## From the desk of: <br> William F. Thompson, Superintendent

The three (3) weeks between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays is a shorter period than normal this year. It only intensifies the already busy schedule of activities and events for students and faculty. Activities, games and concerts are packed into this busy period. Secondary students will be busy studying and preparing for semester exams as the first academic semester is scheduled to end on Friday, December 19th. As you will note on the enclosed school calendar, there are practically no free nights during this three (3) week period.

If this is not enough to occupy their day and evening schedules, there are time demands for family, church, community, job and other responsibilities that can create a busy and hectic lifestyle for students and families. The stress to keep up with all these demands can, and does, have an effect on a student's physical health and mental approach to school. Parents are encouraged to be supportive of their children in working through the demands that activities place upon a child at this time of the year.

Another factor for constant awareness at this time is weather. We encourage families to make plans thoroughly and inform everyone involved when there are considerations for school cancellation: late start, or an early dismissal. In town, if a child lives a long distance from school and is in the lower grades, arrangements might be made with a friend living en-route as a "stop-off" place. Make sure that the parent/guardian is notified if the child stops. In the country, some people with long lanes have asked a neighbor up the road to call them when the bus is coming so they can meet their child. Make arrangements as needed. The ultimate consideration is to dress students for cold and bad weather. Should there be a bus breakdown or a bus gets stuck, proper clothing could be a critical matter.

PARENTS: The school day for students at Ponca Elementary begins at 8:25am. Students are not allowed to enter the building until 8:15. We have seen some children arrive as early as 7:45 without the proper clothing for this time of year. We would ask that students Not Arrive at School Before 8:10am.

As colder weather approaches, we ask parental cooperation on the following as a measure for student safety. If you choose to drive and drop off your children at school, please do so on the north side of the elementary building. The west side of the elementary is RESERVED for students getting off and on school buses in the morning and afternoon. We would ask your same consideration when you pick up your child after school.

The Jackson Elementary shuttle bus will leave Ponca at $\mathbf{8 : 1 5}$ sharp. During the colder weather, students will be able to board the bus as soon as they arrive. We will attempt to have the bus running and warmed up for comfort and safety. It is important that the bus leaves Ponca at 8:15 in order to get students to Jackson Elementary for the start of their school day, which begins at 8:40.


> Vacation for the Christmas and New Year's Holiday Season will begin Friday, December 19th at 3:30 p.m. School will reconvene on Monday, January 5, 2009.

## Notes from Mr. Thompson continued...

## BOARD GOALS - 2009

In a continued effort to provide a quality education for all students of the Ponca Public School District, the Board of Education will annually assess the goals and objectives that provide guidance for the District. Recently, the Board met with a facilitator from the Nebraska Association of School Boards to develop goal statements for the 2009 year. After reviewing and discussing many such issues and topics of relevance to the District, four (4) goal statements were developed and approved by the Board. Action plans to accomplish these goals have been established as well as assignment to individuals to be in charge of the process.

GOAL \#1: The Board will direct a committee of school administrators, students, faculty, community members alumni to address the school mascot issue. A recommendation will be provided to the Board for a final decision.

GOAL \#2: The Board will actively explore cooperative agreements with neighboring school districts to share personnel, programs, or services.

GOAL \#3: The Board will, and administrators will, identify opportunities to expand the Board's working knowledge and understanding of the District curriculum and instruction.

GOAL \#4: A Study of procedures, protocol, and process will begin to address learning facility needs district-wide.


## December 19, 2008 @ 3:30 p.m.



## Ponca Public School

## Elemenłary Library



On $\mathcal{N}$ ovember 18, vocal music students traveled to Emerson-Hub6ard for the conyerente vocat Music Clinic. The students spent the day rehearsing and then performed in concert that evening. Congratulations is extended to the following students who were selected through a taped audition process for the Honor Choir: sopranos: A66y Watchorn, $\mathcal{N}$ ellie Logue, Kelsi Stoos, and Kayla Herfel; altos: Cortney Rickett, Korah Kramper, Brittany Heaton, Marissa Peterson, and Jordan Perßins; tenor: Michae $\mathcal{H}$ assler; Gasses: Olfie Reece and Aaron Bostwick.

Second semester ends on December 19. Secondary students will be writing semester tests on December 18 and 19. The last week of the semester will be busy with the 7-12 Christmas concert and basketball games. Therefore as we approach the end of the semester it is important for students to stay focused and schedule time for homework and study. Second semester report cards will be handed out to students upon their return to school the first week in January.

