

March 2017

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 Superintendent Joan Reznicek:

How can parents help with the success of the NeSA testing??? Make sure your child eats a nutritious breakfast before coming to school, make sure your child gets beneficial sleep, and is positively encouraged to do well when the tests days are scheduled.

As the third quarter comes to a close on Friday, March 10th, the most important time of the school year with our students in the majority of grade levels is taking the Nebraska State Accountability (**NeSA**) tests for writing, reading, math, and science. During the spring semester from the end of March to the beginning of May, the academic progress of our students is measured in our school district. The importance of doing well on the NeSA tests is of utmost importance for the status of our school district. We will read about the 2016-2017 NeSA tests results next year in the major state newspapers.

Our most important improvement with NeSA testing is that we will be able to complete the testing in April due to the chrome books each student can use during the school day. In the past, each class of students had to complete the testing when the computer lab was available. Now, the testing will be completed in the individual classrooms which will allow the students to receive additional instruction during the months of March and April.

Plus, selected grades of students will also take the Measure of Academic Progress (**MAP**) tests. The individual student results are posted to the student as soon as the student completes the test. The **MAP** tests are not our State **NeSA** tests though. We want the students to improve on both tests. All of these assessments are vitally important to the progress of our school.

The 2017-2018 school calendar will be available by April 1st. There are a few things to work out before finalizing 2017-2018 school calendar. As of this writing (February 21st), we have used four snow days this school year. We have made-up one of the days by having school on Friday, January 27th leaving us with three snow days. There is still plenty of winter left for snow storms. Please be prepared for any make-up days that may be in our future.

Reminder Dates:

Friday, March 3rd – NO SCHOOL – Winter Break

Friday, March 10th – End of the 3rd Quarter Grading Period

Wednesday, March 22nd – Early Dismissal – Professional Development

Thursday, April 13th – Early Dismissal – 1:10 Jackson / 1:30 Ponca – Easter Break

Friday, April 14th & Monday, April 17th – NO SCHOOL – Easter Break

Friday, May 12th – Early Dismissal – 1:10 Jackson / 1:30 Ponca – GRADUATION at 7:00pm

Is it Spring yet???



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.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM PONCA HIGH SCHOOL

SPELLING BEE

Number 136, Q-U-A-S-H-E-D was the winning word spelled by Grace Rooney at the Ponca Schools 2017 Spelling Bee. Twenty spellers started our oral Spelling Bee and the top five spellers moved onto the Dixon County Spelling Bee. Joining Grace at the Dixon County Spelling Bee were Kaden Fields, Bailey Paden, Abbie Hrouda, and Jacob Statema. Kaden Fields and Abbie Hrouda tied for 5th place at the Dixon County Spelling Bee. In case you are wondering, quashed means "put an end to; suppress."

MAP AND NeSA TESTING

During the spring season of the school year we are busy preparing students for MAP, NeSA and this year the ACT assessments. All students in grades 7-11 will be MAP testing on March 21 and 22. NeSA testing will not begin until later in April for students in grades 3-8. This year 11th grade students will not write the NeSA test instead all 11th grade students will write the ACT. Because we are now 1 to 1 with Chromebooks, the window of time required to administer each of these assessments has been reduced from over a month to about a week. This means our students have the opportunity to learn more of the curriculum prior to testing.



Clipping Box Tops is an easy way to help earn cash for our school.

Each one is worth 10¢ for our school!

Just look for the pink Box Tops on hundreds of products. All you have to do is clip them and send them to school.

For more information on Box Tops, including a list of participating products, go to BTFE.com. Be sure to sign up as a member (it's free!) so you can check out our school's earnings details and get access to coupons and bonus offers.

Notes from the Guidance Office

Next A.C.T. Testing Date....

Packet Registration Deadline =
March 3, 2017
Testing Date = April 8, 2017

SENIORS.....

Deadline for the Ponca Community Educational Foundation Scholarships is:
Tuesday, March 8, 2017
4:00 p.m.

P.H.S. Graduates: Five-Year Follow-up Survey

Each year school districts are asked to track the career path their graduates followed upon graduation. Here is Ponca School District's follow-up survey from the last five graduating classes.

| Class | 2 Yr. | 4 Yr. | Military | Work | Family | Other | Totals |
|-------|-------|-------|----------|------|--------|-------|--------|
| 2016 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 7 | -- | 2 | 26 |
| 2015 | 10 | 16 | 2 FT/2PT | 3 | -- | | 31 |
| 2014 | n/a | 11 | 1 | 15 | -- | | 26 |
| 2013 | 3 | 17 | 2 FT/1PT | 13 | -- | | 35 |
| 2012 | n/a | 1 | 1 | 26 | -- | 1 | 29 |

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 (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: fran hassler@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

Elementary News

March has finally arrived and hopefully old man winter is behind us. The 3rd quarter will end on March 10th and it seems like the 3rd quarter flew by. I hope we can say the same about the 4th quarter in May.

