

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

October 2018

505 3rd Street, P O Box 568
Ponca, NE 68770

www.poncaschool.org

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



Well..... August and September have come and gone already! It has been a very productive start to the 2018-19 school year. Many thanks to our staff, students, and parents for your dedication and efforts.

As you are aware, every Monday is a one hour late start for our teachers to participate in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). This year, as part of the PLC process, we have established the first Monday of every month as the day a new instructional strategy (or focus area) is introduced for that respective month. The goal of the monthly strategies is to build teacher capacity and improve teaching and learning at Jackson and Ponca schools. This is a built-in professional development process for our teachers. During the month of September, we identified, discussed, and explored the topic of assignments and homework. Teachers were introduced to research surrounding homework and how it fits within the instructional process. We also analyzed examples of assignments from both schools and discussed areas such as quality vs. quantity, goals of the assignment/homework, providing feedback to students, using the results to drive future instruction, and others. We will continue to discuss and explore this topic, and others in future.

In October, our school district will begin implementing a new safety program called Standard Response Protocol (SRP). This program is designed to help us continue to make our school buildings, students, and staff safe. Members of our district Crisis Team attended training conducted by the Nebraska Department of Education and will now train the whole staff this month. SRP is used by the majority of districts in the state of Nebraska, so it provides for a common language amongst schools, staff, media, students, and parents state-wide. SRP will enhance our safety plan and procedures we currently have in place. We will send informational packets to parents as we begin our implementation of SRP.

NO SCHOOL OR EARLY DISMISSAL ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Wednesday, October 17th – End of First Quarter

Thursday, October 18th – EARLY DISMISSAL – K-12 Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, October 19th – NO SCHOOL – Fall Break

Monday, October 22nd – NO SCHOOL – Staff Professional Development Day

Wednesday, November 21st – EARLY DISMISSAL – Thanksgiving Recess

Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd – NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Recess

Friday, December 21st – End of First Semester

Monday, December 24th – Sunday, January 6th – NO SCHOOL – Christmas Break

Sunday, December 22nd – Wednesday, December 26th – NSAA MORATORIUM

Monday, January 7th – Start of Second Semester/3rd Quarter – LATE START

PONCA ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLOTHING SALE

Ponca Athletic Boosters are selling booster clothing **ONLINE** only.

You can order by using the following steps:

Log on to www.stadiumsportswayne.com

Click on the School Stores tab and choose Ponca

Password: indians18

Online sales will close October 4th.



From Mr. Lahm's "Pen,"

I cannot tell you how many times people ask me how things are going. I often ask people the same question in beginning a conversation. Most people give the standard answer, "I'm okay." Most of the time this is the answer we want to hear, so we can move on from the conversation.

Well...this time I am going to deviate from the standard answer of "my day was okay" to I recently had a morning that was powerful and impactful, and I hope that it can inspire others the same way it did me.

On Friday, September 21, the senior class accompanied by Mrs. Balvantin and myself had the opportunity to hear a speaker named Erik Weihenmayer share his story. In Erik's story, we learned about the importance of taking risks and living a "No Barriers" life. What struck me the most was Erik's retelling of his story in which 19 other people including himself became the largest team in history to summit Mount Everest. He shared that in the last part of the journey, each step to the top of the mountain required six breaths in the oxygen mask before taking the next step as the air was so thin. Oh...and I forgot to tell you another obstacle for Erik and the team, Erik was blind.

This concept of partnership and team continues to resonate in my mind especially as it pertains to life and work and everything we are as people. For teams to be great and summit to the top of the mountain, they have to be unified in purpose. Each person must be willing to give up their own comfort for the greater good of the whole group. Each person must be willing to accept responsibility for others, and rather than complain, he or she moves one step and a time even if each step requires six breaths.

I cannot thank each person enough in the multiple communities represented at Ponca Public School for pulling together as a team through the good and bad times. We have had great test scores, great activities and athletics, state championships, and so many successes too numerous to count. We have also had our tests as any team must face. The challenge presented to us on a daily basis is to continue to come together as a team always moving upward to higher and higher heights. We work together one step at a time and one more move at a time. Sure challenges may make the journey slow, and we will have setbacks. However, there is no better feeling than meeting our goals in the company of the team.

