

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

Thank You - Approval of the recent bond issue by voters within our school district for a new high school for Ponca Public Schools was certainly an important event. The vote tally showed that 1,080 registered voters participated in this vote. That is 70+% of the registered voters within the school district. A great turn-out for an important decision impacting our school community. Thank you to all our constituents who took the time to attend meetings, study the issues, and vote on this measure.

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The work for the school board and administration really begins now. Many decisions will need to be made that will involve meetings with architects, engineers, faculty members, and eventually construction people. Documents for the bid process will hopefully be available in December - January. It is expected to be able to start construction of our new facilities sometime in March or April. It is certainly a lengthy and highly involved process, but one that will bring a new focus on the education of children in our school community.

Again, thank you to everyone in our community for your involvement. It was great to see our community come together to focus on this issue, make a public decision on an important community issue, and still retain our sense of community.

Student Enrollment - At the end of each September, a student enrollment count is taken in each of the state's public and non-public schools. At this point, Ponca's student enrollment count stands as follows:

Kdgn -	37	7 th Grade -	35
1 st Grade -	28	8 th Grade -	28
2 nd Grade -	30	9 th Grade -	42
3 rd Grade -	32	10 th Grade -	30
4 th Grade -	35	11 th Grade -	33
5 th Grade -	33	12 th Grade -	25
6 th Grade -	26		

The K-12 enrollment figure is 414. Last year, Ponca's K-12 enrollment at this point was 417 students. The addition of 22 students in the District's Pre-School/Early Childhood program at Jackson Elementary brings the total student enrollment for September 2009 at 436.

Jackson Elementary

Principal Bob Hayes

The first month of school has passed and everything is going smoothly. The students and staff have settled into their routines and everyone is working hard. Midterm grades have been sent and Halloween decorations are popping up around the building, October must be here.

As the weather begins to change indoor activities become more prevalent. Organizations and individuals wanting to use the school building should make sure their events are on the school calendar and they have the school usage forms filled out in advance.

The end of the first quarter is Friday, October 16th. Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 5th from 4:00 to 7:30pm. Please make every effort to attend the conferences; it is one of the best ways to stay informed about your child's education.

The Hy Vee receipt program has been very good to us the past couple of years. We have received nearly \$900 dollars from the program. The proceeds from this program have purchased books, playground equipment, and help fund our spring field trip. Please save your receipts and bring them to school.

Even though school is going smoothly there are some areas that need to be tweaked. We are still having a problem with students remaining on the school grounds after school is dismissed for the day. School is dismissed at 3:10. The school premises are monitored until approximately 3:20. After 3:20 the teachers have other responsibilities to take care of. Students remaining on the grounds after 3:20 are not supervised and injuries can happen. When school is dismissed students should leave the premises in a timely manner. If you are going to be late to pick students up after school, if possible, please call or make appropriate arrangements. Another area of concern is tardy students. Please make an effort to make sure your children are on time for school. Please remember students can enter the building at 8:15 a.m. and school starts at 8:30 a.m. This helps to teach them responsibility and punctuality, two areas necessary to being successful in school and society.

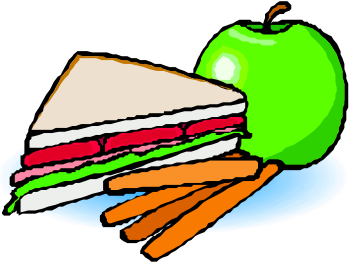
As you might know the flu season has started earlier than normal this year. We have experienced a number of incidents already with students coming to school sick. If your child is ill please keep them at home until their fever has gone away and their symptoms have subsided. We are doing everything in 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.



The next school board meeting is October 19th at 7:30 p.m. at Jackson Elementary.

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.

Hot Lunch Verification Requirement - One of the requirements for the Ponca Public School District to take part in the federal government's free and reduced price meal program is to conduct a verification process of selected applicants. Simply put, verification is the confirmation of eligibility for free and reduced price meals under the rules of the National School Lunch Program.



The verification process must include either the confirmation of a family's income eligibility or confirmation that a child is included in a household certified to receive benefits from food stamps or other state or federal programs. Even though families did submit documentation of eligibility with their initial application, additional documentation is required for the verification process.

Three (3) percent of the total approved applications received by the District on October 1st are required to be verified. Applications chosen for verification are done so through a random sampling process. The District will notify families chosen for verification by mail beginning in early October. According to federal guidelines, the verification process must be completed by November 15th.

