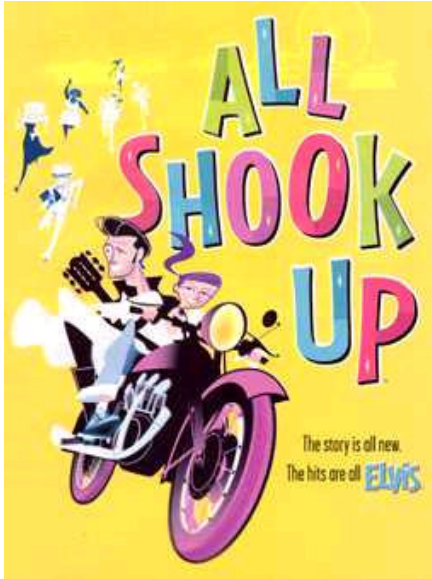
Jeanette is a semi-retired educator in elementary and college settings and has developed a keen appreciation for the delight young readers have for rhythm and rhyme. As a participant in several of the Iowa Writing Project Institutes, she learned the value of response. Jeanette and her husband are environmental writers, enjoying “day tripping” through the states, and live in Sioux City, Iowa. The National Writing Project, which aims to improve student achievement by improving the teaching of writing and improving learning in the nation’s schools encourages the use of books exactly like *The Lady Bug Waltz*.

Thank you to our book donation from Julie Kramper!!!!

“ALL SHOOK UP”

PONCA ALL-SCHOOL/COMMUNITY MUSICAL

All Shook Up is a musical comedy built around a number of songs made famous by Elvis Presley. It's not a biographical revue. It takes place in 1955, somewhere in middle America, (Northeast Nebraska) where one girl's dream (Brittany Heaton) and a surprise visit from a mysterious leather-jacketed, guitar-playing stranger (Aaron Bostwick) help a small town (Ponca) to discover the magic of romance and the power of rock & roll.



PERFORMANCES

School Matinee 1:00 (March 25th) For Students
Community Performances 7:00 (March 26th and 27th)

“All Shook Up” Cast of Characters

Natalie Haller/Ed	Brittney Heaton
Chad	Aaron Bostwick
Jim Haller.....	Scott Heaton
Miss Sandra	Cheyenne Brown
Dean Hyde	Jacob Oswald
Lorraine.....	Sharrell Logue
Sheriff Earl	Richard Odle
Mayor Matilda Hyde	Becky Parks
Dennis	Eric Watchorn
Sylvia	Marci Gustman
Henrietta.....	Lisa Balvantin

Directors

Music Director – Kari Lowe
Stage Director-Pauline Miller
Props and Sets-Peggy Gregg
Choreographers-Mary Rager,
Jillian & Becca Webb, &
Amanda McGhee
Cinematography-Rhonda Stark
Student Director-Abby Watchorn
Cast Party- Becky Parks

Musical Company

High School

Haley Brown
Nellie Logue
Kelsi Stoos
Mattie Schweers
Kelly Goodsell
Ollie Reece
Joel Markworth
Vasean Markworth

Junior High

Zach Heaton
Holly Wampler
Christian Rush
Lauren Brickett
Alicia Sullivan
Spencer Criddle
Mario Markworth

Band

Lana Oswald-Keyboard
Lori Koester-Keyboard
Bob Brewer-Guitar
Dawn Bostwick-Bass
Ben Brickett-Guitar

Elementary

Ashley Kneifl
Shelby Utech
Leo Markworth

\$7.00 Adult

\$5.00 Student

2008 – 2009 State of the Schools Report

Ponca Public Schools

The information provided in this report comprises the annual Ponca Schools Report Card. This report has statistics which align with the Nebraska State of Schools report and fulfills the requirements of Rule 10 of the Nebraska Department of Education. The complete report is available at <http://reportcard.nde.state.ne.us>

District Profile

2008 - 2009

District Characteristics		
District Data	State Statistics	District Statistics
Poverty Percentage	38.35%	22.50%
English Language Learners Percentage	6.31%	0.00%
Special Education Percentage	15.21%	15.70%
School Mobility Rate	12.02%	6.04%
Graduation Rate Percentage	89.74%	88.24%
Attendance Percentage	94.84%	96.20%
Enrollment	292,030	414
High School Teachers Endorsed Percentage	94.50%	98.40%

