

October 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



My, oh my, how time flies! The first quarter of school is already coming to an end. It's amazing how fast time goes once the school year starts. Before we know it, Thanksgiving, then Winter, then Graduation! Our teachers and staff have been hard at work ensuring our students reach their full potential and learn as much as they can. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our staff for all their hard work and dedication to the students of Ponca Public Schools.

Likewise, I would like to recognize the students of our great district. My first 2 months of school at Ponca has been spent walking the halls, interacting with students, and visiting a few classrooms. I am truly impressed with our students on a daily basis. Whether it be the great behavior, strong character, or high achievement, our students exude excellence on a daily basis!

Speaking of excellence, it is my honor to recognize a few accomplishments of our students. First, a very special congratulations to senior, Sam Brickett. Sam has been chosen as a **National Merit Semi-Finalist**. This is an outstanding accomplishment! Congratulations to Sam and his family for this accomplishment. I would also like to recognize the class of 2017. Last year's seniors scored an average ACT of 21.7. The state average for seniors was 21.4. Also, a very special shout out to our current seniors who scored an average ACT of 21.1 as Juniors. The state average for their class was 19.3. The 21.1 is an average that includes all seniors, as last year was the first year all Juniors were required to take the ACT as a state-wide assessment. What an excellent mark of hard work, dedication, and achievement! Again, congratulations to all.

As we progress into the month of October, below are a few announcements/reminders:

- If you have a student in grades 7-12 and were not able to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences on the 21<sup>st</sup>, please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns.
- Elementary (K-6) Parent-Teacher Conferences will be October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Both nights' conferences will be from 5:00-8:00 pm.
- The end of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter is Wednesday, October 18.
- As the weather begins to change, please be sure your child(ren) is/are dressed appropriately. Time to break out the jackets, coats, hats, gloves, etc.
- We have been noticing an excessive amount of trash and debris left on the playground in Ponca. The playground is a popular place and we love our community being able to use it on nights and weekends. Please remind your child(ren) to pick up after themselves and use the trash cans to dispose of waste. With everyone's help, we can ensure the playground stays nice for years to come.

## **NO SCHOOL OR EARLY DISMISSAL ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL – Fall Break

Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> – EARLY DISMISSAL – Thanksgiving Recess

Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Recess

Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> – EARLY DISMISSAL – End of first semester – Winter Break

Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> – NO SCHOOL – Winter Break

Saturday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> – Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> – NSAA MORATORIUM

Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – NO SCHOOL – Teacher Workday

# Ponca High School

## From Mr. Lahm's "Pen,"

I risk losing all credibility with this article, but I have really come to love children's movies. I catch myself anxious to get to the next song or to the life lesson portions of these movies. From Lion King to Toy Story and Moana and Trolls, I have "let it go" in regards to saving any kind of tough guy reputation I imagined for myself. Watching our girl's eyes light up when the next song plays is really quite fun as a parent, and I catch myself singing many of the songs when we are playing as a family or in the car. Maybe some of you can relate, and I look forward to the comments I receive once you receive this newsletter.

As many of you might relate, we could be bitter about the fact that maybe we have not had much personal time to do such things as take in a movie of more adult sorts. We may even at times get caught wishing we could have our old lives without kids again. We would never change our lives and we would never wish harm on our children or families, but we just desire a week or month ☺ that would simply be about me or us.

This is exactly the reason that I love our character meeting theme this year: "Attitude Determines Direction." I do not know about you, but I need this reminder posted about 5 inches in front of my eyes all day long. We have a choice to make in regards to how we view the world around us. We can see the world as a place that is all about me OR **we can see it as a place that we have the opportunity to serve others in all we say and do including our children.** Please help hold me accountable for making sure my attitude determines that my direction is toward serving others mainly my family, this school, and this community. And...who knows...we might get caught sometime singing these children songs from the movies together.

## OCTOBER NEWS

A great big thank-you to our Student Council, cheerleaders, band, athletes, student body, sponsors, coaches, parents, and Mrs. Hassler and Mrs. Wenger for making Homecoming 2017 a fantastic one. There is no doubt that "Ponca's Got Game." It was a spirit filled week with a lot of student participation AND parent participation!

