November 2017

## PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL

505 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, P O Box 568 Ponca, NE 68770

www.poncaschool.org

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



### Information from Jody L. Phillips, Superintendent of Schools

On Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., the Ponca Public Schools will host our annual Veteran's Day Program in the west gymnasium. The program will honor past and present heroes who have fought for our freedom. There will be coffee and rolls starting at 1:00 p.m. The program is open to the public. Please attend this special event to honor our Veterans. Also, please encourage as many veterans to attend the Veteran's Day Program if they have not attended in the past.

The cold and flu season is upon us at Ponca Public Schools. Please remember to call Sue in the Jackson office, Patti in the Ponca elementary office, or Jeanne in the high school office by 8:15a.m. to let the respective office know of your child's absence for the day. Remember, your child must be without a fever for 24 hours before returning to school.

As the winter season begins, school MAY be dismissed due to inclement weather. Listen to the local television stations for information concerning late starts, early dismissals, or school cancellations. Make sure your correct cell phone number and home phone number are entered into the School Messenger Emergency Calling System with Ponca Public Schools. If you have changed your cell phone service and have a new number, please call the school to let us know of the change.

### **IMPORTANT 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

January 4<sup>th</sup>: First Day of 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. 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, 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: <a href="mailto:program.intake@usda.gov">program.intake@usda.gov</a>. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. As stated above, all protected bases do not apply to all programs, "the first six protected bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability and sex are the six protected bases for applicants and recipients of the Child Nutrition Programs.

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

Do I love me some fast food, and Burger King is running a new anti-bullying commercial that speaks to the heart and to the stomach. Here is the link to view the video. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnKPEsbTo9s

In this video, a high school student is bullied and a Whopper Jr. is bullied to see which situation will receive more complaints. Almost 95% of people complained about their burger being "bullied" while only 12% addressed the person being bullied.

While some might argue with the bullying comparison, this video addresses the significance of courage and conversation or if you combine the two, courageous conversation. At the end of the video, several people are shown having courageous conversation with the bullies and the victim. This conversation does not attack anyone. Rather, it addresses the situation, and seeks a positive resolution for all involved. It is not a post from behind a screen or cell phone. These courageous conversations were on the spot and face-to-face. They did not rely on talking poorly of people behind their back while taking no action. These conversations in the commercial were immediate and they focused on solving the issue for all people.

Let's be people who are willing to have courageous conversation with each other and with our families and children. Courageous conversation goes beyond bullying situations. These are lifelong processes. We are approaching a time of year that can be some of the best times and toughest times for people in regards to the holidays. There may be some hard feelings between families, employees, students, and the list goes on and on. My challenge to all of us is to learn how to have courageous conversation – immediate, face-to-face, **respectful of all people**, solution-focused. It seems like Burger King may be on to a "whopper" of an issue that all of us can learn.

#### **NOVEMBER NEWS**

October 18 was 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.

Congratulations to Sophie Kramper, Carin Mellick, and Colson Watchorn who auditioned and were selected for Nebraska All State Chorus. Sophie, Carin, and Colson will travel to Lincoln in November for the All State Conference and Clinic. Thank you to Dr. Webb for his work in preparing students. They will perform in the All State Chorus final concert on Saturday, November 18 at 4:30 pm at the Lied Center for Performing Arts on the campus of UNL.

Your Future is Key, so Be Drug Free was the theme for this year's Red Ribbon Week. Anti-drug related themes and dress up days helped create a fun experience for all students and staff. Red Ribbon lessons were incorporated in classes throughout the week and our Ponca Student Council members created key tags that were hung on our lunchroom commons walls with statistics and trivia regarding this year's theme. Thank you Student Council, Mrs. Hassler, Mrs. Wenger, Mrs. Anderson, and Mrs. Balvantin for all their work

NeSA Individual Student Reports (ISRs) will be sent home with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students on Monday, November 6. Please ask your student(s) to see these results. Please call the principal's office if these reports do not make it home or if you are interested in another copy.