At the January school board meeting, our school board approved the installation of a new playground at Jackson Elementary. We are really excited! Please thank Ms. Reznicek and the school board for the new playground!! We cannot wait!

Although the weather is changing and warmer weather is more prevalent please dress your child in appropriate clothing for school. The students will be going outside for recess and the weather man is not always 100% accurate!

NeSA and spring MAP testings are just around the corner and teachers are working hard to prepare our students for these very important tests. These are very important tests to help us measure growth and compare how we are doing academically. Parents can do their part by making sure your children get plenty of rest and eat a good breakfast before coming to school.

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 option enroll your child into the Ponca School District. Option enrollment is determined on an individual basis and not according to families.

Class field trips are not far off and we have expectations for field trips. Classroom teachers will send home expectations before students attend these field trips. Please review these expectations with your child. Students must be in good standing to attend the field trips. Good standing means homework assignments are complete, classroom assignments are up to date, and there are no behavioral concerns.

Kindergarten roundup will be Friday, April 21st. There will be no school for the kindergarten on Friday, April 21st. Please check the list in the newsletter, if your potential Kindergarten child is not listed please contact the Jackson Elementary (402-632-4276) so they can be added to the list. There is more information about Kindergarten round-up in the newsletter.

It's time to start thinking about Pre-school. **The Pre-school open house will be Tuesday, April 11th at 6:00pm.** Pre-school students must be 4 years old by July 31st and cannot be kindergarten eligible.

The Ponca's Elementary Student Council will host a

St. Patrick's Day Daddy/Daughter, Mother/Son Dance for students up to 6th grade.

Friday, March 17, 2017
Ponca School West Gym
7:00-8:30 p.m.

Admission to the dance will be a freewill offering.

A photo booth will be available and several raffle items along with the dance.
Raffle tickets will be sold; one for a dollar or six for five dollars.

Snacks will be provided.

DJ Leprechaun, will be playing the music and says, "It's no Blarney" that he wants everyone to not chicken out on doing the Chicken Dance at 7:30.

Proceeds from the dance will be donated to the school towards the purchase of an intercom system.
(SIDE NOTE: Presently, announcements are broadcast through the phone system. If anyone is in a hallway, on the phone, in either the gym, fine arts theater, or the IT building the announcements cannot be heard.)



UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS:

February 28th – Middle School Concert @ 7:00
March 7th – Middle School Festival @ WSC time TBA
March 14th – USD Jazz Festival
March 25th – Class C All-State @ Kearney
March 27th – Northeast Jazz Festival
March 31st & April 1st – Student Showcase



Congratulations to the following students For being selected to participate in the Class C All-State Honor Band!!



Wind Ensemble: Carin Mellick (3rd Chair)
Symphonic Band: Meg Keller, Sam Brickett (2nd Chair), Morgan Janssen

Junior High:
Sarah Beach (2nd Chair), Grace Rooney, Jacob Statema,
Matthew Hayes, Austen Janssen, Chase Kastning (1st Chair)
Tyler Arrasmith, Terry Trizila

Attention Pep Band!!!!

Our basketball teams have been having a great season!!! This means that they have a very good chance at going to state. If the teams do make it to state, the pep band will be traveling with them down to Lincoln! Once we know more details, they will be announced.

Girls State Basketball is March 2-4

Boys State Basketball is March 9-11

Ponca Student Showcase



You are cordially invited to the Ponca Student Showcase!



This concert will feature student performers in a variety show displaying the talented students at Ponca School!

We will have two performances,
March 31st and April 1st at 7:00 PM
in the Fine Arts Auditorium.

Come support our students!



20 BOOKS Can Make the Difference

Kids who grow up in a home with as few as **20 BOOKS** reach a **higher level of education** than those who don't.¹



Join us in sharing a love of reading with our students at the

Ponca Public School

Scholastic Book Fair from

March 8th - March 17th

- Visit the Book Fair as a family.
- Talk with your child about what they are reading.
- Connect your child with books they want to read and build your home library.

It's a great way to ensure your child's success!

Mr. Bob Hayes

Principal

¹Evans, Mariah, Dr. Kelley, J., Sikora, J. and Treiman, D. J. "Family Scholarly Culture and Educational Success: Books and Schooling in 27 Nations." Research in Social Stratification and Mobility, Volume 28, Issue 2. Pages 171-197. June 2010.



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SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR SCHEDULE

March 8 – 17, 2017

Ponca School Library

Visit the fair with your elementary children. Find their scheduled time below.