October 18 is the last day of our first quarter. Please continue to login to PowerSchool to check your student(s) grades. We will not be sending report cards home this year. However, please contact the school and a report card may be picked up in the office.

The Red Ribbon Campaign® is the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation, reaching millions of young people during Red Ribbon Week. Ponca Schools will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week, October 23-27. On Tuesday, of Red Ribbon Week (October 24) our Ponca School Student Council will be hosting a blood drive from 9:00-2:00. Please take time to donate blood to the Life Serve Blood Center. Throughout Red Ribbon Week students will be participating in a variety of activities which promote healthy and drug free lifestyles. Visit [www.redribbon.org](http://www.redribbon.org) to learn more about Red Ribbon Week and get tips for talking to your kids about drugs. The life you save may be that of your own child or a dear friend.

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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: (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

# OCTOBER INFORMATION FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE...MRS. HASSLER

## P.S.A.T. TEST FOR VOLUNTEER SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) is scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, October 11, 2017. This test is administered annually through the guidance office to those juniors who have voluntarily registered (and paid) for it. The cost of the test is \$18.00. Checks must be made payable to Ponca Public School. Students need to be registered by Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

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 pre-determinant 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.

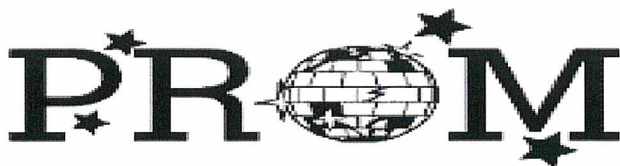
If your son or daughter has registered for the PSAT, please remind them that a good night's sleep and breakfast prior to the test are helpful test-taking tips over which they have control! If you have questions or comments concerning the PSAT contact Mrs. Hassler at the school.

## 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 23-27.

## ATTENTION: JR. AND SR. PARENTS

**Post Prom Planning Meeting  
Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 p.m. @ Ponca Public School**



OCTOBER IS

**domestic violence  
awareness month**

**1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men** experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetime.

Haven House is a local agency which offers free and confidential services to those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

**haven·house**  
Family Services Center

24 Hour Crisis Line 1-800-440-4633  
www.havenhousefsc.org

Serving Cedar, Dakota, Dixon, Thurston,  
& Wayne Counties since 1978.

*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.*

# Elementary News

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. **Please remember that the elementary coaches are not responsible for other children coming to practices. If siblings or friends are coming with the elementary athletes they must have adult supervision and are not allowed to run around the building.**

A reminder; if you have a membership and a FOB to the weight room and west gym, **students are not allowed to use the facilities without adult supervision.** Abusing this privilege could mean the FOB will be deactivated and no refund will be granted.

The Hy Vee receipt program has been very good to us the past couple of years. We have received nearly \$1000 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. If you are picking students up after school in Jackson please realize the east side of the street has been changed to a No Parking Zone by the City of Jackson. Parents are welcome to park and wait in the parking lot in front of the school; the busses now load on the north end of the school so you will not get blocked in. Parents please do not enter the building during the dismissal period. Please wait for your child outside the building.

Please check into the office when entering the building. We are having problems with parents entering the building without checking in. We are trying to make sure our buildings are safe and secure. Checking into the building helps us keep track of who is in the building. Please pick up your children outside the building when school is dismissed there is enough congestion in the halls without adding more people.

Homework is a necessary part of the education process. It is not busy work or punishment. Homework is a practice of the concepts learned during the day and a review of concepts from previous days. Many students are not using their study time in school to work on home work assignments. Please visit with your child about using their time in school wisely and effectively.

**Parent-teachers conferences are Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm to 7:00pm and Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm to 8:00pm in Ponca.** Report cards can be picked up at conferences. A schedule will be sent home soon, remember **all conferences are held in Ponca.** 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. It is difficult to have an effective conference with the student present.

- October 18<sup>th</sup> end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter ends.
- No school Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Picture retake day is October 19<sup>th</sup> in Jackson and Ponca.
- The next school board meeting is October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at Ponca.

