

May 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



Information from Joan M. Reznicek, Superintendent of Schools

**The official last day of school for grades K – 12 is Tuesday, May 23rd.
On Monday, May 22nd & Tuesday, May 23rd,
school will be dismissed at 1:10 at Jackson and at 1:30 at Ponca.**

The Commencement Exercises are scheduled for Friday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the West Gymnasium.

On behalf of the Ponca Public Schools Board, Administration, Teachers, and Staff, I would like to extend our most sincere congratulations to the Class of 2017 and to the parents/guardians of the graduates.

Seniors, please do not hesitate to call us in the future for assistance or come back to visit us at Ponca Public Schools.

The Baccalaureate Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, May 7th at 7:00 PM in the Fine Arts Theatre. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Quick Reminders:

Incoming Kindergarteners and 7th graders MUST have a physical completed prior to the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

With the summer vacation starting soon, please make sure your child reads throughout the summer months. It is proven research that reading during the summer months leads to better academic performance when the child returns to school in the fall.

**The First Day of School for the 2017-2018 school year is
Thursday, August 17th with a 1:30 early dismissal.
Every Monday during the 2017-2018 school year,
the school day will start 1 hour late due to professional development.**

On a personal note, thank you to all of the Ponca patrons that have supported and encouraged me throughout my tenure at Ponca Public Schools making this a positive, strong learning institution noticed by other schools. Thank you to all for the get-well wishes, gifts, and visits throughout my stay in the hospitals and nursing homes I lived in from November 20, 2015 through March 25, 2016 after the car accident. In a short six years, we have come a long way with increasing state and regional test scores K - 12; sprucing up the schools where repairs were desperately needed; and hiring strong, passionate teachers and staff members who love to educate students using their special talents. Additionally, we have brought the District to the 21st century with technology in every classroom; providing playgrounds in both Ponca and Jackson (Jackson this summer); improving curriculum and instruction with up-to-date / current textbooks; providing a sense of accomplishment whether through academics, athletics, or the fine arts; and many other thoughts still come to mind.

Thank you!!!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joan M. Reznicek".

Parting Thoughts from our 7-12 Principal, Ms. Rinas

BEST OF THE CLASS- On April 26, Ponca Schools Valedictorian, Rachel Kneifl, traveled to Sioux City for the “Best of the Class” taping. Be sure to view KCAU-TV throughout the graduation season and watch for Rachel Kneifl. Congratulations to Rachel for achieving this honor and representing Ponca Schools!

THE MARCH BEGINS- The Class of 2017 is marching through their final days at Ponca Schools. Soon the milestone march they have been preparing for will begin, the march to *Pomp and Circumstance*. At 7:00 p.m. on May 12, 2017, the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2017 will be held in the east gymnasium at Ponca Public Schools. Members of the class are wished success and joy in the journey, as they march up and down the paths of life in the years ahead.

SEMESTER TESTING SCHEDULE- Check-out the semester testing schedule printed in this newsletter. Semester tests will be administered May 22 and 23. Students in grades 9-11 who have an 85% or better grade average in a class and have not exceeded the allowable eight absences for second semester are exempt from writing semester tests in the qualified classes. During semester testing days, students who meet the criteria may be released from their semester testing periods with a parental note. Grades 9-11 students may also be released from study halls with parental permission, during semester testing days.

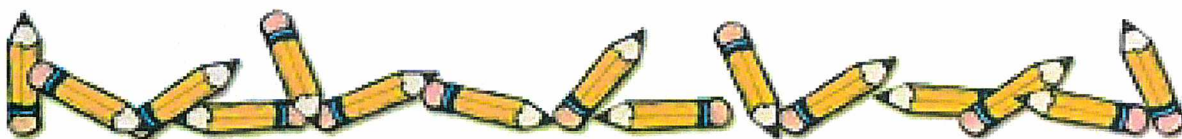
Congratulations, Rachel Kneifl KCAU-TV’s “Best of Class”

Parting Thoughts.....