MAP Growth tests for the fall have been completed. We will NOT be sending 7-11<sup>th</sup> grade reports home. If you are interested in your student(s) results, please contact a teacher at school or Mr. Lahm to receive a copy of these results.

Our Elementary and Secondary Student Councils and sponsors are busy preparing another memorable Veteran's Day program for our school and community. Everyone is invited to be our guests on Monday, November 13, at 2:00 pm for our 2017 Veteran's Day Program. The program will be held in the east gym in the Ponca School building. Thank you to all of our Veterans and current men and women serving in our armed forces. We appreciate your service to our nation and willingness to put your lives on the line for our freedoms!

# ELEMENTARY NEWS

The first quarter flew by and that means the holiday season is just around the corner! Please encourage your child to work hard as the end of the first semester will be here before you know it.

With the winter season upon us it is important to be ready for school cancellations, late starts, and early dismissals. Please realize Jackson will follow the Ponca schedule concerning dismissals and cancellations. There will **not** be a separate announcement for Jackson Elementary. If Ponca has a two hour late start, classes in Jackson will begin 15 minutes after the start time in Ponca. Example: Two hour late start in Ponca means school in Ponca will begin at 10:10am which means school in Jackson will begin at 10:25am. If there is an early dismissal, Jackson will dismiss 20 minutes **before** Ponca. Example: If Ponca is dismissing at 1:30pm, Jackson will dismiss at 1:10pm.

Another winter weather concern is dressing the students appropriately for winter weather. I realize we had a very pleasant fall, but "old man winter" is right around the corner. Please make sure students have a coat, some type of snow pants, gloves, and something to cover their ears. The Ponca/Jackson Elementary will be going outside for recess on most days unless the weather is too severe.

As you know the flu season will be here soon. We have experienced a few incidents already with students coming to school sick. If your child is ill please keep them at home until their fever has gone away and they're symptoms have subsided. We will do everything in our power to combat the flu. We sanitize our lockers, desks, door handles, drinking fountains, and rest rooms routinely. We insist on hand washing often and protect against sharing items as much as possible. Please help by keeping your child home when they are feeling under the weather.

Parents we need your help!! Basketball and wrestling seasons are just around the corner which means many games in the gyms. We had problems with elementary students running around during the volleyball games this fall and running in the hallways and west gym during basketball games last year. This creates a dangerous situation for everyone involved. Please remind your elementary students to sit and watch the games. Students are not allowed in the west gym during activities unless there is a game in progress! Students are not allowed to run around or sit in the hallways during activities!

The Ponca football and volleyball teams are having a successful fall and we hope for their continued success!! Because of state and playoff schedules please be aware of possible early outs or no school situations. Please have a plan in place if these situations arise!!

**Reminders**: Early out Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> Jackson 12:40 & Ponca 1:00 Thanksgiving Break

No School Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> through Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Break

Pre-K thru 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Concert, Friday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm @ Ponca 3 thru 6 Christmas Concert, Monday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm @ Ponca

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Mr. Hayes



### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS...**

The elves are getting ready to bake for the P.H.S. Student Council Holiday Cake Raffle!!!

Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

@ the Boys/Girls Basketball Doubleheader vs. Randolph





## MUSICNEWS



# Congratulations to Ponca's 2017 All-State Chorus Members

Sophie Kramper – Alto I

Carin Mellick - Soprano I

Colson Watchorn -Bass II

Each year, approximately 3000 of the best high school musicians in the state audition for the Nebraska All-State Band, Chorus, Jazz Band and Orchestra which are sponsored by the Nebraska Music Educators Association. Selection as a member of one of these groups is one of the highest musical honors attainable in Nebraska



The chorus will rehearse Thursday, November 16th, through Saturday, November 18th, on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Campus, the host site of the 2017 NMEA Conference Clinic. A final public concert will be held on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at the Lied Center for the Performing Arts on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

### Lewis and Clark Vocal Conference Clinic



Monday, November 6th, 2017 Public Performance 5:30 p.m. @ Emerson-Hubbard

### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:



Allen, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Emerson-Hubbard, Homer, Ponca, Wakefield, Walthill, Winnebago \* 200+ talented musicians join together to create a night of entertaining music.

