

PONCA PINES PAGES

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PPA Dates:

- April 15th - 17th Parent Workshop
- **No School** May 7th, 10th, 28th, 31st, and June 1st.
- **Summer Break:** June 21st - 25th

News in a nutshell:

- Students experience Hawaiian Luau and Native American Powwow
- Students wrote poem and mission statement for Sanctuary
- Traveling Artist Series continues to be a success
- Art Therapist Jennifer Radil is featured in a local magazine for her

Community Meeting

- How are you feeling?
- What's your goal for the day?
- Who can support you?

HAWAIIAN LUAU

BY: MOLLY T., PPA STUDENT 17

I recently attended a Hawaiian luau at Creighton University. The luau was held by the Hawaiian students on March 20, 2010 from 5 till 9 in the school's gymnasium. The purpose of the gathering was to educate others about a culture, and also to bring the Hawaiian students together to give them a sense of home.

The atmosphere was fun and energetic. They had a table set up where you could buy artifacts and candy/ food from Hawaii. There was an all you can eat buffet where they served a mixed green salad, macaroni salad, lomi lomi salmon, chicken long rice, kalua pork, huli huli chicken, mahi mahi, pulehu steak, pineapple upside down cake, and haupia. I liked all of the food except the chicken long rice which consists of clear long noodles and chicken, but I thought it looked like jellyfish. At 7 o'clock, after dinner was served, they started the show.

They had emcees who gave us a brief overview of what the dances were about so that you were able to interpret the message the dancers were trying to get across to the audience. The

students choreographed and presented the show themselves. The dances performed were Kamali`I O Ka Po, E Ho`I I Ka Pili, Home Kapaka, Kananaka, Palehua, `Ote`a Oviri, Ka Mate, La`ieikawai, and Maui Hawaiian Sup`pa Man. There was also a sword dance where a woman came on stage with a machete and started throwing the knife around. The routine got your adrenaline pumping because she would have the knife so close to herself it looked like it could cut her. The dance that stuck out to me and that I liked the most was Ka Mate. There was one woman chanting and then the rest of the dancers were men. They were hitting their chests and chanting back. I thought it was neat because the roles were reversed; it was usually the men who were chanting and the women doing the dancing. The women wore a lot of bright colors and leis around their necks; they also looked very elegant using their hands and feet to tell a story. The men on the other hand did not wear any shirts and usually took on the role of tough guy.

thought the dancing was interesting and overall had a good time experiencing the Hawaiian culture.

2010 POWWOW

BY: MARY G., PPA STUDENT 17
STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

The drumming, the chanting, the natives – it was all so overwhelming, but also so captivating at the same time. At first, it seemed as though it was all an act; a mere representation of a Native American Powwow. However, it soon became clear that what was being witnessed was a true, authentic tribal Powwow. As this realization instantly changed the mood of those around me, as well as my own perception of what I was experiencing and observing, the celebration and tradition quickly began and what unfolded before our eyes was a spectacle which we would never forget.

To the naked eye, and to someone who had never experienced such a festivity, one saw elaborate costumes, natives performing spiritual dances and chanting powerful songs while others played on booming

Talent exposed at Sanctuary Celebration

Story Continued on page 2

During our recent Sanctuary Certification Celebration the students at Ponca Pines Academy were asked to work together to create a mission statement for how they see their treatment at Ponca Pines Academy. The girls came up with: "Ponca Pines Academy is a safe haven for young women to grow, repair, experience, and change. Through an inward journey, one learns to travel to the core of their being in order to let go of their past, while providing opportunities to explore their future!"

Additionally, the students were able to share a poem they had written for their Service Learning group that addresses issues surrounding racism in the past, present, and future.

"Right now society is dark and bleak. Equal rights is all that we seek.. Churches, schools, even water fountains are separate. It's sad to see times have gotten so desperate. Fight for equality, but get struck down. It's hard to face life without a frown. The color of our skin dictates who we are. American laws haven't helped much so far. Martin Luther King taught us to

VISITING ARTISTS SERIES

By Jennifer Radil

Throughout the months of February and March, the Ponca Pines students transitioned into amateur filmmakers. Local artist Matt Bross met with the students for six Fridays as part of the quarterly Visiting Artists series. The students developed an original story and translated it into a written list of scenes and camera shots. Each student took turns directing, acting, and shooting the shots with digital cameras. The students were able to edit the captured footage using Final Cut Pro. As set designers, they transformed the Academy's group room into a haunted house, as the story they told was a dark one: employees at a haunted house realize that one of their own has gone missing. Upon looking for the missing person they find her dead, and become frantic when they realize they are trapped in the house with the culprit! While the story is dark, the students enjoyed filming their campy horror film and, rest assured, everyone—even the victim—walked away from the shoot unscathed.