A Personal Thank You ...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your comments, cards, well-wishes, concerns and prayers as I am about to begin treatment for my recently diagnosed cancer. One of the greatest advantages to living in a smaller, close-knit community, is the concern and compassion that we have for our neighbors. This has really come about for me. I cannot begin to tell you how important that is for myself, my two sons, and my family. If comments, cards, well-wishes, concerns and prayers were gold, I would be a very wealthy person at this time.

*Again, thank you,
William F. Thompson*



Make Plans to Donate the “Gift of Life”...

Mark your calendars!!! On Thursday, October 22, 2009 the Ponca High School Student Council is sponsoring a community Blood Drive at Ponca School.

The drive will run from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. This drive is held under the direction of the Siouxland Community Blood Bank.

Watch the Nebraska Journal Leader for further details.

Please Help Us Set New Records!!

What a healthy thing to do during
Red Ribbon Week!

Please be a part of this community service project.



Jackson PreSchool October 2009 Preschool Newsletter

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		Starfish	1 Angelfish	2 Starfish
5 Starfish	6 Angelfish	7 Starfish	8 Angelfish	9 Angelfish
12 Starfish	13 Angelfish	14 Starfish	15 Angelfish	16 Starfish
19 Starfish	20 Angelfish	21 Starfish	22 Angelfish	23 No School Staff Developme nt
26 Starfish	27 Angelfish	28 Starfish	29 Angelfish	30 Angelfish 2 Hr. Late Start

October Preschool Schedule

* Starfish =M,W,F Class

Angelfish= T,Th,F Class

Dates to Remember

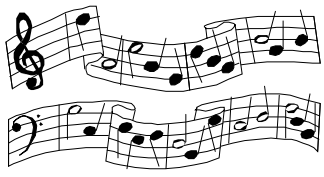
Oct. 23 – No School – Staff Development

Oct. 28 – Starfish Halloween Party

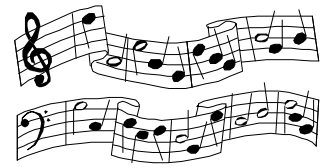
Oct. 30 – Angelfish Halloween Party

In the Classroom

During the month of October we will be “falling” into numbers. We will be focusing on the numbers 0-5. We will also be learning the importance of fire safety. We will even have the opportunity to see a real fire truck up close! Fittingly, this month we will be using the colors orange and black. We will also discover many fun things like pumpkins, black bats, and spiders!



Music Notes



Upcoming Events.....

October 3rd

WSC Band Day 10:00 a.m.

October 9th

Jr. High March @ Halftime
(Laurel Game)

October 10th

All State Music Tryouts (Norfolk)

October 14th

Music Booster Meeting 6:00 p.m.
@ Outlaw Pizza

October 17th

WSC Cavalcade of Bands
3:00 p.m.

October 22nd

6th Grade Concert @ Orpheum
9:30 p.m.

2009 FALL CONCESSION STAND SCHEDULE

(Check newsletter calendar for game times)



October 9th—FB vs. Laurel

Contact Person: Dawn Bostwick
Joe and Debbie O'Neill
Rick and Marcella Schweers
Dan and Lauri Krause

October 15th—VB Triangular

Contact Person: Julie Kramper
George and Amy Watchorn
Doug and Terssa Markworth

October 22nd—FB vs. Randolph

Contact Person: Dawn Bostwick
Doug and Jaime Watchorn
Dean and Kelli Lieber
Matt and Theresa Brockhaus



October 23rd—VB vs. Elk Point

Contact Person: Kari Richards
Kevin and Amy Crossgrove
Chris and Deanna Bennett

MUSIC BOOSTER'S MEETING

October 14th

Wednesday

6:00 p.m.

Outlaw Pizza

More members are needed at the meetings to better represent the entire group. If you are the parent of a music student, you are a Music Booster!!

All-State Chorus Auditions

October 10, 2009

Norfolk High School

Sopranos: Abby Watchorn, Nellie Logue, & Kelsi Stoos

Altos: Brittany Heaton, Korah Kramper, Marissa Peterson,
& Cheyenne Brown

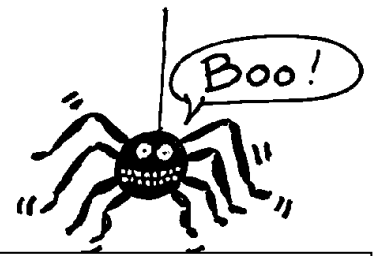
Tenors: Eric Watchorn & Ollie Reece

Bass: Aaron Bostwick



Ponca High School students will meet at the Norfolk High School audition site on Saturday, October 10, 2009 for this year's Nebraska All-State auditions.

