

February 2017

# PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

505 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, P O Box 568  
Ponca, NE 68770

[www.poncaschool.org](http://www.poncaschool.org)

223 North John Street, P O Box 67  
Jackson, NE 68743



**WELCOME BACK TO THE SECOND SEMESTER FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR!** The second semester is the time for testing for every school district in the State with the NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability) and the MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) tests. This year at Ponca Public Schools, testing should not take as long since every student has accessibility to a chrome book computer. Testing in the past always took approximately three months to finish and this year, without any major difficulties, we should be finished in one to two weeks.

All of the tests mentioned in the above paragraph are extremely important for our school district because many of the tests are also connected to Federal and State dollars (resources) that our school district can receive. As a school district, we must have our students take a serious approach to the tests. As parents, please be sure that your child is getting at least **9 hours of sleep and eating breakfast before coming to school**. With the annual tests a school district gives to the students, it is the responsibility of both **the school and the parents** that the students do well on the tests.

By the time the patrons receive this newsletter, a new superintendent-elect will have been offered the position for the start of the 2017-2018 school year. The new superintendent will begin his duties on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences** are scheduled on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 8:00PM. Dismissal for ALL students will be at 1:10 for the Jackson students and 1:30 for the Ponca students. Please attend the Parent/Teacher Conferences to discuss with the classroom teachers the progress your child or children are making.

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

**Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>:** Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:00 – 8:00. Dismissal at 1:10/1:30

**Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>:** Professional development Dismissal at 1:55/2:15

**Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>:** NO SCHOOL – Winter Break

**Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>:** End of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Grading Period

**Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Professional Development Dismissal 1:55/2:15

## **The Ponca Community Educational Foundation (PCEF) announces it's 2017 Funding Opportunities for Ponca Graduates, School District Employees, and Patrons of the District.**

One of the purposes of the PCEF is to promote and support educational opportunities for the students of the Ponca Public School District. The main avenue of support has always been funding scholarships to Ponca High School graduating seniors.

Because of recent growth from the generous support of its members, the PCEF is excited to sponsor additional funding opportunities. Listed below is a brief description of those opportunities. After reading these descriptions, be sure to encourage a P.H.S. connected student, parent, employee, or community member to apply for these resources.

Guideline information, cover sheets, and applications for each program may be found on the following website: [www.pcef.net](http://www.pcef.net) (For graduating seniors and PHS alumni, click on icon with the same name. For district employees, click on Staff Awards.) Additionally, the information and forms may be obtained by contacting the high school guidance office at Ponca Public School (402-755-5702).

**Completed applications and supporting documentation must be returned to Fran Hassler, PCEF Scholarship Selection Committee Chairperson by Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 4:00 P.M., in person or via email at: [franhassler@poncaschool.org](mailto:franhassler@poncaschool.org)** (Please note: Due date deadlines will not be adjusted in the event of technology difficulties.)

Funding categories presently include:

1. Awards for P.H.S. Graduating Seniors
2. Awards for P.H.S. Alumni
3. Awards for Certified Staff Members at Ponca Public School
4. Awards for Non-Certified Staff at Ponca Public School

Should an individual, family or business wish to contribute to the PCEF, please contact:  
**Foundation President Richard Dohma, (402) 755-2224.** Thank you.

Funding Opportunities Article (updated: 1-10-2017)

# Notes from the High School

7-12 QUARTER 3 MIDTERM REPORTS will be given to parents on February 9, at Parent/Teacher Conferences. Students whose parents do not attend conferences will be given their Midterm Reports on Friday, February 10, to bring home. If you do not attend conferences, be sure to ask your 7-12 child to see his/her Midterm Report.

IT IS SPELLING BEE TIME FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 5-8! February 1, students in grades 5-8 will be administered a 25-word written test. The students who earn the top spelling scores on the Ponca Schools written Spelling Bee test will advance to the oral spelling bee. Ponca Schools Oral Spelling Bee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, at 2:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts center. The top five spellers will then advance to the Dixon County Spelling Bee held at Allen Consolidated Schools at 1:30 p.m. on February 14, 2017. The public is invited to attend both the Ponca Schools and Dixon County Spelling Bees. If you have a speller in the family you may access the "2017 Spell It" at [www.myspellit.com](http://www.myspellit.com).