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## Title I Upcoming Event!!!

Title I Night will be Thursday, October 19, 2017 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the walkway of the Ponca School, right inside the main doors.



Come and join us for **a fun and informative hour.** **Bring your child with you because** we're going to demonstrate our new Family Fun-Pack learning games, and there will be time for you and your child to enjoy playing them together.

# JR. HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL PEP BAND SCHEDULE

All junior high and high school band students are required  
to be at the following games:

October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Volleyball Be at school by 6:50

October 6<sup>th</sup> – Football Be at field by 6:30

October 20<sup>th</sup> – Football Be at field by 6:30

# Concession Stand Worker Schedule

## JV Football Oct 3

Contact Stacey Swick Cell# 402-380-6170  
Ryan and Stacey Jackson  
Chris and Abbey Kingsbury

## Volleyball Oct 12

Contact: Julie Kramper Cell #712-223-4277  
Tracey & Angela Anderson  
Doug & Lynette Bauman

## Band Parents - Sign-up for free text message reminders

High School Band - Text: 81010 with the message: @mrssteckly

Junior High Band - Text: 81010 with the message: @mrssteck

# GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE ALL-STATE CHORUS AUDITION PARTICIPANTS

These students have been hard at work preparing for the All-State Chorus Auditions, held October 6-7, 2017. The audition will be uploaded to a state-wide website where they will be judged against other singers across Nebraska. Ponca has 8 singers auditioning this year. The audition selections will be announced to participants by noon on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Students will have until midnight on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> to submit their audition recording. This year's singers are:

Sopranos: Carin Mellick, Claire Hoelsing and Olivia Hrouda

Altos: Sophie Kramper Morgan Janssen

Tenors: Garrett Anderson

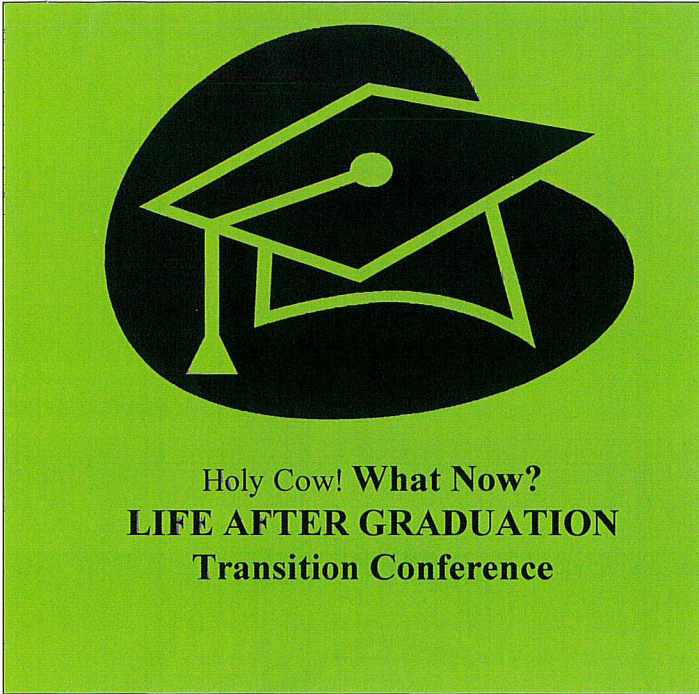
Basses: Colson Watchorn, Nathan Bauman and Kaden Fields



## THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING WHO DONATED BOOKS TO OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY

JAMIE HAMAR & KORTNEY FETHKENHER





**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**Lifelong Learning Center**  
**801 E. Benjamin Ave.**  
**Norfolk, Nebraska**  
**9:00 am-2:00 pm**

**Please mail registration forms to**  
**NorthStar Services**  
**Po Box 734**  
**O'Neill, NE 68763**

**E-mail to: conil@northstarservices.net**  
**Or Fax to (402) 336-2703**  
**Attention: Coni Meyer**

**This Is A Free Conference For Students, Parents, and Teachers involved in Special Education to explore post graduation opportunities. Registrations will be accepted through October 5th, although preferred by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Name:								
Address:		City:		State:		Zip:		
Phone:				Email:				
Check One:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teacher/Para	<input type="checkbox"/>	Student	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent	<input type="checkbox"/>	Presenter
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vendor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Committee Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other		
Name of School:								