Assessment Quality

Reading			Mathematics		
Elementary	Middle	High	Elementary	Middle	High
Exemplary	Exemplary	Exemplary	Exemplary	Exemplary	Exemplary

Free/Reduced Priced Meals

Years	State	District
2004-2005	34.79%	21.75%
2005-2006	34.66%	19.75%
2006-2007	36.42%	20.70%
2007-2008	37.33%	23.30%
2008-2009	38.35%	22.50%

Grade-by-Grade Enrollment

Grade	Years				
	1991-1992	2004-2005	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
PK					
K	32	30	34	37	29
1	33	20	41	32	31
2	22	34	37	42	31
3	27	21	32	38	40
4	35	34	37	30	34
5	32	29	31	35	26
6	31	32	43	29	35
7	28	34	33	41	26
8	25	27	36	32	40
9	26	33	34	34	29
10	27	35	27	32	35
11	25	31	35	29	27
12	30	40	34	31	31
Total	373	400	454	442	414

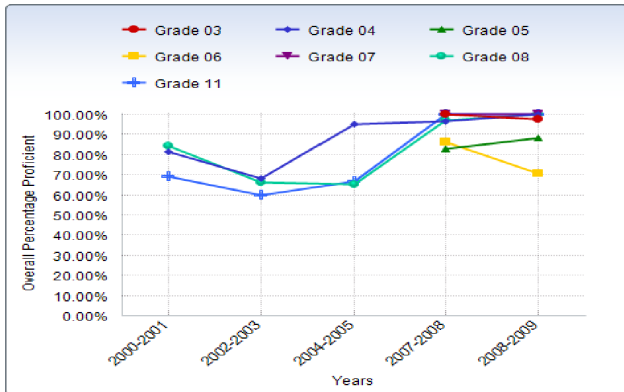
Average Years of Teaching Experience

Years	State	District
1998-1999	15.39	12.82
2003-2004	15.59	13.58
2005-2006	15.62	15.38
2006-2007	15.49	14.69
2007-2008	15.30	15.24
2008-2009	15.19	14.76

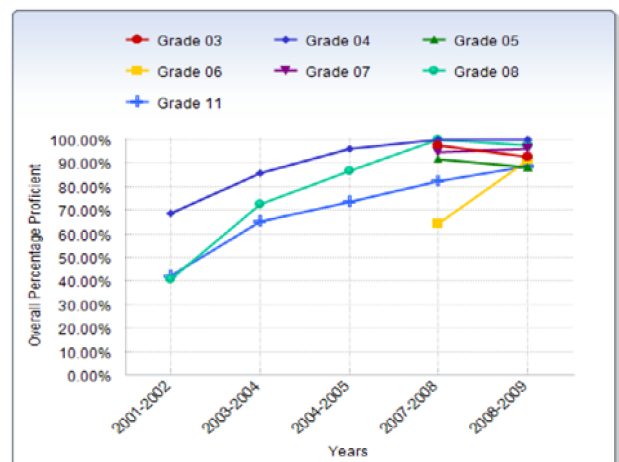
Teachers Count and Teachers with Master's Degree

Years	Total Teacher Count		Total Teachers with Master's Degrees		Percentage of Teachers with Master's Degrees	
	State	District	State	District	State	District
1998-1999	19,907.64	30.70	8,391.00	10.00	36.04%	26.32%
2003-2004	19,949.98	31.00	7,774.00	6.00	38.00%	19.35%
2005-2006	23,586.92	32.60	9,610.00	7.00	39.08%	20.59%
2006-2007	23,839.21	37.93	9,833.00	6.00	39.65%	15.38%
2007-2008	24,193.13	32.94	10,242.00	18.00	40.80%	47.37%
2008-2009	24,331.56	35.50	10,712.00	15.00	42.41%	40.54%

