



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

October 25, 2024

National School Bus Safety Week 10/21-10/25

This week is National School Bus Safety Week, and the theme for 2024 is *"Buses Stop, Children Don't!"* This theme reminds us all to be extra cautious around school buses to protect our students. School bus drivers have one of the most important jobs in our community, ensuring that over 350 students are transported safely each day. Their quick thinking, attention to detail, and care help keep our children safe on the roads.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to the dedicated bus drivers of Columbus Grove Schools. Every day, they handle this enormous responsibility with professionalism and kindness, often going above and beyond to create a safe and welcoming environment for our students. Thank you to each of our drivers for your hard work and dedication—you are an essential part of our Bulldog family! Regular route drivers for CG Schools are Deanna Ricker (24 years), Shelly Schroeder (21 years), Linda Ridenour (17 years), Mike Fanaff (15 years), Joanne McKanna (10 years), Janel Hardeman (9 years), Brad Anderson (8 years), Bill Heilman (3 years), Chad McCluer (2 years), Jeff Gertsen (1 year), and Pete Langhals (1 year).



CGHS Student Success Leads to Another Busy Upcoming Weekend!

In last week's update, I highlighted the many activities taking place with our students competing in various activities. This weekend continues to be a busy one, as CGHS students continue to excel on the fields of competition. Here's a quick recap:

- **Girls' Soccer-** The girls' soccer squad topped a challenging Mansfield Christian squad 5-2 in the district semifinals at Bluffton this past Monday evening and then they faced off against Bluffton Thursday night at Bluffton's Steinmetz Field. The Lady Dogs beat Bluffton 4-2 securing a District Title for the first time in the team's history! The girls travel to Port Clinton on Tuesday to compete against Evergreen in the Regional semi-final game at 6:00 p.m. Good luck ladies!
- **Football-** The Bulldogs held off a tough LCC squad last weekend at Clymer Stadium by a score of 28-20. This puts the Bulldogs' record at 9-0 as they head into their final regular season game versus Bluffton tomorrow night. This will be a battle of unbeaten, with the winner taking the NWC title outright. Game time is 7 p.m. at Harmon Field.
- **Girls' Cross Country -** The girls' XC team punched their ticket to regionals last Saturday with an impressive runner-up performance at the district meet. The following runners ran a personal best in the race on their home course: Lily Montgomery- 20:22 (now 11th on the girls' XC record board), Grace Morman- 21:02, Lauren Martz- 21:12, Claire Koch- 22:03, Dakota Dunn- 23:05, and Breanne Fuerst- 23:32. The girls will compete at regionals this Saturday at 10:45 a.m. at Tiffin.

- Boys' Cross Country - Last Saturday, boys' cross team won the district for the seventh year in a row. In what took last year's team 11 years to break the 5-man fastest team time record, it took this year's team only 366 days. The 5-man team combined to run an 83:00, surpassing last year's 83:03. That is an average time of 16:36. Levi Bryan, who finished 2nd in the 144 runner race, became only the 6th runner in Columbus Grove's storied history to break the 16 minute mark, crossing the line in 15:55, a 23 second PR. Senior Bryce Bonifas set a personal record by 20 seconds, finishing 9th in 16:38. Aidan Voigt broke into the 16's in a big way, finishing 11th in 16:43, a 22 second PR. Zack Bryan was 15th overall, PR'ing by 32 seconds and running an amazing 16:46. Holden Hartzog gave the Dogs five guys under 17:00, with a 19th place finish in 16:56, 32 second PR. Braylon Best also had a PR by 8 seconds, running a 17:09 and finishing 23rd. Caiden Squillante came back from illness and finished a respectable 17:49. The Bulldogs will compete this Saturday at 10:00 a.m. in Tiffin as well.
- Marching Band- Last Saturday evening, the Bulldog Marching Band competed at the Maumee Band Invitational, coming away with a coveted *Superior* rating, marking the fourth year in a row of qualifying for state competition! By punching their ticket to the State OMEA Finals, the Bulldog Marching Band will compete this Sunday at 4:30 p.m. at Piqua High School, attempting to earn their second consecutive *Superior* rating at the state competition.

A huge CONGRATULATIONS to our students, coaches, and directors for your outstanding work and accomplishments! We wish you all the best of luck in your games, races, and competitions, beginning this evening! Go Bulldogs!

School Income Tax **Renewal** Levy on the Ballot November 5

On November 5, Columbus Grove Schools will have a 3/4% **RENEWAL (ZERO increase tax rate)** on the ballot. This levy, which was first passed in 1996 has been **renewed** on a five-year basis since and is up for another five-year **renewal** this November. This levy constitutes approximately 15% of the district's operating budget. With the tenuous nature of public-school funding from the state, this levy is critical to our district's operations in meeting the needs of our community's students. Community residents should soon receive a fall newsletter in the mail with more details regarding this **renewal**. If you have further questions regarding this **renewal** levy, please contact Mr. Verhoff at 659-4301.

Reminder: No School Friday, November 1

Remember that there will be no school Friday, November 1, for the fall break. This break will also give kids a day off after trick-or-treating on that evening. To see the 2024-25 school year calendar in its entirety, go to <http://cg.noacsc.org/> and click on "Calendars" in the left-hand column.

Reminder for Fans Purchasing Tickets for Post Season Tournaments

Bulldog fans are reminded that all upcoming tournament events for our fall teams will accept cash at the gate, but tickets are cheaper if purchased online through the OHSAA website. This includes the Sectional Soccer game and the District Cross Country meet that Grove is hosting. Passes issued by the Columbus Grove athletic department cannot be accepted for OHSAA-sponsored tournament events. Please note that ticket prices for tournament games are set by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, not the Columbus Grove Athletic Department.

Upcoming Events:

Friday, October 25th

Varsity Football @ Bluffton – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 26th

Cross Country @ Regionals @ Tiffin – 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 29th

Varsity Soccer vs. Evergreen @ Port Clinton – 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 31st

Trick or Treat Parade – 6:00 p.m.

Trick or Treat – 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 1st

No School – Fall Break

Friday, November 8th

Picture Retake Day