Farming is the only other life work I can think of that has seasonal beginnings and endings similar to that experienced by those who work in schools. Like a farmer we look forward in anticipation to a new school year of cultivating young minds as well as to the end of the school year when we are craving some time to relax after all of our cultivation.

Many of you know my season at Ponca Schools will be ending this year with my retirement. As I think about this ending I also think of two beginnings. The first is my beginning in 1993, as the 7-12 Principal at Ponca Schools. Ponca Schools and community proved to be the right fit for me. I have enjoyed working with the students, educators, and families throughout my 24 years. Ponca is a special place filled with special people who not only want what is best for their children and community, but are willing to do what it takes to have what they want. I had no idea where I was going to end up in 1993, but I am glad I ended up at Ponca Schools and in Ponca, Nebraska.

The second beginning that is on my mind is the beginning I will soon experience no longer being a part of the day to day activities at Ponca Schools. People ask me if I am counting down the days and I can say I am not. Other people ask me if I am going to stay in Ponca. Just as I did not know in 1993, where I was headed, I don't know where 2017 and beyond will take me. What I do know is I am grateful to have served this district as the 7-12 Principal for the past 24 years. Thank-you for trusting me with your children's education and for your friendships and support over the years!



RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE

HONORING:

Joan Reznicek

&

Michelle Rinas



Joan Reznicek

38 Years in Education
6 Years at Ponca
Public Schools



Michelle Rinas

34 Years in Education
24 Years at Ponca
Public Schools

Ponca High School Commons

Thursday, May 25, 2017

7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Notes from the Elementary

We have come to the end of another school year and it just doesn't seem possible. The year has gone by so quickly. It has been a very smooth year for Jackson & Ponca Elementary. We hope you have seen the progress we have seen throughout the year. On behalf of the elementary staff thank-you for sharing your children with us, it is so rewarding to see them grow and succeed!

We have many events coming in May.

* **The last day of school for elementary will be Tuesday, May 23rd, dismissal for Jackson @ 1:10 and Ponca for 1:30!!**

* **May 4th** is the elementary Pre-K through 2 spring concert @ Ponca @ 7:00pm.

* **May 5th** is the elementary field day @ the sports complex @ 1:15pm.

* **May 15th** is the elementary 3 through 6 concert @ Ponca @ 7:00pm.

* **May 18th** is Pre-school graduation @ 7:00pm in Jackson.

* **May 22nd** is Kindergarten graduation @ 7:00pm in Jackson.



Summer School will begin June 5th and end June 22nd. **Only students recommended by their teacher will be considered for summer school.** You will receive a letter in the mail if your child has been recommended for summer school. Summer school will begin at 8:30am and end at 11:30am every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. A snack will be provided each day. The Kindergarten and 1st grade will have summer school in Jackson, transportation will be provided from Ponca. Students must have perfect attendance during summer school, if a student misses a day it must be made up! Please call Mr. Hayes, if you have any questions.

Classroom assignments for the 2016-2017 school year will be sent out in the August newsletter. Parents will sometimes request a certain teacher for their child for various reasons. It is impossible to grant these requests and keep a balance in the classrooms. We use the following criteria when splitting a class: a balance of girls and boys in each section, an academic balance of students, and a balance of Title students and special education students.

Final Report Cards can be picked up in the elementary offices from 8:00 to 1:00 in Jackson and from 8:00am to 4:00pm in Ponca beginning May 31st. If you can't make these times the offices at both buildings will be open from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on May 31st.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the students, the staff, the parents, and the community for all their support and hard work to make this year so successful. I truly enjoy my time as elementary principal. You could not pick a better student body or staff to work with, thank you!

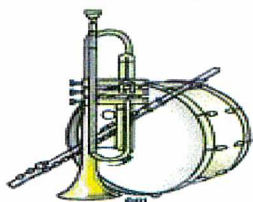
Have a great summer and we will see you August 17th!!