REMINDER TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS . . . Even though February is full of winter activities, spring activity practices are scheduled to begin on February 27. Parents and students are reminded that the district only provides for supervision of athletes or participants at school activities scheduled during the school day. A student who is not on the team, will only be released from school to attend the activity if the student is with his/her parent or guardian. All students must be pre-excused before 9:00 A.M. the day of the event to attend or participate in a school activity.

# Notes from the Elementary

It's hard to believe January is behind us and February is here! It has been somewhat of a tough winter so far but hopefully mother nature will be kinder second semester. Second semester has started very smoothly with everyone getting back into his or her routine.

The flu season is upon us and you can help combat the flu. If your child has a fever or flu like symptoms please keep them home!! Please keep your child home for 24 hrs after the flu symptoms subside. This will help slow the spread of the flu and you won't have to pick them up from school early. We appreciate the fact you want your child to be in school but if they're not feeling well they're not very productive.

I've had some questions regarding open enrollment recently. The date for open enrollment is March 15<sup>th</sup>. All paperwork must be in to the school office by March 15<sup>th</sup> for a student to qualify for open enrollment.

We are having a problem with elementary students running around at basketball games. This creates a dangerous situation at the games. Elementary students must sit and watch the games. They are not allowed to go into the west gym when it is not being used for jv games. Please help keep the basketball games a safe environment for everyone involved.

**The date for kindergarten round-up has been set for Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.** More details on kindergarten round-up will be in the March newsletter.

Parent/teacher conferences will be Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>. A schedule will be sent home with the students.

The "K" through 2<sup>nd</sup> will be going roller skating on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

# PONCA JR. HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL



## STUDENT SHOWCASE!



Show Dates: March 31-April 1, 2017

**Audition Announcement:**

**Grades 7-12**

**Monday, February 13:** During choir and after school, see sign-up sheet.

- ♪ Prepare an act **before** the audition. It can be a solo, duet, group, or something else creative. Vocal, instrumental, or spoken acts are welcome. You do NOT need to be enrolled in choir or band, but you DO need to be as prepared as possible! We will have over a month to finish preparing for the concert.
- ♪ If you need help preparing for your audition, ask Mr. Webb or Mrs. Steckly!
- ♪ The best and most well-prepared acts at the time of the audition will perform on the concert.

Additional Rehearsals TBA once the acts have been selected.



# Band Notes



**Congratulations to the following students for being selected to the following highly competitive honor bands:**

**Wayne State Festival of Bands:**

*Junior High:* Sarah Beach - Clarinet

*Symphonic Band:* Carin Mellick - Flute, Morgan Janssen - French Horn

**University of South Dakota Quad State Honor Bands:**

*Symphonic Band:* Carin Mellick- Flute

**Congratulations to the following medal winners from the Lewis & Clark Conference Honor Band!!!!**

*11-12 Medalists:* Carin Mellick - 2nd Chair 1st Flute, Sam Brickett - 1st Chair 2nd Trumpet

*Other 11-12 Participants:* Rachel Bentz - 1st Clarinet

*9-10 Medalists:* Shana Seneviratne - 1st Chair 2nd Flute, Claire Hoelsing - 2nd Chair 1st Clarinet, Meg Keller - 1st Chair 2nd Clarinet, Katie Meister - 2nd Chair Tenor Sax, Morgan Janssen - 1st Chair French Horn

*Other 9-10 Participants:* Grace Salmen - 1st Alto Saxophone, Olivia Hrouda - 2nd Trumpet, Colson Watchorn - Baritone, Garrett Anderson - Batter Percussion



**Save the Dates!!**

**Pep Band:**

February 7th (Tuesday) AND February 17th (Friday)

There is the potential of playing for Conference Championships, District Finals, and State Championships.

