



# Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

October 25, 2018

## Leo Club Again Organizing Leaf Raking Project

The Columbus Grove High School Leo Club is again organizing a leaf raking service project FREE of charge to help our senior citizens as well as those who need assistance raking leaves. Leaves will be raked on Sunday, November 11. If interested, contact the school office at 659-2156 or Mrs. Birnesser @ [cg\\_birnesser@cg.noacsc.org](mailto:cg_birnesser@cg.noacsc.org) and provide your name, address, and phone number. Please contact the school by Friday, November 9.

## Community Trick or Treat Night Tonight!

Columbus Grove will hold Halloween festivities this evening beginning with the costume parade from 6:00-6:30 p.m. at Columbus Grove Memorial Park. Elementary Principal Brad Calvelage will emcee the event and several local community members will judge the costumes.

Trick-or-Treating around the community will follow from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Many thanks go to Columbus Grove businesses and the village administration for supporting this fun-filled event.

## Habitudes Program Restarting at CG

Last year Columbus Grove Schools introduced the Habitudes Leadership program for high school students to engage participants in activities that built valuable leadership and life skills. Headed up by Mr. Andy Schafer, the goal of the program is to help students break free from peer pressure and learn to influence others in positive ways, embrace values and hard work, develop empathy to minimize bullying, and develop skills to produce better life choices, healthy friends, and set meaningful goals. This year, Mr. Brian Schroeder will be working with the junior Habitudes members and Mr. Schafer will work with the seniors. Also new this year, our senior students will be leading sessions with our sophomores, which will build their leadership skills through this process.

Habitudes revolves around images that are designed to form leadership habits and attitudes. During the course of the program, students are introduced to a problem and an image addressing the problem. Students then launch into conversation to weigh in and respond to the problem, discussing ideas and solutions. Once the conversation begins, ideas and experiences surface that lead to life changes and changes in attitudes. Many thanks go to Mr. Schafer and Mr. Schroeder for giving of their time to help these students start conversations that build leaders in our school!

## Fall Sports Teams Keep Rolling!

Congrats to our cross country teams who finished second (girls) and first (boys) at districts last Saturday in Ottawa. This Saturday, these two teams will compete at the Tiffin Regional for a shot at state competition. Columbus Grove has never had both the girls' and the boys' teams qualify for state in the same year. We wish you the best as you compete to make school history this Saturday!

Our football team also has a chance to accomplish something that hasn't happened since 2005 when they travel to Bluffton tomorrow evening for the final game of the regular season. 2005 was the last year the Bulldogs took home the NWC title in football. With a win tomorrow night, the Bulldogs would win at least a share of the NWC title! Also, a win tomorrow night would greatly increase the team's chances of securing a home playoff game the following week. Good luck tomorrow, Bulldogs!

Unfortunately, the fall sports seasons came to an end for our girls' soccer and volleyball teams in the last week. Last Saturday, the soccer team lost a hard fought 2-1 match to Kalida in double overtime. The girls lost to the Wildcats 6-1 earlier in the year, so this shows you the amount of improvement this young team made this year. Great job, girls and coaches! Our volleyball team lost to LCC in four sets earlier this week at OG in the District semi-finals. We want to congratulate the girls and coaches on a fine 18-6 season, which included a share of the NWC title!

## NWC Sportsmanship Public Service Announcements

Earlier this week, Athletic Director Terry Schnipke took three high school athletes, Amy Vorst, Brady Hauenstein, and Dane Selby, to Lima to be part of the Northwest Conference's Sportsmanship program. These student-athletes will appear with other NWC athletes in public service announcements, promoting good sportsmanship of both athletes and fans at upcoming athletic events. Many thanks to these three student-athletes for representing our district so well!

## School Bus Safety Week

The week of October 22-26 is National School Bus Safety Week. The theme this year is "My Driver- My Safety Hero!" In a recent national study, a total of 77,972 vehicles illegally passed a school bus on a single day. That is more than 14 million violations in a 180-day school year! More than 25 million children ride the yellow bus every school day.

Students all over the country rely on buses to get them safely to and from school every day. To ensure their safety, motorists should exercise caution when approaching a school bus especially if its lights are flashing. It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus stopped to load or unload children. Many school districts have installed red arm cameras to help curtail violations. With a recording of the passing vehicle and license plate, law enforcement can pursue charges against violators. As drivers, we can help keep kids safe by practicing caution when approaching school buses.

- Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is getting ready to stop.
- Red flashing lights and the extended stop sign arm signal that motorists must stop for loading or unloading of children.
- All 50 states require traffic to stop in both directions on undivided highways when red lights are flashing.
- Drivers must remain stopped until the bus is in motion again.
- Traffic must stop at least ten feet from the front or rear of a stopped bus.
- It is illegal to pass a bus on the right side.
- Bus drivers must wait to resume travelling until all exiting passengers are a safe distance from the bus.
- Children are unpredictable. Be alert for children walking to and from bus stops.

Kudos to all Columbus Grove bus drivers for being so diligent and responsible in transporting our precious cargo!

## Don't Forget- The Cafeteria Serves Breakfast!

The research is clear and overwhelming: eating breakfast, including at school, helps improve student academic performance and behavior. Here are some other facts regarding students who eat breakfast at the start of each day:

- Children who eat breakfast at school — closer to class and test-taking time — perform better on standardized tests than those who skip breakfast or eat breakfast at home.
- Students who eat breakfast the morning of a standardized test have significantly higher scores in spelling, reading, and math, compared to those who do not eat breakfast.
- Student academic achievement increases, especially for math, when schools offer the School Breakfast Program.
- Students who participate in school breakfast show improved attendance, behavior, and academic performance as well as decreased tardiness.
- Providing breakfast to students at school improves their concentration, alertness, comprehension, memory, and learning.
- Children who eat breakfast show improved cognitive function, attention, and memory.
- Consuming breakfast improves children's performance on mathematical tasks, vocabulary tests, demanding mental tasks, and reaction to frustration.

Columbus Grove School's Nutrition Department serves breakfast daily in the cafeteria. If you are rushed in the morning and your children are not eating breakfast on regular basis, try getting the kids to school by 7:30-7:35 a.m. in the morning so they can start their day off with a nutritious breakfast. Reminder: students receiving free/reduced lunches are also approved for free/reduced breakfast. Join us in the mornings for breakfast!

### Upcoming Dates:

#### Thursday October 25<sup>th</sup>

P.I.E Products Delivered

Trick or treat costume parade @ CG Memorial Park – 6:00- 6:30 pm

Trick or Treat – 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

#### Friday October 26<sup>th</sup>

Boys Varsity Football @ Bluffton HS - 7:00 pm

Report cards go home

#### Saturday October 27<sup>th</sup>

Coed Varsity Cross Country - Regionals @ Tiffin – 11:00 am

#### Tuesday October 30<sup>th</sup>

Picture retake day