Cheering for your team and not putting down your competition, respecting the decisions of the officials, respecting the other team's efforts, playing fair, maintaining self-control and having fun are indicators of good sportsmanship. As we begin the winter sports season, sportsmanship will be a top priority at our competitions and performances. Practicing good sportsmanship is the expectation for our athโetes, coaches, students and spectators. Practice sportsmanship daify!


## Jackson Elementary News

Where did November go? It seems like yesterday we were preparing for Thanksgiving and now Christmas! It is a great time of year.

We are very excited about our upcoming Christmas program on December $5^{\text {th }}$ at 7:00pm. Mrs. Lamprecht always has an outstanding program. The program will be in the Ponca Gymnasium instead of the Jackson Gymnasium. We've moved the program to Ponca to better handle the anticipated sellout crowd.

With the winter season upon us, we are asking parents to make sure their children have the following items with them at school: boots, hat, coat, and gloves. The students go outside for recess on most days and these items are essential.

With the winter weather being unpredictable a big concern is school cancellation, early dismissal, and late starts. We will make every effort to make a decision as early as possible. We will try to make decisions on late starts and cancellations by 7:00am. The announcement will be broadcast on the Sioux City television and radio stations. Please have emergency arrangements made in case of an early dismissal. The early dismissal will be announced in the same manner as a cancellation. Please remember an early dismissal means conditions are dangerous. We need to get students and staff out of the building and home as fast as possible. If your emergency plan is different than the usual pickup procedure, please notify the school.

We have a concern with the food students eat at lunch. According to state standards students are required to eat 3 of the 5 items. The 5 items at lunch are meat, vegetable, fruit, bread, and milk.
Sometimes these items are in a combination. The problem arises when students choose milk, cookie, and bread. The same problem happens with cold lunch. They really aren't eating very well. Please talk to your child about eating habits and what they should eat.

We are having a problem with students being tardy for school and to the shuttle bus. This causes a distraction and a delay in getting the day started. Please remember the school day at Jackson Elementary starts at 8:40 sharp and the shuttle bus leaves at 8:15 sharp. Please help us teach responsibility and punctuality.

Please make sure your child knows what the plan is for picking them up after school. We are having a problem with students not knowing were to go after school. The staff usually has meetings and other school related duties to do after school. Students must leave the school premises in a timely manner. Please make sure your child knows where to go after school. If there is an emergency please notify the school before dismissal.

On Tuesday, Dec. $9^{\text {th }}$ the $2^{\text {nd }}$ grade will be going on a field trip to the Gene \& Julie Watchorn home in Ponca to view the Christmas lights and decorations. It is an amazing display the children really enjoy. A big thanks to the Watchorn's for inviting us into their home.

School will be dismissed at $3: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ on December $19^{\text {th }}$ for the Christmas Holiday!

## FROM THE STAFF AT JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!! AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!




## Senior Citizen Passes Available...

Passes are available in the Business Office for those patrons of the district who are over 65.

The passes are good for any activities at the school.

Music Booster Concession Stand Schedule (2008-2009)


## Season's Greetings from the Guidance Office



The Ponca Library would like to thank Mr. Mike Brandt for his book donation to the library.

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.

## Presented By: Ponca High School Music Department

Oscar's Hangar<br>Doors Open @ 6:15 P.M.<br>Royal Processional<br>Begins Promptly @ 7:00 P.M.

Menu<br>Wassail<br>Buff Onion Pottage<br>Honey Ham \& Pineappyl Glaze<br>Red Royale Potata \& Carrotes<br>Flaming Brede Poddying

Enchanted magic, laughter, a mystical liffing of cares and woes, and above all, the cleansing purity of beautiful masic - this is what we have to share at our Madrigal Dinner.

## TICKET ORDER FORM

TICKETS AOAILABLE BY MAIL ORDER (OR)
YOU MAY PURCHSE YOUR TICKETS BY CALLING THE SCHOOL
(402) 755-5700

Return form with payment to:
Panca High School - Box 568-505 3rd Street - Ponca, NE. - 68770 (Atr. Madrigal Dinner)
Name
Address $\qquad$
City State $\qquad$ Zip $\qquad$
Phone $\qquad$


## $\$ 12$ for the Madrigal Dinner

Circle Performance and indicate \# of tickets needed below.
Friday, December 12 \# $\qquad$ Saturday, December 13
\# $\qquad$
Enclosed find my remittance for $\$$ $\qquad$

If you have any ticket questions, please contact Kari Lowe


## The following seniors need to have a senior composite picture turned in to Mrs. Sprakel by December $1^{\text {st }}$.