Mr. Hayes
Elementary Principal

2017 District Music Results

Band

Concert Band – 1, 1, 1
Jazz Band – 1, 1, 2
Morgan Janssen (Trumpet Solo) - 1
Carin Mellick & Shana Seneviratne (Flute Duet) - 1
Rachel Bentz & Sophie Kramper (Woodwind Duet) - 1
Joel Beacom (Snare Drum Solo) - 1
Carter Kingsbury, Sam Brickett, Paul Masin, Garrett Anderson,
Grace Salmen (Percussion Ensemble) - 1
Colson Watchorn (Tuba Solo) - 1
Colson Watchorn & Van Greer (Low Brass Duet) - 1
Katie Meister & Claire Hoesing (Tenor Sax Duet) - 1
Olivia Hrouda & Meg Keller (Mixed Instrumental Duet) - 2



Choir



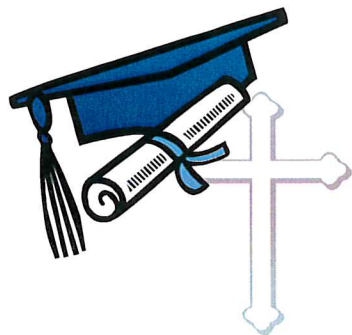
Mixed Choir – 2, 2, 1
Swing Choir – 1, 1, 1
Rachel Bentz Solo - 1
Olivia Hrouda Solo - 1
Morgan Janssen Solo – 1
Colson Watchorn. Solo – 1

Upcoming Events

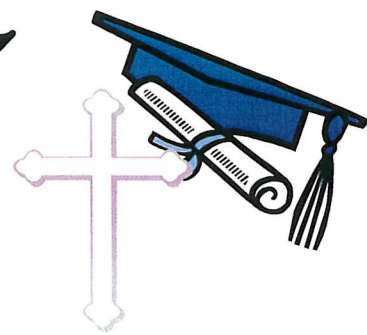
May 1st 5th & 6th Grade Pender Honor Band
Concert @ 5:30 pm (Pender Gym)

May 12th Graduation (Chorus and Band)

May 15th 3rd-6th Elementary Music
and Band Concert @ 7:00 p.m.



Class of 2017



Baccalaureate Service
Sunday, May 7th at 7:00 p.m.
Ponca Fine Arts Theater

Public is welcome to attend the baccalaureate service which is organized by the parents of the Class of 2017.

Senior students and parents please arrive at 6:15 p.m., if possible to help set up. Tables will be available to display two items such as your graduate's senior picture and baby picture.

For more information, please contact Melanie Charlson (712) 259-8817 or Christy Schwezrs (712) 898-7116

Parents of the Class of 2018...

Please make plans to attend the Class of 2018 and Parents' Meeting scheduled for Tuesday evening, May 16, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. at Ponca School in the Commons Area. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the 2018 Seniors and their parents with vital information regarding their senior year. Topics include senior year timeline of events, senior trip and fundraising, graduation details, college visits and scholarship information. Ms. Rinas, Mrs. Hassler, and Mrs. Balvantin will be presenting that evening. We look forward to seeing you then!



Congratulations to the 2017 National Honor Society Inductees



Brooklyn Bacon, Emma Beach, Sam Brickett, Mackenzie Crossgrove,
Connor Day, Max Masin, Carin Mellick,
Morgan Swick and Alexa VanDyke

Are you new to the Ponca School District or have a new baby in your household?

The school district is required to conduct an annual census every June for children age 0-21. These census numbers are used by the Nebraska Department of Education for State Aid and for federal funding.



This list is also used to invite children who are at the age to begin school to the Spring Kindergarten Roundup.



Please contact Sue Gill (402) 632-4276 or
Lisa Hohenstein at (402)755-5700 with the children's names, birth dates and genders.

Immunization

Requirements for Upcoming Kindergarteners, 7th Graders and Graduates

Attention Upcoming Kindergarten and 7th Grade Students

Students entering kindergarten and seventh grade in the 2017-2018 school year must meet the following state requirements;

Kindergarten Students need;

1. A **certified birth certificate**, the one obtained for a fee from the state your child was born in. Generally, it has a raised seal and state identification number on it. They are available over the internet or by going to the courthouse in the county your child was born in.
2. A **physical exam**
3. A **visual examination** within six months prior to the entrance of school. This test needs to include testing for amblyopia (lazy eye), strabismus (misalignment of the eyes), as well as external and internal eye health. Reading the eye chart at the doctor's office **does not** meet state requirements. Some physicians do not do extensive eye exams, in that case, you will need to make an appointment to see an eye doctor.
4. **Kindergarten shots.** There are several vaccines that your child will need prior to entering kindergarten.