OCTOBER NEWS

Homecoming 2018 is quickly approaching. The theme for this year is "Home-Coming Soon," and it is based on movie themes. A great big thank-you to our Student Council, cheerleaders, band, athletes, student body, sponsors, coaches, parents, and Mrs. Hassler and Mrs. Wenger for all their work in the process. Coronation and dance is on Saturday, October 6. Festivities including a bonfire and pep rallies will take place throughout the week. The official Homecoming evening will be on Friday, October 12.

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 22-26. On Tuesday, of Red Ribbon Week (October 23) 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 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.

**Please be aware of where you are parking when attending events at Ponca Public School.
We have received calls regarding cars blocking driveways and parking on lawns.
Thank You!**

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 HyVee 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.

Parents dropping students off in the morning at Jackson, please use the south door to enter the building!!

There are students arriving for school at Ponca at 7:30am or even earlier, please don't send your children to school until 7:45! There is no supervision until 7:45am and students are at risk when there is no supervision.

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.

Parent-teacher's conferences are Thursday, October 18th from 2:00pm 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.

Title I Upcoming Event!!!

If you have a student in Title I, Tuesday, October 2, 2018 is Title I Parent Night. It will take place from 7-8 p.m. in the walkway of Ponca School, right inside the main doors.



Refreshments (pizza, cookies and Gatorade) will be served, information about the Title I program will be presented, and the students will get a chance to show you some of our activities. Parents' ideas for improving the Title I program are always welcome. We hope to see you there!

Home-“Coming Soon...”

Homecoming Week 2018

The public is cordially invited to the homecoming coronation of the king and queen on Saturday, October 6, at 7:00 P.M. in the Performing Arts Center of Ponca High School. Immediately following coronation will be the Homecoming Dance which will run from 8:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. in the West Gym. Dario Davis will be the DJ for the dance. Students in grades 9-12 are invited to attend the dance. Cost is \$7.00/person (if the student is dressed up – no shorts/no jeans) and \$10.00 /person (if they are not dressed up).

Queen Candidates:

Brooklyn Bacon.....daughter of Jeremy & Michelle Bacon
Taylor Lamprecht.....daughter of Carrie Hughes & Cory Lamprecht
Grace Salmen.....daughter of Jeff & Hallie Salmen
Morgan Swick.....daughter of Jeff & Stacey Swick
Graci Tangeman.....daughter of Brooke & Brandon Voss and Kurt & Kylie Tangeman

King Candidates:

Evan Anderson.....son of Tracy & Angela Anderson
Joel Anderson.....son of Barry Anderson & the late Susan Anderson
Jayde Reid.....son of Wade & Mona Reid
Cole Richards.....son of Chris & Stephani Richards
Logan Rush.....son of Brian & Christi Rush

Juniors:

Theekshana Seneviratne.....daughter of Eddie & Manjula Seneviratne
Carson Beckner.....son of Pete Beckner & Michelle Beckner

Sophomores:

Lauryn Gill.....daughter of John & Jeana Gill
Cayden Phillips.....son of Jody & Rebecca Phillips

Freshmen:

Alyssa Swick.....daughter of Jeff & Stacey Swick
Sam Taylor.....son of Abbey & Chris Kingsbury and Andrew & Carmen Emanuel

8th Graders:

Ashlyn Kingsbury.....daughter of Stacie Kingsbury and Chris & Abbey Kingsbury
Kemper Carlson.....son of Jared Carlson & Amanda Isner and Mike & Lisa Carlson

7th Graders:

Taylor Fleury.....daughter of Jesse Fleury & Erin Fleury
Brody Taylor.....son of Seth & Korene Taylor

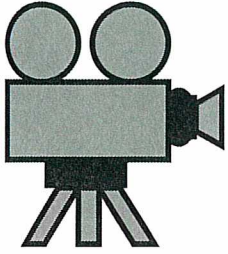
First grade crown bearers:

Covey Clarkson.....daughter of Lee & Melissa Clarkson
Braden Wentzel.....son of Justin & Kristy Wentzel

Em-Cee for Coronation: Mr. Lahm



Homecoming week runs from Monday, October 8 through Friday, October 12. Students in grades 7-12 are eligible to dress in appropriate costumes during the week as part of the spirit competition. The dress up days are based around the theme "Coming Soon" based on famous movies and are as follows:



