

November 2009

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

William F. Thompson

Winter Weather - School Cancellation - It seems like only yesterday that we started school on the 19th of August. Now, here we are at the end of October with only seven and one-half weeks until Christmas. It has really been a good start to our school year with decent weather, kids involved in school activities, and excellent leadership from our older students. But, as we approach this middle portion of our school year, weather plays an important factor in our daily routine and schedule. Thus, it is important that we pass along the following information to you.

It is important that we remind you about winter weather and the need to stay informed about possible school closings, delays, or early dismissals. There are many factors to be considered before making this decision. First, and foremost, is the safety of students, faculty, staff, and parents.

Prior to 6:00am, a decision will be made whether to cancel school, or to start late for the day. Information is entered online. The relevant information for our school district is released from there to area radio and television stations. This information will also be available to our school district patrons online. You can access this by going to the school district's website www.poncaschool.org, click on the "SnowCap - Closings/Delays" button on the left side of the front page. This will let you see what decision has been made for Ponca Schools. This same information will be scrolling along the top of the District's webpage.

There are occasions when the weather patterns and forecasts are clearly obvious that a decision can be made the night before. When this happens, the online process will begin to air the announcement on the 10 o'clock news. However, this may not always be possible. Should the decision be made to start school late, this will always be a **two (2) hour late start**. Classes will start in Jackson and Ponca two (2) hours later than their normal starting time. Buses will run their regular routes, but will be two (2) hours later than normal.

Occasionally, weather conditions will deteriorate during the school day to a point where early dismissal is necessary. We will try to avoid early dismissal, if possible, because contacting parents is difficult. Parents may, during inclement weather, pick up your child/children at your own discretion. Please make arrangements for the care of your child in case an early dismissal is necessary. In case of the early dismissal, all activity practices will be cancelled.

Following are some helpful hints as parents prepare:

- Know your bus route. Know who is picked up or dropped off before and after your stop. Contact other bus patrons on your route for information regarding the location of the bus.
- If you are going to be gone from home and the weather looks questionable, make arrangements for your child to have a neighbor or someone to meet your child, especially younger children.
- Please do not call the school or administration to find out if school is cancelled. Please listen, watch or check online for announcements.
- Parents have the right to make the decision whether to send their children to school when the weather is questionable. If a parent decides that the child will stay home, school work missed will be required to be made up. The child will not be charged with an unexcused absence.

An exceptionally nice feature of this **SNOW-CAP** communication system, is that parents can subscribe to have weather messages sent to home or business email, as well as to your cell phone. There is a place on the **SNOW-CAP** home page, upper right corner, for you to subscribe to the service. This will allow you to get the message regarding school delays, closings, ect., as soon as it is sent out to news organizations.

This article will also appear on the front page of the district's website at www.poncaschool.org.

Please Add to Your Calendars

Senior Fundraiser Breakfast
Sunday, November 8th
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Ponca Community Center



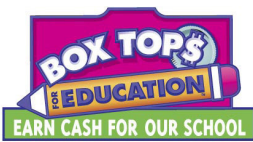
Update from Ms. Rinas.....

"Healthy Happenings" was our Ponca School theme for Red Ribbon Week 2009. Students were involved in several activities throughout the week to remind them the importance of living a healthy and drug free life. On Tuesday CCDC (Community Character Development Coalition) presented to the students in grades 7-12. Students were challenged to invest wisely in their future by making healthy choices today. Students in grades PK-6 enjoyed "Kids on the Block" as they also learned about making safe and healthy choices. At our "Red Ribbon Go Big Blue" PEP Rally on Thursday, the Future Business Leaders of America lead us in an energizer where we practiced putting our seatbelts on as we traveled down the highway of life. Everyone then joined in the drug free pledge lead by the National Honor Society. "Cigibutt" and the sixth grade students taught us the dangers of smoking and using tobacco. Our Red Ribbon PEP Rally ended with a proud to be drug free song by the "Addam's Family."

While students had a day away from school on Friday, October 23, the Ponca School Staff worked together on school improvement goals. The first part of the in-service day was dedicated to learning about effective schools. The remainder of the day staff worked in grade level groups on curriculum alignment in reading and language arts. The staff continued the reading and language arts curriculum work during the two hours of inservice time on October 30.