(Each person attending must register separately)

Interested in attending next year? Leave us your email address & we will send information about next year's conference directly to you. Email address:	
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**Breakfast, sack lunch and break food will be provided, however we are unable to accommodate special dietary considerations, therefore, you are welcome to bring food to the conference to meet those needs.**

Photographs, audio & video will be captured during the conference. Attendees hereby grant HCWN & it's representatives permission to photograph &/or record them at the conference & distribute (both now & in the future) the attendee's image or voice in photographs, video, electronic reproductions & audio of such events and activities

Holy Cow! What Now?  
**LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**  
 Transition Conference

**PARENT & TEACHER AGENDA**

(Parents & Teachers welcome in student sessions or parent/teacher sessions)

TIME	PARTICIPANTS	EVENT	LOCATION
9:00 to 9:30	All Participants	Registration, Vendor/Service Displays	Atrium and Suites E & H
9:30 to 9:45	All Participants	Welcome	Suites F, G, I & J
9:45 to 10:45	All Participants	Keynote: <b>Ryan Moore</b> "Overcoming Obstacles"	Suites F, G, I & J
10:45 to 11:00	All Participants	Break Vendor/Service Displays	Suites E & H Atrium
11:00 to 12:00	All Participants	"Student Led IEP's" Wayne Tower School	Suites F, G, I & J
12:00-12:15	Parents/Teachers	Lunch	Get lunch & return to Main Room for next session
12:15 to 1:00	Parents/Teachers	"What WIOA Means in Transition from School to Work" Vocational Rehabilitation	Suites F, G, I & J
1:00 to 1:15	All Participants	Break Vendor/Service Displays	Suites E & H Atrium
1:15 to 2:00	Parents/Teachers	"The Political is Personal: The Importance of Effective Storytelling to Influence Policy" Brad Meurrens – Disability Rights Nebraska	Suites F, G, I & J
2:00	All Participants	Conference Evaluation, Snacks, Door Prize Drawings, & Farewells	Suites F, G, I & J

 **Note:** Suite K-L is available for student privacy/personal care needs

Holy Cow! What Now?  
**LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**  
 Transition Conference

**STUDENT AGENDA**

(Parents & Teachers welcome in student sessions or parent/teacher sessions)

TIME	PARTICIPANTS	EVENT	LOCATION
9:00 to 9:30	(All Participants)	Registration, Vendor/Service Displays	Atrium and Suites E & H
9:30 to 9:45	(All Participants)	Welcome	Suites F, G, I & J
9:45 to 10:45	(All Participants)	Keynote: <b>Ryan Moore</b> "Overcoming Obstacles"	Suites F, G, I & J
10:45 to 11:00	(All Participants)	Break Vendor/Service Displays	Suites E & H Atrium
11:00 to 12:00	(All Participants)	"Student Led IEP's" Wayne Tower School	Suites F, G, I & J
12:00-12:30	(Students)	Lunch	Get lunch & go to Suite E & H
12:30 to 1:10	(Students)	Vendor/Service Displays Passport Stamping	Atrium
1:10 to 1:20	(Students)	"Living on your own" Suite "B"	"Be a Winner in the Game of Life" Suite "D"
1:20 to 2:00	(Students)	Break Vendor/Service Displays Passport Stamping	Suites E & H Atrium
2:00	(All Participants)	"Living on your own" Suite "B"	"Be a Winner in the Game of Life" Suite "D"
2:00	(All Participants)	Conference Evaluation, Snacks, Door Prize Drawings & Farewells	Suites F, G, I & J

 **Note:** Suite K-L is available for student privacy/personal care needs

Ponca School Newsletter  
Ponca Public School  
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Ponca, Nebraska 68770

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**PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL**  

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**OCTOBER 2017**



*Congratulations!*

*2017-2018 Homecoming  
King Dalton Tremayne  
and  
Queen Sophie Kramper*

*Homecoming 2017*