7th Graders;

1. A **physical exam**
2. A **tetanus booster**

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.

. **These state required items MUST be handed in by the first day of school, or your child will be sent home until we have the records on file.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Herfel @ 755-5734

CAMPS...CAMPS...CAMPS

Below is a list of camps available this summer. Please check the Ponca website for registration forms.

Boys Fundamental Basketball Camp - \$20

DATES: Tuesday May 30th, Wednesday May 31st and Thursday June 1st
TIMES: Boys entering 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade (2017-2018 school year) 8:00-9:30 A.M.
Boys entering 6th, 7th and 8th Grade (2017-2018 school year) 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Boys Basketball Shooting School- \$20

DATES: Mondays this summer...June 12th, June 19th, June 26th, July 10th and July 17th
TIMES: 9th-12th grade Boys and Girls (2017-2018 school year) 8:00-9:00 A.M.
5th-8th grade Boys and Girls (2017-2018 school year) 9:00-10:00 A.M.

Girls Fundamental Basketball Camp - \$20

DATES: Wednesday May 31st, Thursday June 1st and Friday June 2nd
TIMES: Girls entering 3rd - 5th Grade (2017-2018 school year) 12:00 - 1:30 P.M.
Girls entering 6th - 8th Grade (2017-2018 school year) 1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Girls Basketball Shooting School- \$20

DATES: Wednesdays: June 7th, June 14th, June 21st and Thursday, June 29th
TIMES: Girls entering 7th - 12th Grade (2017-2018 school year) 7:30 - 8:15 A.M.
Girls entering 4th - 6th Grade (2017-2018 school year) 8:15 - 9:00 A.M.

Golf Camp \$20 (with Highland Oaks Golf membership) \$50 (without membership)

DATES: Tuesday, May 30th - Friday, June 2nd
TIMES: 6th - 12th Grade Boys/Girls (2017-2018 school year) 8:00-9:30 A.M.
4th - 5th Grade Boys/Girls (2017-2018 school year) 10:00-11:30 P.M.

Girls Fundamental Volleyball Camp - \$20

DATES: Monday, June 19th and Tuesday, June 20th
TIMES: Girls entering 3rd - 5th Grade (2017-2018 school year) 8:30-10:00 A.M.
Girls entering 6th - 8th Grade (2017-2018 school year) 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Ponca Elementary Football Camp - \$20

DATES: Monday, July 24th and Tuesday, July 25th
TIMES: Grades 5th - 8th Grade (2017-2018 school year) 6:00 - 7:30 P.M.



ATTENTION....Sports, Kindergarten and 7th Grade Physicals at Ponca Medical Clinic

Ponca Medical Clinic is offering a special rate of \$35.00 Please call for appointment. No insurance will be filed.

Payment is expected at time of service. Please call (402) 755-2231 to schedule your physical.

Thank You for Saving Box Tops!!

**We are trying to reach our goal of saving over
\$1000.00 in Box Tops this school year. So send them in ASAP!
AND.....Please keep saving all summer long.
We will continue our competition next school year!!!**



Earn Cash for Our School!

Casey
Brentlinges

Carim
Medlich
H

Levi
Gill

Energy
Pickett

Abby
Wilson

Tim
Salmon

Pradeep
Srinivasan

Henry
Lew
Kohn

Sam
Briccett

Alexa
VanDyke

Olivia
Bellows

Hailey
Bellows

Emily
Kasinger

Katherine
Cunha

Elizabeth
Watman

Alison
Brennan
Brooklin
Bacon

Bethany
Bradford

Franklin
Bennett

Emma
Kraff

Emma
Widd

Lauren
Sullivan

Michael
Logue

Taylor
Fierch

Capri
Hudson

Justin
Wisker

Garage
Rough

Lauren
Sullivan

Michael
Logue

Clara
Haines

Justin
Wisker

Garage
Rough

Lauren
Sullivan

Michael
Logue

Olivia
Bellows

Hailey
Bellows

Hailey
Bellows

Hailey
Bellows

Hailey
Bellows

Hailey
Bellows

Hailey
Bellows

Thanks for helping support our "after prom"!