Marcus Burki
Lucas Dean
Darrell James
Megan Lamprecht
Jeff Markworth
Casey O'Neill
Seth Scollard

Jake Carlson
Kylie Eifert
Sadi Johnson
Amira Mari
Liz McCain
Garrett Palmersheim
Jacob Torson

Andrew Curry Cory Gill
John Keller
Gary Markworth
Casey Millard
Brandon Rush
Nicholas Watkins

The Ponca Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance procedures, or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination:

Ponca Public Schools - Superintendent of Schools 505 3rd Street , Ponca, NE 68770 (402) 755-2241
Appeal procedures beyond the local level need to be addressed to the following office: Office for Civil Rights

\author{

* Starfish =M,W,F Class <br> * Angelfish= T,Th,F Class
}


| M | T | W | TH | F |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{gathered} 1 \\ \text { Starfish } \end{gathered}$ | 2 <br> Angelfish | $\begin{gathered} 3 \\ \text { Starfish } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4 \\ \text { Angelfish } \end{gathered}$ | 5 Starfish Christmas Concert |
| $\begin{gathered} 8 \\ \text { Starfish } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 9 \\ \text { Angelfish } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 10 \\ \text { Starfish } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 11 \\ \text { Angelfish } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 12 \\ \text { Angelfish } \end{gathered}$ |
| $\begin{gathered} 15 \\ \text { Starfish } \end{gathered}$ | 16 <br> Angelfish | 17 Starfish Christmas Party | 18 Angelfish Christmas Party | $\begin{gathered} 19 \\ \text { No Preschool } \end{gathered}$ |
| $\begin{gathered} 22 \\ \text { No } \\ \text { School } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 23 \\ \text { No School } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 24 \\ \text { No } \\ \text { School } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 25 \\ \text { No } \\ \text { School } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 26 \\ \text { No } \\ \text { School } \end{gathered}$ |
| $\begin{gathered} 29 \\ \text { No } \\ \text { School } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 30 \\ \text { No School } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 31 \\ \text { No School } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1 \\ \text { No } \\ \text { School } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2 \\ \text { No } \\ \text { School } \end{gathered}$ |
| Welcome Back Starfish | $6$ <br> Angelfish | $7$ <br> Starfish | $\begin{gathered} 8 \\ \text { Angelfish } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 9 \\ \text { Angelfish } \end{gathered}$ |

## Reminder from Sheila Herfel, R.N.

A quick reminder that all students must meet state requirements for immunizations, birth certificates, physicals and eye exams. If you have received notice from the school that your child is missing these items, please bring these records to the school as soon as possible. If your child received any immunizations over the please send a copy, so we can update our records.

## BACK TO SCHOOL

## TIME TO CHECK FOR HEAD LICE

low that school has started, parents are encouraged to check for head lice as part of their fami
 regular routine. Families should make checking for lice as basic an activity as brushing their teeth or washing their hands. Head lice are common among elementary school students because young children have a lot of contact with their classmates.

Lice are reddish-brown wingless insects; lice eggs, or nits, are grayish-white, always oval shaped and are attached at an angle to the side of the hair shaft.

Products over the counter can be purchased to control the lice. If it continues to be a problem, you should see your physician.

Some tips in combating head lice are:
*Check children and watch for signs of head lice, such as frequent head scratching
*Remove all nits with a comb or fingernails to assure total lice treatment
*Use a medicated shampoo, lotion or cream rinse, but remember that all lice-killing products are pesticides and label directions should be followed.
*Check with your physician before using lice treatment pesticides if the child has allergies, asthma or epilepsy.
*Wash bedding and clothing in hot water and dry in a hot dryer.
*Articles that cannot be washed can be vacuumed or placed into a plastic bag and sealed for two weeks to kill all lice and nits.