Poem continued from page 1.....

fight without violence, Telling us to speak to break the silence. Some people see our struggle, some are in denial. Meanwhile, we can't even get a fair trail.

Privileged white, downcast blacks; Clearly there is something this system lacks.

Clearly there's something this system lacks; As assimilated society adorned, With softened screams. For the rights we are all promised, We're told of much harder times, In the past. And how far out nation has come, Yet we remain separated By fear and ignorance, And thrive in the present, On pure complacency. "United we stand Yet divided we will fall. When will we unite?"

When will we unite? In a world that's black and white? Men, women, children as one, Look at what the world could become. The world could become free of racism and hate. Equality amongst all, for every single race. But if things stay the same, And no one's willing to change, The world will never be free, Of the discrimination that we see. "

STUDENT FEATURED SECTION:

BY: BRI S., PPA STUDENT 18

My name is Briana, but people here call me Bri. I came here on December 4th, 2009 and have been here for about 4 months. I have been in other facilities before, but Ponca Pines Academy is far from different, and very unique. PPA is not like any other facility I've ever been too, but better in ways. I do have some pros and cons about Ponca Pines, but all together I would have to say it has changed my outlook in life, with myself and my family relationship. I came to PPA not knowing what to expect. When I came to PPA I was scared and nervous. But the girls welcomed me into the PPA family very well and it made me feel more safer than where I was. So far my experience has been amazing here and I am very thankful for this opportunity to be here at Ponca Pines Academy.

RECOGNITION FOR HARDWORK AND ARTWORK

Ponca Pines Academy is proud to give a shout-out to our Art Therapist, Jennifer Radil. Jennifer was recently featured in , "Today's Omaha Woman," a local paper; the dedicated article, Art Therapy Heals Troubled Teens. It discusses the work that Jennifer contributes to Uta/Cooper/Ponca Pines and her views on why art therapy is successful in working with traumatized youth.

With the excitement of warmer weather and blooming trees, renewed energy and excitement is spreading over the Ponca Pines Academy campus. And, looking back over the past few months, we share a sense of pride over all that we have accomplished both as program, and as an agency!

Our students continue to challenge themselves as they work diligently to achieve their personal goals. As a result of their hard work, recently everyone at PPA had

BETSY'S CORNER



the opportunity to share in the celebration of two high school graduations, and we are busy preparing for two additional high school

graduations and a program graduation in May.

Additionally, a monumental accomplishment of our Agency includes the formal celebration of our recently earned Sanctuary Certification which was held in March! On campus to help us celebrate were key representatives from the Andrus Children's Center and Sanctuary Institute; Michael Thomas and Sarah Yanosy. All agency staff and youth were involved in the celebration and participated in the receiving of our award.



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KEY CLUB

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Official Newsletter of **Ponca Pines Academy Key Club**

Volume 1 Issue 2

Key Club and K-Kids

This quarter, Ponca Pines Academy Key Club members, Julie C-F. and Valerie R., were able to give back to the youth at Ponca Hills Elementary School through dedicating their time after school. Both Julie and Valerie went to Ponca Hills where they created the necessary materials to complete a craft which they crafted with the students. All members of Ponca Pines' Key Club have worked together to develop an

activities binder which has been submitted for review. Within the activities binder, PPA's Key Club members included some of their favorite craft ideas, recipes, games, and other fun activities which the youth at Ponca Hills may be interested in doing. The Ponca Pines Academy chapter of Key Club hopes to continue their services at Ponca Hills Elementary School and looks forward to working with the students again in the future.

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drums. However, to the Native American tribes attending the special event, this Powwow meant so much more.

The dances, the chanting, and the music which the natives played are all ways of honoring their past, ancestors, and Gods. By performing these honorary traditions, the Native Americans exude their pride, strength, hope, and achievements.