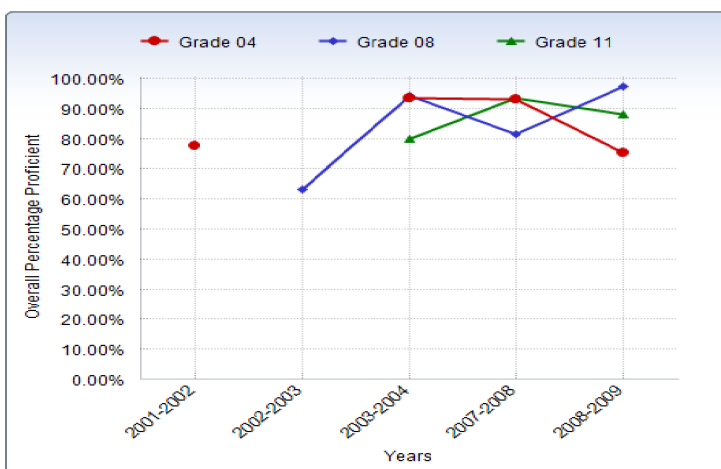
Assessment of State Reading Standards All Students



Assessment of State Mathematics Standards All Students



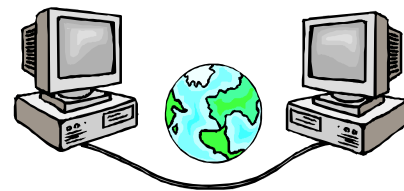
Assessment of State Writing Standards All Students



Overall Performance Percentages for All Students Meeting or Exceeding Standards (Writing)

Years	Grade 04	Grade 08	Grade 11
2001-2002	77.42%	N/A	N/A
2002-2003	N/A	63.16%	N/A
2003-2004	93.33%	94.12%	80.00%
*2007-2008	93.10%	81.25%	93.55%
2008-2009	75.00%	97.30%	88.00%
% of Change	↓2.42%	↑34.14%	↑8.00%

School Technologist News



INTERNET BROWSERS

There are many Internet Browsers on the Internet today. I encourage you to try a couple different ones that have some valid advantages to each of them. You can go to the school website at www.poncaschool.org and click on technology/downloads. Scroll down to the Internet Browser section to download the free browsers. Safari, Opera, and FireFox are the top Internet Browser that I feel are safe and worth exploring for your web searching needs.

When you are downloading and installing the browsers make sure and read the screens carefully to uncheck any additional software from being installed on your computer.

TEACHERS RECEIVE NEW LAPTOPS

Ponca School District recently purchased laptops for their teachers. The way teachers teach and the way students learn is undergoing a great change in the educational process. Technology has changed the way the world works, and inevitably, it's changing the nature of learning as well. Today's students are wired 24 hours a day and seven days a week with laptop computers and mobile devices. Content is available from a variety of sources and content experts online, and much of it is free of charge. Students growing up today have a vast world of knowledge available at their fingertips. Below are a few websites to engage student learning.

www.thinkfinity.org Thinkfinity.org is a resource for educators to enhance their classroom instruction with lesson plans, interactive activities and other online resources. Thinkfinity.org also provides a wealth of educational and literacy resources for teachers, students, parents and after-school programs. All of Thinkfinity.org's 55,000 standards-based K-12 lesson plans, student materials, interactive tools and reference materials are reviewed by the nation's leading education organizations to ensure that content is accurate, up-to-date, unbiased and appropriate for students.

FUN INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL GAMES FOR STUDENTS

www.watchknow.org Online videos for kids to learn from. Hundreds of thousands of great short videos, and other media, explaining every topic taught to school kids. They are rated and sorted into a giant Directory, making them simple to find and age appropriate for kids from ages 3 to 18.

www.curriki.org Concentrates on the core subject areas of Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and technology. It is made up of educators, learners and committed education experts who are working together to create quality materials that will benefit teachers and students around the world. Curriki is an online environment created to support the development and free distribution of world-class educational materials to anyone who needs them. Their name is a play on the combination of 'curriculum' and 'wiki' which is the technology we're using to make education universally accessible.

www.jason.org Science Education through Exploration. The JASON Project connects students with great explorers and great events to inspire and motivate them to learn science. JASON site offers a rigorous, standards based curriculum that includes traditionally printed student and teaching material, as well as multimedia materials to get students interested and motivated to learn science. Fully integrated student text, inquiry-based labs, educational games and videos.

www.poncaschool.org Don't forget to check out the web resources from the Ponca School website and click on the student link on the left side. In the right pane there are age appropriate links to choose from. If you find links that do not work or want to add sites contact Kristie Hayes at email address: khayes@esu1.org.