Congratulations are extended to Aaron Bostwick and Eric Watchorn. Aaron and Eric were selected for the All State Honor Choir. Brittany Heaton and Nellie Logue were selected as alternates. Aaron and Eric will attend All State November 19 and 20.

The Ponca School Website is a great place to find out what has and will be happening at Ponca School. As we enter into the football playoffs be sure to watch the Ponca School website for updates on games and schedule changes. Our Fall Activities Program is scheduled for Monday, November 30. On this night we will be recognizing the accomplishments of students who participated in volleyball, football, and cheerleading. The program starts at 7:30 pm. Everyone is invited to attend!



Save your Box Tops!!!

Box Tops offers three easy ways to earn cash for our school through everyday activities such as buying groceries, shopping online and purchasing books.

Clip — Clip Box Top coupons from hundreds of participating products and send them to school. Box Tops coupons are worth 10¢ each when our school redeems them from Box Tops for Education.

Shop — Shop at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops MarketplaceSM (btfe.com/marketplace). Up to 8% of each qualifying purchase is automatically donated to our school. There is no additional cost to your purchase and many exclusive deals and discounts can be found!

Buy books — Purchase books online at Barnes & Noble through the Box Tops Reading RoomSM. Our school will receive 6% of your new book purchases and 3% of all other online purchases.

One of the easiest ways you can help is to sign up to support our school at btfe.com. You will learn about new and easy ways to help our school earn the extra cash it needs.

Jackson Elementary

Principal Bob Hayes

The first quarter flew by and that means the holiday season is coming up very quickly. It is an exciting time of year.

Parent-teacher conferences are Thursday, November 5th in Jackson from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. We are asking parents to please be on time for your appointment and remember your allotted time is 10 minutes. If you need more time please make arrangements with the teacher. Make sure you come prepared for conferences, have questions you want to ask written down and make good use of the conference.

The Ponca Indian Football team is enjoying a banner season and marching on to the playoffs. Because of game times beginning in the early afternoon or long distances to travel school could have early dismissals or late starts. Please realize the school does not have much control over the playoff schedule. Please check the school website or notes home from school regarding this information. We will do our best to keep you informed of developments.

With the winter season upon us it is important to be ready for school cancellations, late starts, and early dismissals. Please realize we will follow the Ponca schedule concerning dismissals and cancellations. There will **not** be a separate announcement for Jackson Elementary. If Ponca has a two hour late start, classes in Jackson will begin 15 minutes after the start time in Ponca. Example: Two hour late start in Ponca means school in Ponca will begin at 10:15 which means school in Jackson will begin at 10:30. If there is an early dismissal, Jackson will dismiss 20 minutes before Ponca. Example: If Ponca is dismissing at 1:30, Jackson will dismiss at 1:10.

Another winter weather concern is dressing the students appropriately for winter weather. Please make sure students have a coat, some type of snow pants, gloves, and something to cover their ears. Jackson Elementary will be going outside for recess on most days unless the weather is too severe.

As you know the flu season has started earlier than normal this year. We have experienced a number of incidents already with students coming to school sick. If your child is ill please keep them at home until their fever has gone away and their symptoms have subsided. We are doing everything in our power to combat the flu. We sanitize our lockers, desks, door handles, drinking fountains, and rest rooms routinely. We insist on hand washing often and protect against sharing items as much as possible. Please help by keeping your child home when they are feeling under the weather.

We are having a problem with students wanting to stay in from recess because of illness. We understand there are times when students need to stay inside, but please do not abuse this situation. Studies show the fresh air is good for students; it causes them to be more alert and refreshed. If a student is too ill to go out for recess, they might be too ill to be in school. Students are not required to run at recess, they can do a variety of activities that are not strenuous.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Mr. Hayes

Ponca Athletic Boosters

Due to tremendous demand, the 2nd set of orders for the booster apparel sale will be taken until NOVEMBER 10.

It should be noted that NO EXTRAS will be ordered and NO LATE ORDERS can be accepted. The orders will be delivered to the school for pickup in time for Christmas. Order forms can be printed from the school website or picked up in the business office.



Thank you for your support of the Athletic Boosters!