From the Guidance Center....Mrs. Hassler



P.S.A.T. Test for Juniors

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) is scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, October 14, 2009.

This test is administered annually through the guidance office to those juniors who have voluntarily registered (and paid) for it. The purpose of the PSAT is twofold: 1. The test is designed for students who plan to enroll in a four-year college. It provides them with practice for the Scholastic Aptitude Test-S.A.T. (a college entrance test) which they may take during their senior year. 2. The PSAT serves as a predeterminant in qualifying for the National Merit Scholarship. In the event a student scores high enough on the PSAT he/she is then eligible to apply for the National Merit Scholarship. If your son or daughter has registered for the PSAT, please remind them that a good night's sleep and breakfast prior to the test are helpful test-taking tips over which they have control! If you have questions or comments concerning the PSAT contact Mrs. Hassler at the school.

PLAN Test for Sophomores

The PLAN Test is scheduled for the morning of Tuesday, October 6, 2009. This test is administered annually through the guidance office to all sophomores at P.H.S. The purpose of the PLAN is twofold: 1. The PLAN is designed as a practice test for those sophomores who consider enrolling in college following high school graduation. This test provides sophomores with practice for the American College Test (A.C.T.) which they may take as juniors or seniors. Four-year colleges in the Midwest require A.C.T. scores as one of several entrance requirements. 2. The PLAN provides the student with feedback on his/her study skills and provides him/her with an interest inventory which gives clues to the kinds of occupations he/she might like. This career information is used in a career unit (in English class) during the spring semester. The school pays for the cost of this test. Parents, please remind your son or daughter that a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast prior to test time would be a great benefit to them. If you have questions or comments concerning the PLAN contact Mrs. Hassler at the school.



Red Ribbon Week Plans are Being Finalized

The National Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week "Red Ribbon Week" will be celebrated at Ponca School during the week of October 19-22. Be sure to watch the newspaper for the finalized schedule of events.



TRI-STATE COLLEGE FAIR

Make plans to attend the Tri-State College Fair with your high school-age student! The College Fair is scheduled for Sunday, October 4, 2009, at the Marina Center in South Sioux City, NE. The program will be from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Over 100 college, vocational, and military representatives will be available. Additionally, Financial Aid planning sessions are scheduled. This is an excellent opportunity for high school students to begin their college searches. Make plans to attend!

Character...Our Choice

The Team Approach to Teaching Character

Commentary by Michael Josephson

I want my kids to be smart and successful, but I also want them to be good. I want them to be the kind of people other parents would like to see their kids marry. I also want them to make sound values-based decisions that help them be safe and happy.

So, like most parents, I spend lots of time trying to instill virtues like honesty, respectfulness, responsibility, fairness and kindness.

But building character is more complicated than teaching math or manners. It involves the heart as well as the head. The goal is to make good thoughts and conduct a matter of habit. I want my children to know what's good, to want what's good and to do what's good.

Effective character-building is captured in the acronym T.E.A.M.: teach, enforce, advocate and model.

We teach character by promoting the values and developing the ethical virtues that make up a good person: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. We have to be sure kids understand what each of these traits looks like.

We entrench these values by enforcing them, by being sure we back up our rhetoric with appropriate consequences. Remember, what you allow, you encourage.

Advocating the values means we passionately and relentlessly state our commitment to good character so our children have no doubt what we want for them and expect from them.

Finally, and most crucial, we have to teach positive values by example. We have to model the virtues we want to see in our children. We teach values by the way we deal with pressures, frustrations and fatigue and every other everyday action, especially what we say and do when we think no one is looking and we won't get caught.



BARNES & NOBLE
www.bn.com

Ponca Athletic Boosters

Since the Boosters inception in 1997 we have given over \$50,000 back into the Athletic Program at Ponca including:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Weight Room Epipment | BFS Clinic | Crows Nest @ Football Field |
| Ice Machine | Wrestling Mat | Track Tent |
| Volleyball Blocker | Blocking Sled | Track Record Signs |
| Head Set System | and much, much more! | |

All of the money we raise goes back into the Athletic programs.
 Help us support our student athletes JOIN BOOSTERS TODAY!!!