ESSAY CONTEST: STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT REAL LIFE

TO WIN A COMPUTER AND \$25,000 OF SOFTWARE

The Listen to a Life Contest entry deadline is March 29, 2010.

For the free online activity kit and complete contest details, visit

www.legacyproject.org

The Listen to a Life Essay Contest. The Grand Prize includes a Lenovo ThinkCentre computer for a student, along with \$25,000 of Orchard educational software for the school they attend.

There's a free online LifeDreams activity kit filled with life interview ideas and goal-setting activities with curriculum connections that include Different Dreams, Goal-Busters and Goal-Getters, Life List, and Club of Dreamers.


To enter the contest, a student 8-18 years interviews a grandparent or grandfriend 50 years or older about the older person's hopes and goals through their life, how they achieved their goals and overcame obstacles, or how dreams may have changed along the way. The student then writes a 300-word essay based on the interview.

In addition to the Grand Prize, there are 20 runner-up prizes of \$400 of Orchard software and an MP3 player.

For the free online activity kit and complete contest details, visit www.legacyproject.org.



PONCA SCHOOL DISTRICT HAS INSTALLED NEW LIBRARY SYSTEM

The new library system can be accessed from the school webpage www.poncaschool.org by clicking on the button  on the right side of the school webpage.

The library system, Destiny, combines circulation, cataloging, searching, reporting and management in one centrally installed library software system. Students, parents, patrons, and faculty can access the system through any workstation with a supported web browser and internet access 24/7.

Accelerated Reader Books – Destiny provides visibility and easy searching of books AR books in our district by guiding each student to books at their optimal reading levels. The system will track student library activity so they have a log to refer to of what books they have read for AR.

There are also many useful links on the opening page of the Ponca school district library page without logging into the Destiny system. If you have other useful links please contact Kristie Hayes, School Technologist at khayes@esu1.org.



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.

Test Taking Success!

Just hearing the word, “TEST”, could send anyone into an anxiety attack. Tests are a fact of life. While your child may never like to take tests you can help him/her do their best.

Your child will be tested throughout the school year on skills that he/she has learned in order to meet classroom, district, state, and/or national standards. This year the ITBS (Iowa Tests of Basic Skills) standardized tests will be given to students in grades 2-6, 7, 8, 9 and 11, the week of March 1-5.

Standardized tests measure your child’s performance, or how well they are learning in different subject areas. The test results will give information about your child’s strengths and weaknesses in each subject area.

The following are some strategies to help your child be successful not only on the ITBS tests, but also on various tests given throughout the school year.

- Make sure your child has a regular bedtime to allow an adequate amount of sleep each night. This is especially important before taking a test.
- Provide your child with a healthy breakfast to provide energy for his/her brain and body.
- Make sure your child arrives at school on time every day.
- Encourage your child to complete and hand in daily homework assignments-Practice makes progress. We can encourage children to study and practice so they can do their best, just as we encourage them to practice a musical instrument or sports skill, so they can do well at a recital or on game day.
- Study day-by-day. DON’T CRAM! Studies show that most people remember facts better when they review and repeat them in several short segments over time, rather than trying to cram a lot of information in one longer session the day before or the day of the test.
- Provide a consistent place and time at home for your child to complete homework.
- Encourage your child, before bedtime, to gather and put in his/her book bag all homework and materials needed at school the next day. Have your child place his/her book bag in a certain spot in his/her room or by the front door, so he/she can grab the bag easily when leaving for school.

The best way to help your child do his/her best on homework and tests is to provide positive support by expressing confidence in your child’s ability to do his/her best. Try to provide a calm, stress-free environment each morning as your child gets ready for school. Get up in plenty of time to avoid morning rush and anxiety. If you know your child is going to take a test try to curtail nighttime extra-curricular activities and outings that may interfere with their regular routine.