JACKSON SCHOOL

| | | | |
|----------|---|-------------|---------------|
| March 13 | M | PK (Monday) | 9:30 – 9:50 |
| | | K - Curry | 9:50 – 10:10 |
| | | 2-Sprakel | 10:10 – 10:30 |
| | | 1 – Hoffman | 10:30 – 10:50 |

| | | | |
|----------|---|--------------|---------------|
| March 14 | T | PK (Tuesday) | 9:30 – 9:50 |
| | | K-Todd | 9:50 – 10:10 |
| | | 2 - Keifer | 10:10 – 10:30 |
| | | 1 - Hill | 10:30 – 10:50 |

PONCA SCHOOL

| | | | |
|----------|----|---|-------------|
| March 15 | W | 6 th Grade – Webb/Schindler | 2:00 – 2:45 |
| March 16 | TH | 3 rd Grade - Simington/Templeman | 1:00 – 1:50 |
| | | 5 th Grade – Carnell/Stewart | 2:00 – 2:45 |
| March 17 | F | 4 th Grade – Stroud | 1:50 – 2:15 |
| | | 4 th Grade – Fields | 2:20-2:45 |

Visit Ponca's Book Fair webpage

<http://www.scholastic.com/bf/poncasch>



Parents who have children five years of age on or before July 31, 2017, may wish to send their son/daughter to kindergarten during the 2017/2018 school year.

Kindergarten Roundup for these students is scheduled for April 21st at Jackson Elementary. Parents may register their child for roundup by returning the form below or calling the Jackson Elementary School office at 632-4276. More information concerning Kindergarten Roundup will be provided as we get closer to that date.

Please return this form to:
 Jackson Elementary P.O. Box 67 Jackson, NE 68743

Child will attend _____ Child will NOT attend _____ Kindergarten in 2017/2018

Student Name: _____ Boy _____ Girl _____

Date of Birth: _____ Phone Number: _____

Parents or Guardian: _____

Address: _____

The following children are eligible to attend Kindergarten at Jackson Elementary during the 2017/2018 school year. This list is according to the current census and current preschool students. If your child is not listed and is eligible to attend, please contact the office at 632-4276 or return this form to the school address listed above.

Micah Bell
 Madison Bevelhymer
 Covey Clarkson
 Zekiel Conrad
 Gianna Delperdang
 Addilynn Dutcher-Bessmer
 Mylee Grant*
 Brantley Heath
 Trayvin Jelsma
 Brody Keller
 Henry Kingsbury

Alaina Kramper*
 Mason Lowe
 Dayton Mari
 Aubrey McGhee
 Jasper Mercial*
 Myles Olander
 Jaxson Perkins
 Tatum Pfister*
 Skyler Pick
 Josh Poulosky
 Lincoln Priest

Allie Schweers*
 Saylor Schweers
 Gabe Sjobom
 Traeyton Sprenger
 Colin Sullivan
 Jett Taylor
 Brayzon Swanger*
 Brayden Wentzel

* Enrollment Option application necessary to attend Jackson Elementary.

Preschool Open House

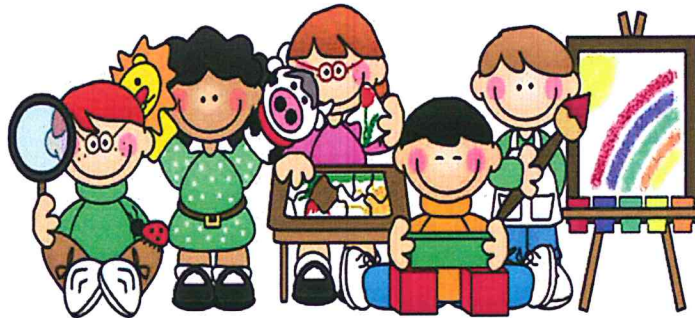


Bring your treasured preschooler to our Open House to register for next year and visit their new classroom! They will go on a treasure hunt discovering their new school and the things they will be doing each day.

Tuesday, April 11th
6:00 pm at
Jackson Elementary

Students enjoy a unique curriculum with many exciting events throughout the year. *Preschool is a 4-year-old program that is a full-day, every other day program that includes shuttle bus transportation from the Ponca School for your convenience.* (Student must be four on or before July 31, 2017)

I can't wait to share all the details with you!
Mrs. Mennenga, teacher



If you are unable to attend but would like to request a registration packet, please call Jackson Elementary at 632-4276.

It is necessary to complete all of the enrollment forms and submit the registration fee in order to be on the official roster.

Ponca School Newsletter
Ponca Public School
P O Box 568
Ponca, Nebraska 68770

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PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

MARCH 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 15th, 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.