Ponca School Newsletter
Ponca Public School
Ponca, Nebraska 68770

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

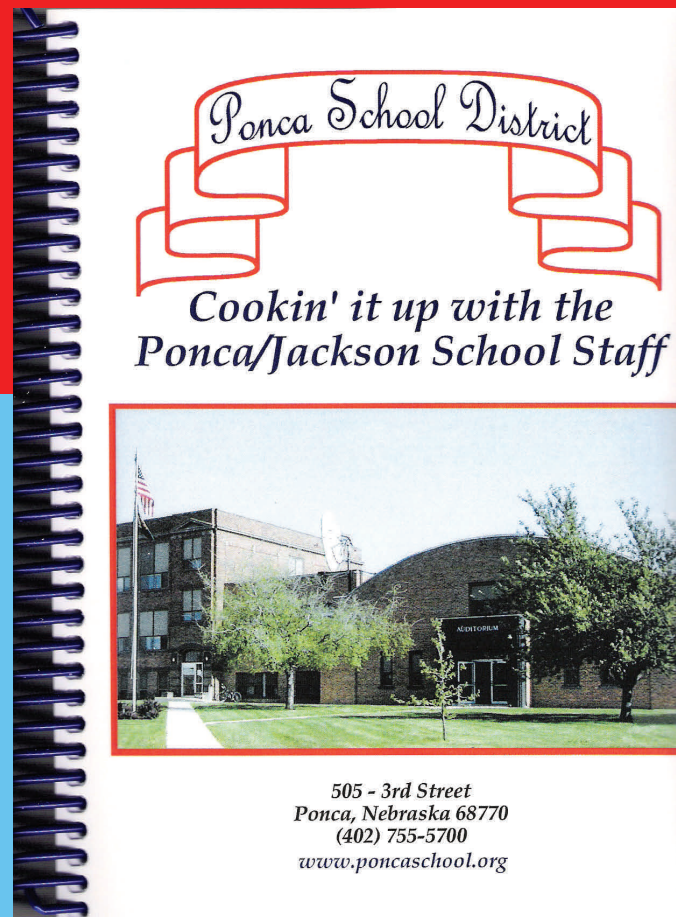
ECRWSS
Postal Patron

NOVEMBER 2009

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL



Cookbooks For Sale



**Get Yours Today
at the
Ponca or Jackson
School Business
Office**

\$10.00

Ponca/Jackson Teacher & Staff Recipes

www.nmeanebraska.org • 1-888-870-NMEA

Each year, over 2000 of the best high school musicians in the state audition for the Nebraska All-State Band, Chorus, Jazz Band and Orchestra which are sponsored by the Nebraska Music Educators Association. Selection as a member of one of these groups is one of the highest musical honors attainable in Nebraska. Mr. Kelly Meyer, Chair of Choral Affairs for the Nebraska Music Educators Association, is pleased to announce that

Eric Watchorn-Tenor 2

Aaron Bostwick-Bass 1

Nellie Logue-Soprano 2 Alternate

Brittany Heaton-Alto 1 Alternate

will be among the 442 students selected to be a part of the 2009 All-State Chorus. Guest conductor for the group will be Elena Sharkova, Artistic Director of the Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale, San Jose, CA. The chorus will rehearse Wednesday, November 18th through Friday November 20th on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus, the host site of the 2009 NMEA Conference/Clinic. A final public concert will be held on Friday, November 20th at the Lied Center for the Performing Arts on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

LEWIS AND CLARK VOCAL CONFERENCE CLINIC

The Ponca High School Chorus will be participating in the 2009 Lewis and Clark Conference Vocal Clinic on November 9th, 2009, at the Homer Public School.

Participating schools: Allen, Bancroft-Rosalie, Emerson-Hubbard, Homer, Ponca, Wakefield, Walthill, and Winnebago.

Please support our Ponca music students!

November 9th, 2009 7:00 p.m.

JOIN US!!!

Medals are awarded to the top 24 vocalists.

(A trophy is given to the school with the most audience members present! The host school is excluded)

Concert Admission:

\$4 Adults \$3 Students

Pre-school - No Charge

Conference Passes Are Honored



Music Booster Meeting

Outlaw Pizza
Wednesday

November 11, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars...



