



# Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

November 9, 2023

## CG CROSS COUNTRY WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!!!

Last Saturday, the Boys' Cross Country achieved a district first, winning the 2023 OHSAA State Cross Country Championship with a score of 122, while second place Mt. Gilead scored 128. Third place Maplewood scored 166 and 4th place West Liberty-Salem scored 171.

Senior Luke Ellerbrock led the Bulldogs with a 12th place finish and time of 16:06. Luke earned All-Ohio honors in the race and earned a spot on the Wall of Fame as well! Fellow senior Evan "Bean" Pitts wrapped up his stellar senior season with a 34th place finish in 16:38, missing out on All-Ohio honors by just four places. Freshman sensation Caiden Squillante was the team's third runner, finishing 60th in 16:58. Caiden was the second fastest freshman in the state with his performance. Levi Bryan was close behind in 62nd place in 16:59, giving the Bulldogs four runners in the 16's. Bryce Bonifas sprinted past three runners in the final 200 meters, one of them from Mt. Gilead, to secure the win. Bryce finished 92nd with a time of 17:25. Logan Mersman finished 110th in 17:39, while Braylon Best was 125th in 17:56. Congratulations, men. What a race!

This championship is a long time coming for a program that has quite a storied history. Last Saturday was the twenty-second state appearance for the program. As Head Coach Terry Schnipke will tell you, it takes a lot of hard work, good health, and a little bit of luck in order to achieve an accomplishment like this. The boys were blessed to stay pretty healthy down the stretch and Coach Schnipke worked his magic in making sure the boys peaked at the right time of the season!

Congratulations, boys! We are so proud of your accomplishment!

On a related note, the Lion's Club, in conjunction with the American Legion and CG Athletic Boosters, recently installed new state championship signage at the village's corporation limits. We are happy to say that the signs already need some updating!

We want to say thank you to our Columbus Grove Volunteer Fire Department for coordinating trucks from all fire departments in the county to bring the team back into town on Saturday afternoon. As was noted in social media, this tradition is one of the many experiences that makes living in a small community so special. Thank you, CGVFD, for all your support of our students!



## CG Marching Band Earns "SUPERIOR" Rating at State Competition!

If winning the district's first ever state cross country championship wasn't enough last Saturday, our Columbus Grove Marching Band earned a SUPERIOR rating at the OMEA State Band Competition at Piqua High School on Sunday! While this is the third consecutive year which the Bulldogs earned a trip to state competition, this is the first SUPERIOR rating at the State Final since 2016! Comments from the judges included:

- "The visual program is outstanding"
- "Great job, performers. You are amazing!"
- "You are such a fantastic band!"
- "Great contrasts of style and dynamics."

The CGVFD were on hand for a second day in a row to lead the band back to the town square for another celebration early Sunday evening. Those in attendance joked that Columbus Grove should be all out of toilet paper with as much that was used in the celebrations last weekend! Congratulations to our band members and Band Director Jason Lozer for a fantastic finish to their marching band season! What a way to round out an outstanding weekend!



## Thank You, Village Workers!

In addition to our CGVFD, we want to say a huge THANK YOU to our village's maintenance crew for taking care of the aftermath of last weekend's celebrations. We know the guys always tell us they don't mind because it's for the kids, but we know this is added work to an already busy fall season. I guess this is just another aspect of small-town life that we can appreciate. Thank you, men!

## Thank You, Veterans!

In recognition of Veterans Day this Saturday, the students and staff again are participating in the Jeans for Troops or Sweats for Soldiers. All staff and students who participate will make a monetary donation, which will be donated to local entities that support our veterans.

Students are learning about the history behind Veterans Day in their classes. The Bulldog Newscast will air a story tomorrow regarding the significance of the POW/MIA chair which was dedicated earlier this football season at Clymer Stadium. Part of this story will include an interview with CGHS alumnus Justin LeHew, who has become a major player in the world of MIA search and recovery operations for the United States and currently the COO of the world's most successful, private, MIA search and recovery organization, History Flight. Many thanks to Mr. LeHew for making time for this interview.

We also have started each morning this week on the announcements with a local veteran leading the entire student body in the Pledge of Allegiance. Many thanks to the following veterans for coming to school early this week to lead our staff and students in the Pledge: Tom Timmons, Gary Dipnarine, Cliff Collar, Jody Sharrits, and Doug Alt. We say thank you to all our veterans who have served our country and allow us to have the many freedoms we enjoy in our lives!

## Leo Club Leaf Raking Project Scheduled for Sunday, November 19

Need help raking the many leaves in your yard? The Columbus Grove High School Leo Club is again offering 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 Sunday, November 19, beginning at 1 p.m. If you are interested in receiving assistance, contact the school office at 659-2156 and provide your name, address, and phone number. You may also contact Leo Club Advisor by email at [cg\\_birnesser@cg.noacsc.org](mailto:cg_birnesser@cg.noacsc.org). Thanks again to our Leo Club for conducting this wonderful service project!

## **Bulldog Bites:**

- 1988 State Cross Country champion and CG alumnus Mondo Tijerina was on hand to watch the boys capture the school's first ever team state title last Saturday at Fortress Obetz. Mondo currently lives in Lancaster, OH with his family.
- Recently, All-District Soccer honors were announced. Congratulations to Lauren Auchmuty being named 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-District, while teammates Ella Dotson, Ruth Myers, and Devanie Pingle earned Honorable Mention All-District.
- As mentioned, this marked the twenty-second appearance for the boys' cross-country team at state. Here are the previous years when the boys' qualified for state: 1969, 1970, 1971, 1986, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2018, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

## **Upcoming Events:**

### **Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

Boys Varsity Football vs. Carey @ Fostoria Memorial Stadium – 7:00 p.m.

### **Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**

Board Finance Subcommittee – 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting - 8:00 p.m.