More information will come as it gets closer.

**Upcoming Concerts and Other Events:**

February 28th – Middle School Concert

March 7th – Middle School Contest @ WSC

March 14th – USD Jazz Festival

March 25th – Class C All-State Band @ Kearney

March 27th – Northeast Jazz Festival @ Norfolk



# Library News...

Thank you for the donated library books from Mrs. Fields and Brianna Goodier.



## Watch for the Scholastic Book Fair coming in March to the Ponca School Library.

**Congratulations to the following students who made their AR goal 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter:**

3rd Grade..... Cora Jackson

5<sup>th</sup> Grade..... Brody Taylor

4th Grade..... Trystan Bevelhymer  
Austin Dendinger  
Ellesyn Hrouda  
Cohen Paden  
Natalie Perkins  
Andrew Pinkelman  
Zain Stark  
Cade Statema  
William Stroud  
Isabella Eifert  
Isabell Galardo  
Tucker McGill  
EllaRay Nelson  
Treston Pulley  
Addison Stewart  
Alexa Swick  
Heyden Velez

6<sup>th</sup> Grade..... Trevor Arrasmith  
Julien Buckles  
Kemper Carlson  
Lorelai DeRoin  
Evan Keller  
Bailey Paden  
Abbie Hrouda  
Cole Jackson  
Ellie McAfee  
Alyssa Schamp



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Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or Fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email:

[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov) This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

# NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

On Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, at 7:30 PM, new nominees will be recognized and inducted into the Ponca Chapter in a formal National Honor Society Ceremony at the Ponca School Fine Arts Facility.

Ponca Public School's National Honor Society is a local chapter which is established according to the nationwide National Honor Society organization which was founded in 1921 to recognize and encourage academic and citizenship qualities in students. National Honor Society continues its traditions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Membership in National Honor Society is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have a cumulative scholastic average of 85 percent or above and who demonstrate the qualities of service, character, and leadership. Students carrying a scholastic average of 85% or above are invited to an informational meeting to learn more about National Honor Society. Only those students who complete and return a signed information sheet by the deadline will be considered for nomination in the National Honor Society. A faculty council comprised of five teachers reviews and discusses each student's information sheet, attendance and discipline records, and teacher questionnaires. Private ballots are cast by the faculty council, and those students receiving three out of five "yes" votes are then received as members into National Honor Society.

Every year during third quarter, students have the opportunity to be nominated for induction into Ponca High School's local National Honor Society chapter. Selection guidelines and expectations will be presented to those eligible 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in an informational meeting on **Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>** during 4<sup>th</sup> period. In order to be considered for nomination, students must return their completed and signed information sheet to Mrs. Foulks by **4 PM** on the **last Monday of February, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Selection guidelines and information sheets are available online at [www.poncaschool.org](http://www.poncaschool.org) under the activities tab.



## Parents Encouraging Parents

March 16-18, 2017  
Younes Conference Center  
Kearney, Nebraska

Are you a Nebraska parent of a child with special needs?  
Then this conference is for you!  
No registration fee! Two nights' lodging and most meals furnished!

Sponsored by  
Nebraska Department of Education,  
Office of Special Education and the  
Educational Service Unit Coordinating  
Council (ESUCC)

This brochure was funded with Federal funds, Part B, IDEA, grant number H027A140079 with the State of Nebraska.

### What is PEP?

The purpose of PEP is to bring parents of children with disabilities together in an accepting and confidential environment, giving them the opportunity to share ideas, feelings and common concerns, and to obtain information on parenting and educating a child with a disability. Parents will go home with renewed energy, hope and a desire to work closely with professionals who serve their child so that every child can experience the fullest life.

### Who Should Attend?

This conference is open to all Nebraska parents who are raising a child with a verified disability. The child must have an active IFSP/IEP.

A small number of openings are reserved for education professionals who serve children with disabilities and are employed in NE school districts. Professionals will experience PEP from a parent perspective.