Christmas Concerts



Ponca Elementary Christmas Concert

3rd – 6th Grade Vocal
December 1, 2009

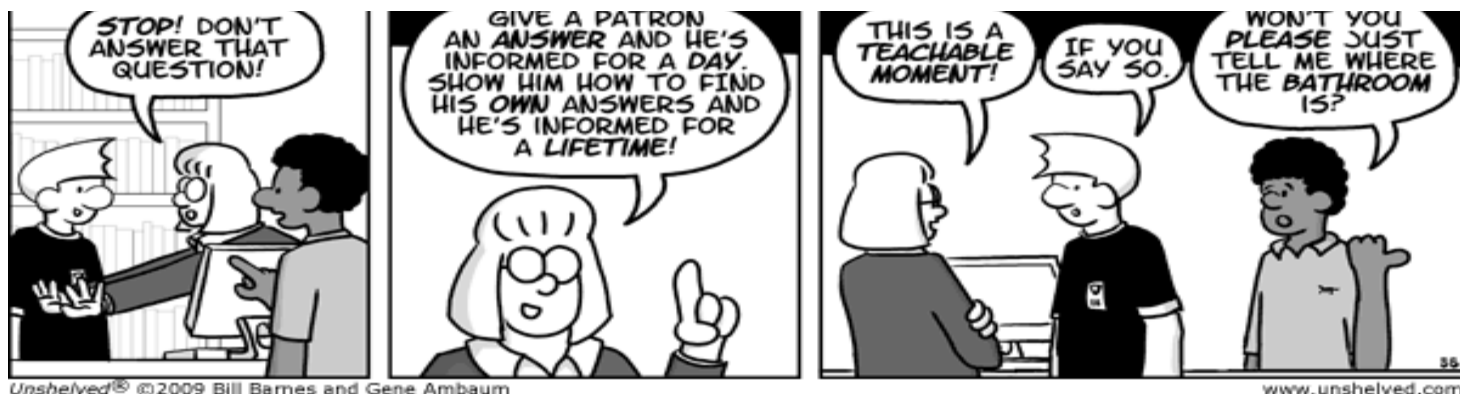
5th and 6th Grade Bands
7:00 p.m.

Ponca High School and Jr. High Concert

Christmas Band and Vocal Concert
December 14, 2009 7:00 p.m.

LIBRARY NOTES

Thank you to Wendy Masin for her generous book donation to our school library.



Red Ribbon Events

"Kids on the Block" visited Ponca and Jackson Elementary Schools during the Red Ribbon Week recognition, Tuesday, October 30, 2009, to give presentations about substance abuse. Students in grades PreK through sixth watched and listened to a variety of skits about substance abuse situations acted out by puppets through two puppeteers, followed by a questions and answers session.

Kids on the Block assemblies visit schools in Nebraska and are underwritten by the Nebraska Elks Association's Benevolence Committee, so there is no cost to school districts to enjoy the performances.



One-Act Competition



“Brad and Delia are on a blind date. Despite the antics of the inept waiter, Jack thinks it seems to be really well...that is until Delia begins to steal things from the restaurant. The result is utter hilarity.” going

The One-Act cast has again been hard at work for competition at conference and districts. This year’s play is *The First Date* by Kristyn Leigh Robinson. The students have been hard at work and we have brought in a much larger cast and crew this year! We are looking to put on a great show and bring home some positive comments.

We look forward to conference competition at Homer on November 23 and districts at Laurel-Concord on December 1. We will also have a dress rehearsal – open to the parents and community – prior to conference competition on Sunday evening, November 22.

One-Act 2009-2010 Cast

Jack	Andrew Larsen
Brad	Aaron Bostwick
Delia.....	Sharrell Logue
Hostess/understudy to Delia	Stacy O’Neill

Extras/Crew

Ben Gehring
 Brittany Heaton
 Heather Husen
 Amber Stark
 Abby Watchorn

Allison Pick
 Kelli Goodsell
 Abbie Goetz
 Kylee Koeppe
 Kelsi Stoos

Isaac Bennett
 Jonathan Larsen
 Christiana O’Neill



Directors: Mrs. Trish Swetnam & Mrs. Lisa Balvantin



VETERAN’S DAY PROGRAM

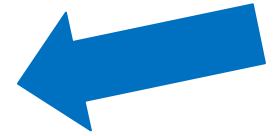
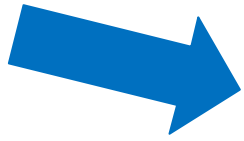


Ponca Public School will present a Veteran’s Day Program in the west gym at 10:00 A.M. on November 11, 2009. The public is invited to attend this program along with the Ponca, Jackson, and Martinsburg Veterans/Auxiliary Women, and the 3-12 students/staff at Ponca School to help recognize the service and commitment of our Veterans, Auxiliary Women and active military men and women.