2009/2010 Dues are now due. \$20.00 couple \$15.00 individual

Thank you for your support.



Go Indians!!!!



Ponca Booster Club Order Form

Must be turned in: October 15, 2009

Men's Short Sleeve Polo Shirt with logo printed on front

COLOR		S	M	L	XL	2X	3X		PRICE	Extended size	TOTAL
Royal									\$37.00	\$1.50/2X \$3.00/3X	

Women's Short Sleeve Polo Shirt with logo printed on front

COLOR		XS	S	M	L	XL	2X		PRICE	Extended size	TOTAL
Royal									\$37.00	\$1.50/2X	

Booster Members

Grand Total

Payment is Due at Time of Order

Return all orders to: School Business Office or Cheri Albrecht

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

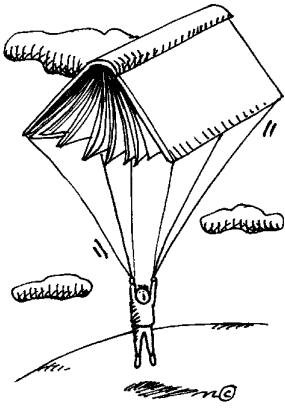
Make check payable to: Ponca Athletic Boosters

Must be turned in: October 15, 2009



"Best Quality For The Best Price"

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 Phone: 712-293-2000 Fax: 712-293-1501



Library Update....

Thank you for library book donations:
Sandy Jensen, Jamie Hamer

Thank you to all who supported the Library Book Sale during parent-teacher conferences in September. The money raised will buy new books for the library.

Congratulations to Our New Elementary Student Council

Ponca Elementary Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth graders have experienced the process of campaigning and the election process to become student council representatives. Students made campaign posters after filling out permission forms to run for student council representative. A primary election was held to narrow the candidate field after which the candidates each wrote and gave a campaign speech to their classmates telling why they would be the person to vote for to be the classroom representative on student council. Each classroom then held a general election and voted two representatives onto the council board.

The representatives met Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009 from 3:30 to 5:30 for training and held their first meeting using parliamentary procedure and elected four people to the offices of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Parents, community members and school staff attended the installation ceremony held in the elementary library at 5:30. The following students are the 2009-2010 student council representatives:

Mr. Stroud-4th
Emily Persinger

Mrs. Stewart-5th
Jack Charlson - Secretary
Ryan Bentz

Mrs. Husen-6th
Timmy Hayes - President
Reid Wimmer

Mrs. Fields -4th
Sophie Kramper

Mrs. Carnell-5th
Hunter Schweers
Elizabeth Watchorn – Vice President

Mr. Papenhausen-6th
Ashley Gill - Treasurer
Kelsea Fethkenher

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

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

Nurse *Notes*

A Note from Sheila Herfel, RN

Due to the increased number of students and staff with the flu, we are asking parents to keep your children home if they are running a fever or if they have any flu like symptoms (see the attached information about the flu). They should not return to school until they are fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of medications.

If your child is complaining of any flu like symptoms, or develop a fever during school, the parent will be notified to come pick up their child, and take them home.

Ponca Public School is following Nebraska Public Health Department guidelines by encouraging students to wash their hands prior to snacks and meals, and after using the restroom. We are also sanitizing surfaces that are frequently exposed to germs, such as desks and doorknobs. This is something we practice year round, but is very helpful during flu season. We encourage you to do the same at home. Thank you for working with us to keep your children healthy!

