



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

November 30, 2023

CG Schools Gives Thanks to our Veterans

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, the Bulldog Newscast recently conducted an interview with Justin LeHew, a distinguished 1988 CGHS alumnus and decorated war hero. The discussion centered around the installation and dedication of the POW/MIA chair at Clymer Stadium this past fall. Gain insights into Mr. LeHew's current initiatives, which contribute to bringing honor and closure to the families of MIA soldiers. Additionally, Justin reflects on the profound impact the Columbus Grove community has had on shaping his character. We extend our gratitude to Justin and all our veterans for their dedicated service to our country! To watch this video, please go to the Columbus Grove Local Schools Facebook page.

Leo Club Activities Help Community

Under the direction of Advisor Kim Birnesser, the Leo Club has been very busy with a number of service related activities. Earlier this fall, this group sponsored a building wide bingo game activity, with the proceeds going to the Putnam County Cancer Assistance Program (CAP). In recognition of Veterans Day a few weeks ago, the students and staff participated in the Jeans for Troops or Sweats for Soldiers. All staff and students who participated made a monetary donation, totaling over \$600. This money will be donated to the Columbus Grove VFW. On November 19, Leo Club members raked leaves for members throughout the community. Kudos to our Leo Club members for a job well done!

Congratulations, Coach Schnipke and Coach Schafer!

After such a successful fall sports season, it is not surprising that a couple of our coaches have been recognized for their efforts. Longtime Cross-Country Head Coach Terry Schnipke was recently named the 2023 Ohio Boys' Cross-Country Coach of the Year from the National Federation of High Schools. Coach Schnipke's squad won the state title this year, marking the first of this program's storied history. Under Coach Schnipke's leadership over nearly two decades, the boys' XC team has qualified for eight state appearances. Congratulations, Coach Schnipke!

In addition to Coach Schnipke's recognition, Head Football Coach Andy Schafer earned Northwest District VI Coach of the Year honors, sharing the award with Bluffton Head Coach, Jeff Richards. Coach Schafer's squad qualified for a third Final Four appearance at state in four years. During his 12-year tenure at Columbus Grove, the Bulldogs have won five NWC Championships and have qualified for state four times (2014, 2020, 2022, & 2023). Congratulations, Coach Schafer on a well-deserved recognition!

Upcoming Christmas Concerts

Please make plans to attend our high school's upcoming holiday concerts this month. This Monday, December 4, elementary grades 1-3 will host their holiday program in the auditorium at 7:00 p.m. On Wednesday, December 13, CG Sounds (grades 5 & 6) and the 7-12 Choir will host its annual holiday concert in the auditorium at 7:00 p.m. On Monday, December 18, the 7-12 Band Concert will host their concert in the high school gym, beginning at 7:00 p.m. All concerts are open to the public. Please come out to see our students' musical talents on display and get into the holiday spirit!

Boys' JV/Varsity Basketball Games Rescheduled

As a result of the football team's extended postseason, a few adjustments needed to be made the boys' JV/Varsity basketball schedule. The boys' first two basketball games, this Saturday vs. Van Buren and next Friday, December 8 at Ottoville, have been POSTPONED. No reschedule date has been set at this time, but we will let the public know when these games are rescheduled. The boys will begin their regular season on Friday, December 15, at Ada. The boys' home opener will be the next night on 12/16, when they host the Arlington Red Devils. Please note: JV game time on 12/16 will start at 4:00 p.m.

On the girls' basketball side of things, last Friday's original season opener was postponed and the girls will now play at Shawnee this Saturday, beginning at noon. The girls' season opener is now tonight at Elida.

Football Team Concludes Outstanding Season

Congratulations to the Columbus Grove Bulldog Football Team for a tremendous playoff run these past few weeks! After a successful 8-2 campaign and winning the NWC title outright against an undefeated Bluffton team in week 10, the Bulldogs went on a five-game trip through the playoffs, defeating multiple excellent teams, including Bluffton for a second time this season. The Bulldogs' season concluded with a Final Four loss to Versailles at Wapakoneta, compiling a 12-3 record for this year. Kudos to the players and coaches for their efforts this past season, as they created a great deal of school and community pride for our town! We want to give special thanks to our seniors, who finish their high school football careers with an overall record of 45-8! Congratulations, team, and thank you for providing so much excitement and community pride this past fall!

Bulldog Bucks Raffle Tickets for Sale

If not, you are missing out on a chance to win \$10,000, \$15,000, or \$50,000! The Columbus Grove Boosters, in conjunction with the Columbus Grove Volunteer Fire Department, Columbus Grove Band Boosters, and Columbus Grove Lions Club, are selling only 700 tickets for this raffle. The drawing for the three lucky tickets will take place on Saturday, June 15 at 10:00 p.m. at the June Jubilee, prior to the fireworks display. You need not be present to win. Tickets will be on sale at home basketball games this year for \$150 apiece.

You may also purchase tickets from members of the various groups sponsoring this raffle. All proceeds will go to these groups sponsoring the raffle. Thank you in advance for your support of these important groups that do so much for the community of Columbus Grove!

Alumni Brick Paver Orders Available

Looking for a great gift for the hard-to-buy-for individual this Christmas? Columbus Grove community members and alumni may purchase a personalized brick to be placed in this area to honor individuals or significant events in Columbus Grove Local Schools' storied history. Bricks are on sale for \$50 for a 4" by 8" brick. For an order form, please check out the Columbus Website at <http://cg.noacsc.org/> or you may pick up an order form at the school offices as well. These bricks make a perfect gift to commemorate a CG alumnus, faculty member, student accomplishment, or historical event in our district's history. In addition, a decorative postcard will be sent to recipients, notifying them of the brick purchased in their honor. If you have further questions, please contact the superintendent's office at 659-2639. Think about purchasing a brick for a gift this holiday season! All proceeds go to the CG Alumni Association's future project initiatives.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, November 30th

Girls JV & Varsity Basketball @ Elida – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 2nd

Girls JV & Varsity Basketball @ Shawnee – 12:00 p.m.

Monday, December 4th

Grades 1-3 Holiday Program – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 5th

Boys JH Basketball vs. Ada – 5:00 p.m.

Girls JH Basketball @ Ada – 5:00 p.m.

Girls JV & Varsity Basketball vs. Continental – 6:00 p.m.