Plans are being made for PreK-2nd grade students at Jackson Elementary to recognize Veteran’s Day during the week of November 9-13.

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.

ATTENTION: JR. & SR. PARENTS



Post Prom Meeting
Wednesday, November 11
7:00 p.m. Elementary Library

Ponca Cheer!

Who: Ponca Cheerleaders

What: Younkers Coupon Books

Where: Any Younkers Store

When: Saturday, November 14, 2009

Why: Promote School Spirit!

Buy a coupon book for \$5.00. Each booklet contains a \$10.00 coupon and six 20% off coupons and one 30% off early bird coupon.

Contact one of our PHS cheerleaders or call Christy Schweers or Patti Boyle for more information!

Thanks for supporting the
Ponca High School Cheerleaders



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

2009-2010 WINTER CONCESSION STAND SCHEDULE

(Check newsletter calendar for game times)

December 3rd—G&B BB vs. Hartington

Contact Person: Carol Conrad
Doug and Christina Luebbe
Rick and Diane Rush

December 10th—G&B BB vs. Randolph

Contact Person: Dawn Bostwick
Jason and Paula Cook
Nick and Kristina Sullivan
Mary Rager
Heather Tibbetts

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

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

December 8th—GBB vs. Elk Point-Jefferson

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

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

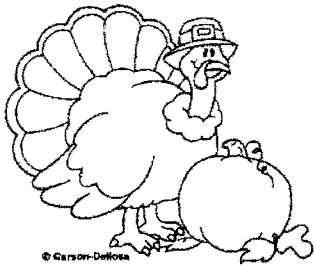
January 28th—GB vs. Newcastle

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

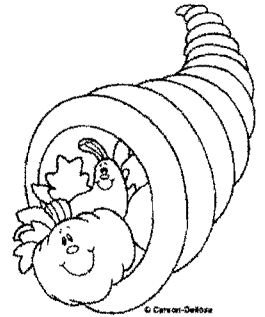
February 12th—BB vs. Homer

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





November 2009 Preschool Newsletter



November Preschool Schedule

* Starfish = M, W, F Class

Angelfish = T, Th, F Class

M	T	W	TH	F
2 Starfish	3 Angelfish	4 Starfish Conferences	5 Angelfish	6 Starfish
9 Starfish	10 Angelfish	11 Starfish	12 Angelfish	13 Angelfish
16 Starfish	17 Angelfish	18 Starfish	19 Angelfish	20 <i>Angelfish</i>
23 Starfish	24 Angelfish	25 No School	26 No School	27 No School
30 Starfish	1 Angelfish	2 Starfish	3 Angelfish	4 Starfish

Dates to Remember

Nov. 4 - Conferences 4pm-8pm

Nov. 20 - *ANGELFISH PRE K*

Nov. 23 - Starfish Thanksgiving Celebration

Nov. 24 - Angelfish Thanksgiving Celebration

Nov 27 -28 - No School Thanksgiving Break

Tuition

For the month of November tuition is:

Regular: \$144.00

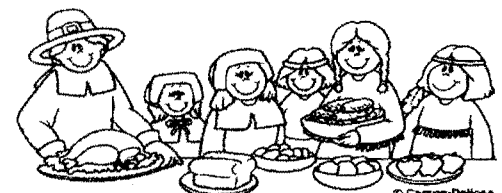
20% Discount for Free/Reduced:
\$115.20

Please mail in your tuition by the first preschool day of the month to:

Jackson Elementary
223 N John St POB 67
Jackson, NE 68743

In Our Classroom

Preschool is very busy during the month of November. We will be working very hard on our numbers 5 - 10. We will also be learning about families, pilgrims and all things Thanksgiving. Have a wonderful holiday!



PowerSchool

Grades & Attendance

Grade History

Attendance History

Teacher Comments

School Bulletin

Lunch Balance

E-Mail Notification

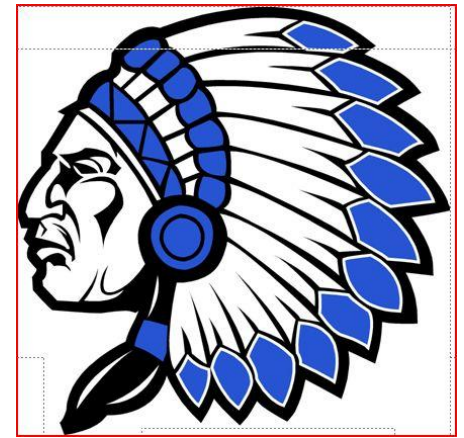
Ponca School District

<http://www.poncaschool.org/>

PowerSchool

Ponca Public School

*Using the Internet to
check your child's
progress.*



www.poncaschool.org

To access the parent portal go to the school website and click on the  button and enter your login and password.