Reasons to Keep Your Child Home

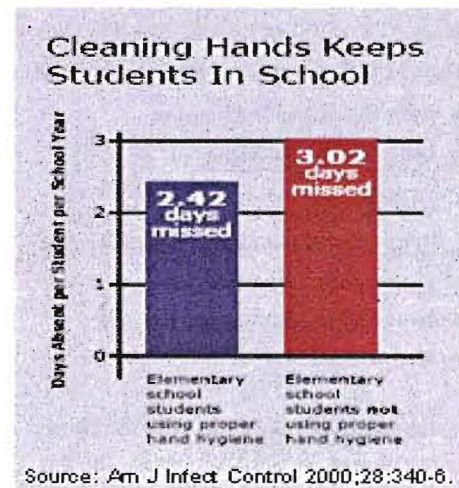
1. **FEVER** (having a temperature of 100 degrees or higher).
2. **SIGNS / SYMPTOMS OF POSSIBLE SERIOUS ILLNESS:**
 - unusually tired or crabby,
 - uncontrolled coughing,
 - constant crying,
 - problems breathing,
 - wheezing,
 - seizures,
 - severe stomach pain.
3. **VOMITING** (two or more times in the past 24 hours)
4. **DIARRHEA**
 - 5 or more stools in 8 hours,
 - an increased number of stools,
 - watery or bloody stools, or
 - having loose stool that cannot be controlled long enough to get to the toilet
5. **EYE DRAINAGE**
 - pink or red eyes with white or yellow discharge that causes matting of the eyelids
 - pain or redness of eyelids
6. **STRANGE COLOR**
 - yellow eyes or skin
 - gray or white stool
 - black or blood colored stool
 - dark, tea or cola-colored urine

These definitions can help you better understand when you should keep your child home. If your child has these symptoms, call your medical provider to ask if your child needs to be seen and if treatment is needed. Your doctor can also give you information on when your child can return to school.

According to NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TITLE 173 CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CHAPTER 3 SCHOOL HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL, AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND IMMUNIZATION STANDARDS:

3-002 EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL

“Children showing any signs or symptoms of a contagious or infectious disease are required by law to be sent to their homes immediately, or as soon as safe and proper conveyance can be found.”



Ask your school about their illness policy.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

If Your Child is Sick...

When To Keep Your Child Home

Tips for Parents



**Northeast Nebraska
Public Health Department**

Cedar, Dixon, Thurston and Wayne Counties

Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Stay well & STOP GERMS

- ▶ Get plenty of **rest, exercise;** **drink** enough **water** and **eat** nutritious foods.
- ▶ **Stay away** from sick people.
- ▶ **Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue** when coughing or sneezing and always throw away tissues after using them.
- ▶ **Wash your hands a lot** with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Hand cleaners that are at least 60% Ethyl Alcohol can also be used.
- ▶ **Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth.** Germs spread this way.
- ▶ **Stay at home if you are sick** and away from other people as much as you can. This includes staying away from places such as restaurants, movie theaters, friends' houses and stores.
- ▶ Some **germs can spread** even **before** symptoms start and **for 7 days** or more after.

NNPHD
117 W. 3rd St.
Wayne, NE 68787
402-375-2200 . 800-375-2260

If Your Child is Sick With the Flu— What to Tell the School

What To Say

If your child is sick with the flu, it's important that you tell the school. Don't simply say that your child will not be in school, instead say, "My child is sick with the flu."

When To Say It

You do not need to wait for a doctor's diagnosis to know your child has the flu. You should tell the school that your child is sick with the flu if they have:

- a cough or a sore throat
- AND**
- A fever (*You should use a thermometer to tell if your child has a fever or not. A fever means the child's temperature is 100 degrees or more.*)

Other symptoms that may come with the flu are:

- feeling poorly,
- body aches,
- runny nose,
- chills, and
- headache.

If your child has these symptoms, don't send them to school!

Why It Matters

Local Health Departments have asked schools to report the reasons children miss school due to illness. This helps us know what kinds of germs are in the community and where they are spreading. This can help us take action to slow the spread of illness in our area.

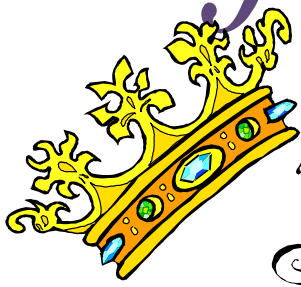
The flu is very serious! It closes schools and businesses and even causes death. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that the flu causes more than 200,000 people to go to the hospital and about 36,000 deaths in our country each year.

Next Steps

Once you report the flu to your school, you may want to call your child's doctor to ask if they want to see your child or if medication is needed. Some medications that work against the flu work best if they are started within 48 hours of first getting sick. Remember, you do NOT need antibiotics to treat the flu!

Don't send your child back to school until all of your child's flu symptoms have gone or until your doctor says your child can return to school. As of 08-06-09 CDC recommends, in most cases, to wait at least 24 hours after the fever is gone (without using fever-reducing medicine).

Congratulations!



*2009 Homecoming
King Ben Gehring
and Queen Heather Husen*



Ponca School Newsletter
Ponca Public School
Ponca, Nebraska 68770

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