## SENIORS

*Sarah Crosgrove
Garrett Palmersheim
Nick Watkins
JUNIORS
Kelsey Beacom
Josh Bennett
Jared Curry
*Ben Gehring
*Austin Hansen
*Brittany Heaton
Heather Husen
Sharrell Logue
Joel Markworth
Abby Watchorn
Josh Watchorn

## SOPHOMORES

*Aaron Bostwick
*Scott Braun
*Kash Etchenkamp
*Korah Kramper
Dale Krause
*Nichole Lux
Josh Markworth
Alex O'Neill
Jordan Perkins
Marissa Peterson
Allison Pick
Tyler Rasmussen
Nathan Uhl
Jesse Way

## FRESHMEN

Katie Anderson
*Kayla Beacom
Josh Block
*Colin Brandt
Cheyenne Brown
Tylar Greenleaf
Shane Husen
Andrew Larsen
Nellie logue
Rylee Rich
Kelsi Stoos
*Jesse Walsh
Bailey Wimmer

* DENOTES "A" HONOR ROLL STUDENTS (students must earn at least a 93 numerical grade)
"B" HONOR ROLL (students must earn at least an 85 numerical grade)


## Ponca Parents/Caregivers...

Here is a FANTASTIC wobilfe for you and your children to usel it is designed to help students research careers and colleges. Additionally, individuals may develop resumés and complete the F.A.F.S.A. form (Free Applications for Federal Student Assistance)! All 5-12 grade students will receive training on "NEBRASKA CONNECTIONS" throughout the 2007-2008 school year. Check it out

## Nebraska Connections

(Steps to access MERRASKA CONNECTIONS career program.)


1. Go to www.poncaschool.org (home page of Ponca School)
2. On the home page click on "7-12 Guidance"
3. On the 7-12 Guidance page click on "Careers" located on the left side of the page.
4. On this page you will see the phrase "Nebraska Career Connections". Also listed will be our school's access code number: 11569
5. Double Click on Nebraska Career Connections.
6. At the Kuder Systems screen, select "Nebraska" as the state.
7. You will then be on the Nebraska Connections homepage, on this screen go to the left side of the screen and click on "Log In".
8. At $\log$ in, you will need to click on the correct user sequence.
9. At the next screen you will enter the correct personal demographic information that is required.
10. Be sure to use your full name and spell everything correctly as you are setting up resume header information at this screen.
11. You will then be able to use any of the options available on the screen.

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & \hline \mathbf{1} \\ & \text { Financial Aid Meeting } \\ & \text { 6:00 p.m. } \end{aligned}$ | 2 Grades 3-6 Elementary Christmas Program 7:00 WR-Jr. Hi @ Battle Creek Invit. 3.00 Invit. 3:00 <br> District One-Act @ Laurel | 3 | 4 Jr. Inerview Day WR-Ponca Quad $6: 30$ GBB @ Hartington $6: 15$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{5} \\ & \text { Pre-K through 2nd grade } \\ & \text { JJckson Elementary } \\ & \text { Christmas Concert } \underline{A T} \\ & \underline{P O N C A} 7: 00 \end{aligned}$ | 6 <br> WR @ Howells Invit <br> 10:00 <br> BB-Crofton- Home 6:15 |
| 8 <br> WR-9/10 Ponca Inv. 4:00 | 9 <br> PCEF Mtg. 9:00 <br> GB @ Elk Point $6: 15$ | 10 | $\begin{aligned} & 11 \\ & \text { GBB @ Randolph } \\ & \text { JV@ 4:00 V @ 6:1 } \end{aligned}$ | 12 <br> Madrigal $6: 15$ at Oscars State One-Act @ Kearnes | 13 <br> Madrigal 6:15 at Oscars <br> WR @ Akron Inv. 10:00 <br> GB-9/10 @ Homer Inv TBA |
| 15 <br> Jr. Hi./H.S. Christmas <br> Instrumental Concert 7:30 <br> School Board Mtg. 5:30 | 16 <br> GBB-Laurel Home 6:15 <br> Holiday Cake Raffle <br> (St. Council) | $\underset{\substack{\text { Music Boosters } \\ \text { 6:00 }}}{17} \text { Oscars }$ | 18 <br> GB-Crofton - Home 6:15 <br> Semester Tests <br> Periods. 3,4,5,7 | 19 <br> BB E-H Home 6:15 Sem. Tests Per. 1,2,8,6 End 2 ${ }^{\text {nd }} \mathrm{Qtr} 42$ days End $1^{\text {st }}$ Sem 85 days <br> D. N Retirement Party | 20 <br> WR @ Osmond Inv. 10:00 <br> BB -Jr. Hi. Inv-Ponca TBA <br> GB-JV @ Crofton 9:30 |
|  |  |  |  |  | $27$ $\qquad$ |
|  |  |  |  |  | $13$ |

[^0]
[^0]:    School Resumes Monday, January 5, 2009