GRADES

You will notice that the grades and teacher's names are links (blue color). If you click on the **grade** it will give you a complete list of all assignments for that class. When you click on the **teacher's name** it will bring up your e-mail so that you can send them a message.

ATTENDANCE

Below you will see your child's **attendance** for the last two weeks. It not only shows the whole day, but it will show specific classes that the child was absent from.

EMAIL

NOTIFICATION

Click on the e-mail notification button to enter your **e-mail address(es)**, choose the reports you would like, and choose how often you would like to receive them.



LUNCH

Click on the **dollar sign**, you will be able to access lunch transactions, present balance etc. Please check your balance often and contact the business office if you have any questions.

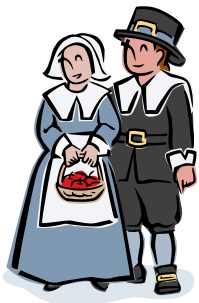
PowerSchool

Grades and Attendance | Grades History | Attendance History | Email Notification | Teacher Comments | School Bulletin | Class Registration | **Balance** | My Calendar

Lunch Balance
Grades and Attendance

Exp	Last Week					This Week					Attendance By Class			
	M	T	W	H	F	M	T	W	H	F	Course	S1	Absences	Tardies
1(A)											Spanish 3 & 4 Ruth, Roberta S	A 96	0	1
2(A)											Anatomy & Physiology Colvin, Richard C	A+ 100	0	0
3(A)											Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus Caspar, Kristin N	A 97	0	0
4(A)											Vocal Music Sackschewsky, David	A+ 100	0	0
5(A)											Advanced American Literature Brown, Bonnie L	A- 95	0	0
6(A)											Chemistry Olson, David B	A- 94	0	0
7(A)											Introduction to Health Science McNeel, Denise M	A+ 100	0	0
0(A)											Advisement Page, Jeffrey R	--	0	0
Attendance Totals													0	1

Current weighted grades GPA (S1): 96.9304



NOVEMBER 2009

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ponca Elementary 402-755-5700
 Jackson Elementary 402-632-4276
 Ponca High School 402-755-5701

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 VB Subdistrict @ Wayne High	3 JH Wrestling @ Crofton Inv. 4:00 p.m. VB Subdistrict @ Wayne High	4 2nd Round Football Playoffs	5 Jackson Grades K-2 Parent-Teacher Conf. 4-8 p.m. VB District Finals	6 	7
8 **	9 Conference Vocal Clinic @ Homer	10 Conference Academic Contest @ WSC 3rd Round Football Playoffs	11 Veteran's Day Program 10:00 a.m. Music Booster Meeting 6:00 p.m. Post Prom Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	12 JH Wrestling Ponca Invitational 4 p.m. 	13 VB State Tournament—Lincoln	14
15	16 JH Wrestling @ Randolph 4 p.m. School Board Meeting 7:30 p.m.	17 Semi-final Round Football Playoffs	18 Music All State Convention @ Lincoln	19	20 	21 JH Wrestling @ Howells Inv. 10:00 a.m.
22 **	23 L & C Conference One-Act 	24 Football Playoff Final @ Lincoln JH Wrestling @ Elgin Inv. 3:00 p.m.	25-27 NO SCHOOL— HAPPY THANKSGIVING			28
29	30 Fall Activities Program 7:30 p.m.	1 JH Wrestling @ Battlecreek 3:30 p.m. 3rd-6th Grade Christmas Concert 7:00 p.m.	2	3 Wrestling @ SSC Quad 6:30 p.m. G&BB @ Home vs. Hartington 6:15 & 8 p.m. Boys JV @ 5 p.m.	4 	5 Wrestling @ Howells Invitational 10:00 a.m. BB @ Crofton JV 6:15 , V 8:00 p.m.

**One-Act Parents Performance on Sunday, November 22nd

Senior Class Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday November 8 Community Center 8-1