Ponca High School 2017

THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

The Ponca After Prom committee would like to thank the following businesses and individuals who donated to make our event successful! We had over 105 students who attended. Your donations provided 5 large inflatables, a photo booth, food, t-shirts, hypnotist, and prizes.

Thank you again! (If your name was inadvertently left off this list, we apologize!)

D.Lane & D. Davey	Richard Dohma
Dave & Fran Hassler	Fran & Vernice Kingsbury
Kevin Hohenstein Construction	Nick & Patty Sullivan
Salem Lutheran Church	Dr. Jeff Knerl
Cooks Country Store	Dan & Jackie Coughlin
Mohr Funeral Home	Sara Bye Agency LLC
Keller Pharmacy	AM Trucking LLC
NE Journal Leader	Evan Uthof Farm ACCT
Kenton Book Construction	Audrey Dohma
Ponca Coop	Gene Day Council Knights of Columbus
Rush Trucking	Helen Scheweers Living Trust
Great West Casulty	Mercy Medical Center Medical Staff Acct
Elms Health Care	American Legion Chapp. Post 117
Bank of Dixon County	James & Gwen Kingsbury
Willis Animal Clinic	Diane Neill
Northeast Nebr Telephone Comp	Ponca Area Community Club
Highland Oaks Golf Course	Vermillion Hy-Vee
Gill Hauling	Pepsi
Iowa-Nebr State Bank	South Sioux City Hy-Vee
Dr James Buttermore	Susan Smith
Siouxland Federal C.	Hwy 9 Auto
Murray White Construction	Interstate Batteries
Mark or Fran Poulosky	Melissa Olander
Marron Service	Bobier Studio
LP Gill	Outlaw Pizza
McCardles Bar	Briar Cliff College
Quality Power & Control	Morningside College
Vermillion Ford	Wayne State College
Dan/Deb Krause	NPPD
United Methodist Woman	

SEMESTER 2 2017 -2018 TEST SCHEDULE

Monday (May 22)

8:10-9:10 Period 1 Test
 9:10-9:25 Break
 9:25-10:25 Period 3 Test
 10:25-10:40 Break
 10:40-11:40 Period 5 Test
 11:40-12:15 Lunch
 12:15-1:15 Period 7 Test
 1:15-1:30 Final Check-out

Tuesday (May 23)

8:10-9:10 Period 2 Test
 9:10-9:25 Break
 9:25-10:25 Period 4 Test
 10:25-10:40 Break
 10:40-11:40 Period 6 Test
 11:40-12:15 Lunch
 12:15-1:15 Period 8 Test
 1:15-1:30 Final Check-out

STUDENTS WHO HAVE FEWER THEN NINE ABSENCES FOR THE SEMESTER AND A SEMESTER GRADE OF 85% OR BETTER IN A CLASS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO WRITE SECOND SEMESTER TESTS IN CLASSES THAT MEET TWO SEMESTERS OR IN SINGLE SEMESTER CLASSES THAT ONLY MEET SECOND SEMESTER.

9-12 STUDENTS WHO HAVE A SCHEDULED STUDY HALL OR ARE EXEMPT FROM WRITING SEMESTER TESTS MAY BE EXCUSED WITH WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM A PARENT/GUARDIAN.

STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT WRITING SEMESTER TESTS MAY ONLY BE IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING OR ON SCHOOL GROUNDS IF THEY ARE UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL.

Ponca School Newsletter
Ponca Public School
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Ponca, Nebraska 68770

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

ECRWSS
Postal Patron

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL
MAY 2017



Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

Ponca High School
Graduation

Friday, May 12, 2017

7:00 p.m.