### How Do I Register?

To register, first read the *Guidelines for Participants*. Then, complete the registration form available online at:

[www.education.ne.gov/sped/index.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/index.html)

Register by **February 20, 2017**. After this date, please call 402-471-2471 for availability.

If you do not have access to a computer please contact your school or PEP staff at 402-471-2471.

### Conference Schedule

#### **Thursday, March 16 6 - 9 p.m.**

Hotel check in 5:00 p.m.

Dinner

Welcome & Conference Overview  
Discussion Group

#### **Friday, March 17 8:30-5:00**

The IEP Process

Early Childhood/IFSP Process

Transition to Adult Living

Building Positive Parent/School

Partnerships

Lunch

Good Grief!

Discussion Group

Dinner (on your own)

Evening free to socialize, network, and relax

#### **Saturday, March 18 8:30-3:00**

*Check out of hotel before 9 a.m.*

Concurrent Sessions

- Assistive Technology
- Estate Planning for the Child with Special Needs
- For Men Only
- Siblings
- Positive Behavior Management
- Empowering Kids to be Self-Advocates
- Youth Leadership Council - Stories from the Heart
- Social Skills

Lunch

Discussion Group

Pearls of Wisdom

Closing and Evaluations

**10 tips**  
Nutrition  
Education Series

# physical activity at home, work, and play



## 10 tips to make physical activity a regular part of the day

**Adding activity into your day is possible.** Choose activities that you enjoy. Adults should aim for at least 2½ hours or 150 minutes of physical activity each week. Every little bit adds up, and doing something is better than doing nothing. Most important—have fun while being active!

### 1 take 10

Do at least 10 minutes of activity at a time to reach your weekly goal. Walk the dog for 10 minutes before and after work and add a 10-minute walk at lunchtime.

### 6 be an active parent

Instead of standing on the sidelines, walk up and down the soccer, football, or softball field while the kids play their game.

### 2 mix it up

Start the week with a swim at the pool, take a yoga class during a weekday lunch, lift weights in the evening, and end the week by working in the garden.



### 7 find support

Join a walking group, play wheelchair sports, practice martial arts, or sign up for an exercise class in your community. Recruit family or friends for support.

### 3 be ready anytime

Keep comfortable clothes and walking or running shoes in the car and at the office.

### 8 enjoy the great outdoors

Tumble in the leaves, build a snowman with your kids, or ski cross-country. Visit a county or national park and spend time hiking, canoeing, or boating.

### 4 find ways to move

Take a brisk walk around the parking lot, jog to the bus stop, or ride your bike to the subway station. If you have an infant or toddler, take a long walk using the stroller and everyone gets some fresh air.



### 9 look for wellness at work

Find a softball, basketball, or volleyball team at your job. You can also take the lead by starting a wellness or exercise group in your office.

### 5 work out during TV time

Watch a movie while you jog on a treadmill or download a video on your phone and watch while you ride a stationary bike.

### 10 the chores count, too!

Clean the house, wash the car, or mow the lawn with a push mower. Know that these activities count toward your goal of at least 150 minutes each week.



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Ponca Public School  
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## **PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL**

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### **FEBRUARY 2017**



#### **NOTICE TO PARENTS OF PONCA SCHOOL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS WHO MAY BE CONSIDERING ENROLLMENT OPTION FOR THE 2017 – 2018 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, 2017** – The Nebraska Department of Education deadline for filing enrollment option application for the 2017-2018 school year unless a waiver of dates is granted. (If the enrollment option application is filed before March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the application does not need to be taken to the school the student is leaving.)

**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. According to Nebraska School Activities Association, those students who do not have their transfer applications signed and filed on or before May 1 shall be ineligible for 90 school days.

**Transportation** – The parents of the optioned student shall be responsible for required transportation to the option district.

If you have questions regarding the enrollment option program, please contact the Ponca Superintendent's Office at (402) 755-5700.