Dress up days include:

- Monday:** "Back to the Future" (Throwback Day)
Tuesday: "Dynamic Duos" (Twin Day)
Wednesday: "On Wednesdays We Wear Pink" (Pink Out Day)
(All 7-12 grade students are encouraged to donate a dollar that day for breast cancer awareness.)
Thursday: "Rated Aargh" (Pirate Day)
Friday: "Clash of the Titans" (Blue & White or Class Color Day)

Weather-permitting a bonfire is being planned at the Sports Complex on Monday, October 8. At 8:00 PM the Ponca Fire Department will light the bonfire. Coaches and athletes from all four fall sports will give pep talks and the band and cheerleaders will lead the rally. (In case of inclement weather a movie will be shown for grades 7-12 in the Fine Arts Theater.)

On Tuesday, October 9 the volleyball team will host Vermillion High School. 7-12 students who come to the game dressed in their "Dynamic Duos" Day attire will receive \$1.00 off admissions price. The cheerleaders will host a volleyball/softball/cross country pep rally scheduled for 2:30 PM in the gym. Victory treats will be served to the 7-12 students at 3:30 PM. The public is invited to attend this rally. At the games that evening the student council will be selling Cookie Nachos as a special treat.

On Thursday, October 11, the cross country team will run in their district meet in Norfolk. Also on Thursday, is state softball in Hastings and the volleyball team will play in a triangular match at home. Student Council will be selling Cookie Nachos at those games.

On Friday, October 12, the football team will host Crofton High School. Royalty will be recognized at halftime of the football game. Weather permitting a victory march is scheduled at 1:15 PM, followed by a football pep rally at the football field. After the football rally the 7-12 grade students will participate in a Brisketball competition also at the field. (In case of inclement weather, there will be no victory march and the pep rally will begin at 1:30 PM at the gym.)

INFORMATION FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE - MRS. HASSLER

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 23-26.

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

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) is scheduled for the morning of Wednesday, October 10, 2018. 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 needed to be registered by Friday, September 21st.

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.

Information from Our Music Department

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 4 - Volleyball Pep Band
- October 8 - Bonfire at the Sports Complex
- October 9 - Pep Rally in afternoon & Volleyball Pep Band
- October 12 - Parade & Football Pep Band
- October 16 - Volleyball Pep Band
- October 19 - Football Pep Band



MUSIC FUNDRAISER
KICKS OFF ON
OCTOBER 5TH!



Band Parents - Sign-up for free text message reminders

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

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



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 5-6, 2018. The audition will be uploaded to a state-wide website where they will be judged against other singers across Nebraska. The audition selections will be announced to participants by noon on Friday, 10/5 and they will have until midnight on Saturday 10/6 to submit their audition recording. Ponca has three students auditioning this year:

Sopranos: Claire Hoelsing and Olivia Hrouda

Bass: Colson Watchorn

LIBRARY NEWS

Jackson Public School is trying something new this year. We want to celebrate all the wonderful grandparents out there who are encouraging their grandchildren to do well in school.

We are hosting a grandparent's appreciation
afternoon on Friday, October 26th
from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Jackson Public School.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in the
library for grandparents to enjoy with their grandchildren.



Thanks Grandma
and Grandpa

Ponca Public Schools Anti-Discrimination Statement

The Ponca Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Students: Mr. Jody Phillips, Superintendent of Schools, PO Box 568, Ponca, NE 68770 (402) 755-5700 (jodyphillips@poncaschool.org). Employees and Others: Mr. Jody Phillips, Superintendent of Schools, PO Box 568, Ponca, NE 68770 (402) 755-5700 (jodyphillips@poncaschool.org).

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact OCR at One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 320, Kansas City, Missouri 64106, (816) 268-0550 (voice), Fax (816) 268-0599, (800) 877-8339 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

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.

Ponca School Newsletter
Ponca Public School
P O Box 568
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PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2018



GOING DIGITAL!

Monthly newsletters will be available on the
Ponca website www.poncaschool.org

The monthly calendar and monthly menu will be sent home
with our Elementary students.

Copies will also be available for
high school students.

School news
at your fingertips