Cindy Anderson
PreK-6 Guidance Counselor

Lewis and Clark Conference Art Exhibition

The Conference Art Exhibition was hosted on February 27th, 2010 by Bancroft-Rosalie (Lewis) and Hartington (Clark). The Exhibition was held in conjunction with the Conference Speech Meet.

Ribbons were given in five different categories. Artwork is not competing against each other, but judged according to individual merit.

The following students participated: Kelli Goodsell, Marissa Peterson, Paige Lundin, Allison Pick, Alycia Pick, Kayla Beacom, Cheyenne Brown, Rylee Rich, Laikyn Libby, and Haley Hangman.

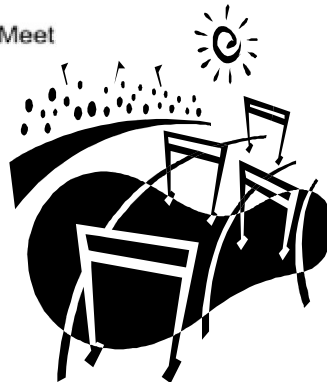


Spring Sports Schedule

Track

Coed Varsity

			Place	Time
Tuesday	03/30/10	Laurel-Concord Relays	Away	1:00PM
Tuesday	04/06/10	Huskie Inv	Away	3:30PM
Thursday	04/08/10	Ivan Krumweide Inv	Away	10:00AM
Thursday	04/15/10	Homer Inv	Away	4:00PM
Saturday	04/17/10	Sioux City Relays	Away	8:00AM
Tuesday	04/20/10	Laurel Inv	Away	2:00PM
Tuesday	04/27/10	Ponca Inv	Home	3:00PM
Saturday	05/01/10	L & C Conference Meet	Away	10:00AM
Tuesday	05/04/10	Randolph Inv	Away	2:30PM
Thursday	05/13/10	District Meet	Away	TBA
Friday	05/21/10	State Meet	Away	TBA
Saturday	05/22/10	State Meet	Away	TBA



Coed Junior High

			Place	Time
Tuesday	04/13/10	Dakota Valley Inv	Away	4:00PM
Monday	04/19/10	Hartington CC Inv	Away	1:00PM
Thursday	04/22/10	SSC Inv.	Away	1:00PM
Monday	04/26/10	Crofton Inv	Away	12:00PM
Friday	04/30/10	Oakland -C Inv	Away	3:00PM

Coed 9th/10th

			Place	Time
Monday	05/03/10	Heelan Inv	Away	4:30PM

Golf

Boys Varsity

			Place	Time
Saturday	03/27/10	Crofton Inv	Away	9:00AM
Monday	04/05/10	Pender High School	Away	4:00PM
Thursday	04/15/10	Laurel-Concord Inv	Away	10:00AM
Monday	04/19/10	Ponca Inv	Home	11:30AM
Thursday	04/22/10	Lutheran High Inv	Away	9:00AM
Saturday	04/24/10	Osmond Inv	Away	9:30PM
Tuesday	04/27/10	Hartington Inv	Away	9:00AM
Thursday	04/29/10	Laurel Public School Dist 54	Away	4:00PM
Monday	05/03/10	L & C Conference Meet	Away	TBA
Saturday	05/08/10	Wakefield Inv	Away	9:00AM
Tuesday	05/11/10	Ponca Triangular	Home	4:00PM
Monday	05/17/10	District Oakland	Away	9:00AM
Wednesday	05/26/10	State Meet @ Kearney	Away	TBA
Thursday	05/27/10	State Meet @ Kearney	Away	TBA



Boys Junior Varsity

			Place	Time
Monday	04/05/10	Pender High School	Away	4:00PM
Monday	04/19/10	Ponca Inv	Home	11:30AM
Thursday	04/29/10	Laurel Public School Dist 54	Away	4:00PM
Monday	05/03/10	Conference Meet	Away	TBA
Tuesday	05/11/10	Ponca Triangular	Home	4:00PM

--- OPEN ENROLLMENT INFORMATION ---

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 15, 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.

Ponca School Newsletter
Ponca Public School
Ponca, Nebraska 68770

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March 2010

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