From watching the native dances, hearing the tribal music and sounds, and experiencing all the meaningful aspects of the Powwow celebration, I was immediately awe-struck and taken by the power and impact which the festivity had on me. By watching the Native Americans I was able to learn what their traditions and rituals mean to them and how they still cherish their ancestors and their past today. I felt the pride emanating from the natives as they performed their dances and songs and the perseverance which they possessed to overcome such hardships which exist in their past.

Although the Powwow was set in a

different type of setting (Creighton University's Kiewit Fitness Center), it still held significant meaning to those who partook and those who got to witness the dedication and tribute which the Native Americans paid to their heritage. Mostly it was the natives who attended the celebration, however, there were a few onlookers who were not a part of any of the tribes and who were just there to support the tribes and the efforts of those involved.

After attending the Powwow, I have gained a new outlook on the Native American people of today's society as well as the past culture as well. Although I have learned about native people through Ethnic Studies, I have never had much exposure to their traditions or lifestyle so to experience a real, authentic Powwow was a memorable experience for me. I did not play a huge role in the Powwow, however, I do think that it was important for me to be there because by me attending that celebration, the natives were able to educate one more person about the importance of their customs and beliefs.

Powwow Schedule & Featured Guests

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

12:00pm:: Doors Open
 Dancer Registration (limited)
 Invited Drums Only
 Princess Registration (Ages 13-21)
 1:00pm:: Grand Entry
 5:00pm:: Feed
 7:00pm:: Grand Entry
 10:00pm:: Closing Ceremony
 Dancer Payout

HEAD DANCERS:

Head Lady: Tess Knight
 Oglala Lakota
 Head Man: Lorenzo Gladfelter
 Umonhon
 2009 princess: Lily Smith
 (Omaha)

HOST DRUMS:

Northern: Standing Horse (Rapid City, SD)
 Southern: Young Bucks
 (Independence, MO)

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:

Derow White Berast (Montour, IA)

PPA's Key Club Officers

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Krystal Boose
Kiwanis & Faculty Advisor

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Kiwanis Club of Florence, NE
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“When a man is wrapped in himself, he makes a small package.” – John Ruskin

This quote, to me, means that an individual is not capable of achieving much for mankind if he is only aimed at pleasing himself. I believe this quote to hold incredible truth because when one finds himself caught in narcissism or self-centeredness, he is unable to look past himself, his wants, his flaws, and his “needs”.

-Mary G., Editor

“We can have more than we’ve got because we can become more than we are.” - Jim Rohn

When I hear this quote, it makes me feel hopeful and determined to work harder. I think that the quote is trying to say that when we strive to be better than whom we are in this moment, we can achieve much more than what we believe we are capable of achieving.

-Sam R., Vice-President

** Julie C-F. has stepped down from the Presidential position. We look forward to her contributions as a member.**

Open Door Mission

Every Saturday afternoon, the young women of Ponca Pines Academy dedicate their time at the Timberlake Outreach Center. The Timberlake Outreach Center is a small division of the Open Door Mission where families from all over Omaha, NE. and the local regions can donate their used clothing and household items for less fortunate or privileged families. Riley W., who has just begun accompanying the group to the Timberlake Outreach Center has been greatly moved by the few experiences she’s had at the Open Door Mission and said, “It is nice to feel like I am giving something back to those in my community.” Normally, the girls’ services at the Open Door Mission include organizing men’s, women’s, and children’s clothing, organizing and maintaining the cleanliness of “The Baby Room,” and also stocking and unloading the donations that arrive at the Timberlake Outreach Center. Valerie R., a young woman who has accompanied the group many times to the Open Door Mission, also has been greatly influenced by volunteering and donating her time and said, “I feel good knowing that people are benefiting from my hard work and dedicated time.”

PPA Key Club Welcomes, New Members!

“I hope we begin to have more opportunities to help those who need it. It would be nice to find new paths that are less traveled when looking for ways of helping others and giving back to those in the community. I hope that I can be a viable part of PPA’s Key Club and generate positive and influential ideas within the group.”

-Valerie R.

“My hope is that we begin to get more involved in the community. I feel as though the goals we are setting are too long-term oriented and that we need to set more short-term goals to focus on. I hope that eventually we can work towards those long-term and “big-picture” goals, but being a new chapter, it is hard to “hit the ground running.”

-Molly T.

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