\* Medals are awarded to the top 24 vocalists.

\* A trophy is given to the school with the most audience members present! (Host school is excluded.)



### **Pep Band Updates**

Basketball season will be here soon!! Our first home basketball game is scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup>.

The pep band will play that night!!

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, ard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. 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, 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: Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or Fax: (202) 690-7442; or Email: program.intake@usda.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.

### This letter is being sent to all families of the Ponca Public School District.

### FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND Backpack Program from the Ponca Ministerium Association

The FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND Backpack Program works with school staff to provide a free supply of meals and snacks to students who may need an additional food resource over weekends during the school year. The food is given to the children before they leave school each Friday (or, in case of a holiday, the last day before the break). This service is provided as discreetly as possible, and at no charge. If you believe that your child would benefit from this assistance, please register him/her right away. Any child enrolled in Ponca Public Schools may participate.

You may register your child for the FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND Backpack Program anytime during the school year. **Only register once per school year. Complete the consent form below and return it to the school office.** If you have more than one child in school, you only have to submit one form. This information will be kept confidential. Once the school receives your consent form, your child(ren)'s name(s) will be added to the list of students registered for FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND. She/he will soon begin to receive a supply of kid-friendly food at the end of each school week. \*THE BAG MUST BE RETURNED BY THE FOLLOWING TUESDAY MORNING. IF NOT, THERE WILL NOT BE A BAG FOR YOUR FAMILY THE NEXT WEEK.

If you haven't already registered, please consider letting this program help your family. Questions? Contact your child's school: Mr. Lahm - (402) 755-5736; Mr. Hayes - (402) 755-5727; Mrs. Hassler - (402) 755-5739 or Mrs. Anderson - (402) 755-5713.

(Note: This program is not associated with the free/reduced-cost lunch program operated through the Ponca Community Schools.)

### 2017-2018 FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND Backpack Program Consent Form

Please register my child(ren) for the FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND Backpack Program. I understand that my child(ren) will soon start to receive a supply of food at the end of each week for her/his use over the weekend or school holiday.

Today's Date:

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Child's name	Dietary Restrictions/Allergies	Grade	Locker #	Elementary Teacher

<u>Reminder</u>: TO RECEIVE FOOD EACH WEEK THE BAG MUST BE RETURNED BY TUESDAY MORNING OF THE FOLLOWING WEEK FOR THE FOOD PANTRY TO PACK IT. IF IT IS <u>NOT</u> RETURNED, YOUR FAMILY WILL NOT RECEIVE A BAG THE NEXT WEEK.

Parent Name (printed):	Parent Signature:	
Home Address:		_ Phone:

### FAQ about the FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND Backpack Program

### What is the FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND Backpack Program?

While every child has access to nutritious lunch during school, the same cannot be said for weekends and school breaks. The FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND Backpack Program was developed to help ensure that every child has access to nutritious food when school is out. Studies have shown that children that eat nutritious meals over the weekend return to school ready to learn on Monday morning. The FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND Backpack Program provides children with a food pack to take home before school dismisses for the weekend or holiday break.

#### When will my child receive food?

Food packs are distributed on Fridays or the last day of school prior to a long weekend.

#### What does the food pack contain?

Some items may include cereal bowls, instant oatmeal packets, microwavable pasta bowls or soup containers, cheese crackers, granola bars, fruit cups, snack mixes, and pudding cups.

#### Is the food for my family?

No, the food packs are intended to feed your child. Providing enough food for the entire family would exceed the safe weight a child should carry in a backpack.

### How many food packs have FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND allotted to the Ponca School District (including Jackson campus)?

Based on our student population, FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND has allotted 32 food packs for our district. If more than 32 students register for the program, then each registered family will be placed in a drawing to determine 32 recipients.

### Where can I get food for the rest of my family?

**Ponca Area Food Pantry.** Contact: Pastor Jeff Peters, Christ the King Church, 121 N. Iowa Street, Ponca, NE 68770. Phone: 712-898-9636. Hours: The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays during the months of November and December. (8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) During the other months of the year the Food Pantry is open during the 2nd and 4th Thursdays during the times listed above.

**Dixon County Food Pantry (Ponca Office)**. Contact: Ken Johnson, United Methodist Church, 223 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Ponca, NE 68770. Phone: 402-755-2742. Hours: Appointments to pick up food can be arranged by calling Ken Johnson at the number listed (24/7).

#### Will anyone else know that my child is receiving food?

Only the school administration and guidance counselors, and your child's teacher will know. The food sack will be discreetly placed in your child's backpack.

#### Is there a cost for the food packs?

No, but you must enroll in the program.

#### Who should enroll in the FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND Backpack Program?

If your child is already enrolled in the reduced-price or free meal program at school, please consider enrolling your child to help provide nutritious meals on weekends. If your child would benefit from consistent nutritious food on weekends, please consider enrolling your child. No financial documents are required to enroll. The FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND Backpack Program is a pilot program at this time sponsored by the Ponca Ministerium Association. They intend to serve the needy students as food and funds are available. The pilot program will be closely monitored and evaluated to learn what works well and how it can be improved.

#### Who is paying for the FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND Backpack Program?

FOODBANK OF THE HEARTLAND (Omaha, NE) and funds from local donors in the Ponca area.

#### How can I help?

Monetary donations can be dropped off at the Bank of Dixon County. Checks should be made payable to the Ponca Ministerium Association. Questions: Please call Pastor Jeff Peters at 712-898-9636.



## LIBRARY NEWS!!! Dream

### The following Elementary students met their AR goals for the 1st quarter.



3rd grade:

Emma Addison, Aveyanna Jackson, Ashtyn Pick, Kaleb Simon-Cook, Cooper Stewart,

Jaelen Templeman, Landon Uthof, Joslyn Bacon, Carlee Beckner, Carmen Hoffman, Timothy Ney

4th grade:

Cora Jackson, Avery McAfee, Olivia Taylor, Jaymien Jackson, Mia Krusemark, Caden Merical,

Hala Ouderkirk, Kendall Solomon, Kaylee Sprakel

5th grade:

Austin Dendinger, Zachary Luze, Treston Pulley, William Stroud, Alexa Swick, Heydon Velez.

Isabella Eifert, Ellesyn Hrouda, Connor Schamp, Addison Stewart,

6th grade:

Christian Giersdorf, Nolan Janssen, Grant Sprakel, Brody Taylor, Kieffer Bruening, Brady Carnell,

Taylor Fleury, Zoe Kastning, Brooklyn Lowe, Guy Severeide.

I want to congratulate all students who read during the first quarter. Let's see if we can have even more students meet their AR goal second quarter.



United States Department of Agriculture

10 tips Nutrition **Education Series** 



Based on the Dietary Guidelines

### Make healthier holiday choices

The holidays are often filled with time-honored traditions that include some of our favorite meals and foods. As you celebrate, think of little changes you can make to create healthier meals and active days.

Create MyPlate makeovers Makeover your favorite holiday dishes. Use My Recipe on SuperTracker to improve holiday recipes and get healthier results. Go to Supertracker.usda.gov/myrecipe.aspx.



For dessert, try baked apples with cinnamon and

a sprinkle of sugar instead of apple pie. Invite your guests to make their own parfait with colorful sliced fruit and low-fat yogurt.

Enjoy all the food groups at your celebration

Prepare whole-grain crackers with hummus as an appetizer; add unsalted nuts and black beans to a green-leaf salad; include fresh fruit at the dessert table; use low-fat milk instead of heavy cream in your casseroles. Share healthier options during your holiday meal.

Make sure your protein is lean Turkey, roast beef, or fresh ham are lean protein choices. Trim visible fat before cooking. Try baking or broiling instead of frying. Go easy on sauces and gravies.

Cheers to good health Quench your thirst with low-calorie options. Drink water with lemon or lime slices. Offer seltzer water with a splash of 100% fruit juice.

Bake healthier Use recipes with unsweetened applesauce or mashed ripe bananas instead of butter. Try reducing the amount of sugar listed in recipes. Use spices such as cinnamon, allspice, or nutmeg to add

Be the life of the party Laugh, mingle, dance, and play games. Focus on fun and enjoy the company of others.

Make exercise a part of the fun Make being active part of your holiday tradition. Have fun walking and talking with family and friends after a holiday meal. Give gifts that encourage others to practice healthy habits such as workout DVDs, running shoes, and reusable water bottles.

Enjoy leftovers Create delicious new meals with your leftovers. Add turkey to soups or salads. Use extra veggies in omelets, sandwiches, or stews. The possibilities are endless!

Give to others Spend time providing foods or preparing meals for those who may need a little help. Give food to a local food bank or volunteer to

serve meals at a shelter during the holiday season.



## PLEASE SAVE AND FOLLOWING TO THE **SCHOOL:**



**Box Tops** 

### **HyVee Receipts**



### Pop tabs for the Ronald **McDonald House**



# How to Make Lunch Payments Online

The "e Funds For Schools" electronic payment service is provided to Ponca Public Schools by a third party service provider. This program offers various options for parents/guardians who **choose** to make payments online for lunches. You have the ability to make lunch payments electronically withdrawn from your checking account or charged to your debit or credit card. Ponca Public Schools does not request or keep records of family checking or credit card account information.

You are in full control of your account and can make a payment at any time that is convenient for you. **No payments will be allowed without your knowledge and authorization through this secure payment system**. The "e~Funds For Schools" site is secure and uses industry standard data encryption.

#### HOW TO USE "e ~ Funds For Schools":

- 1. Go to the Ponca school website <u>www.ponaschool.org</u> and click on the e-Funds link which is located on the right side of our website. You will be taken to the "e~Funds For Schools" website. Click on the link under "New Users" to create an account. Enter your account information. Please keep a copy of this information as the school will not have access to any of this information.
- 2. When creating a password, it must be **7 characters long** and needs to include **at least 1 upper case letter**, at least 1 lower case letter and at least 1 number.
- 3. Once your account is created click "Sign Up". Click in the Student Number box and enter the student(s) lunch number (your child will know this number). Next, Click "Add". After you have finished adding student or if you are making payments for yourself (teacher or staff member), click "Continue to Account Overview".
- 4. Verify the appropriate student numbers have been added. Then, select Continue to Account Overview.
- 5. The initial time you setup a new payment you are required to enter your bank or credit card information. First select **Payment Option** from the Main menu. Next select the **type of payment account** and enter your account information. Then select **SAVE**.

### **Scheduling a Payment:**

- 1. Select **Payment Options**, and **Make a Payment** from the drop down menu.
- 2. Enter the amount of your payment, select the **calendar** to choose the date of the payment then click **ADD.** If you have multiple children select the tab for each child to schedule a payment. Each child will have a tab with their name. Click **continue**.
- 3. Verify, a final time, your payment choices and agree to pay the convenience fee, select Submit.

\*There is a \$1.00 transaction convenience fee for each electronic checking payment that you make regardless of how many accounts you are paying money towards.

\*\*The system carries a non-sufficient funds (NSF) charge if the payment is "bad".

\*\*\*Payments made by credit or debit card, there is a convenience fee of \$2.45 per each \$100 increment in the transaction.

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

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E C R W S S Postal Patron

# PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL NOVEMBER 2017



### VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

Ponca Public School will present a Veterans Day Program in the gym at 2:00 P.M. on Monday, November 13, 2017. The public is invited to attend this program along with the Ponca, Jackson and surrounding area American Legion Veterans/Auxiliary Women, and grades 3-12 students/staff at Ponca School. We will recognize the service and commitment of our Veterans, Auxiliary women and active military men and women.

Plans are being made for PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade students/staff at Jackson Elementary to recognize Veterans Day during the week of November 6-10.

