



# Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

December 21, 2017

## **CGHS Mourns the Passing of Bob Montooth**

Recently, we were all saddened by the news of the passing of Bob Montooth, former longtime band director of Columbus Grove High School. Bob was one of those hallmark teachers who made a tremendous impact on the thousands of students he taught over his career at Columbus Grove. Bob's efforts over the many years are a key reason we have such a rich music program in our district. Bob will be dearly missed.

## **Kids Hope Students Receive Special Treat**

A few years ago, a wonderful student mentoring program, Kids Hope, was started at CG Elementary. Over the last three years numerous bonds have been created with adult mentors and at-risk students in our school. Currently, there are over 30 such student mentors which come to the school once a week to mentor with these young people.

At the last mentoring session before the holiday break, these students were given a certificate of a free kid's breakfast at the Rowdy Rooster. This breakfast was made possible as a result of a donation by CG parent Sherry Myers and Rowdy Rooster owners Dan and Cheryl Risser. Many thanks to Sherry, Cheryl, and Dan for their generosity! I'm sure these students will take advantage of this treat over the break. Also, thank you to our student mentors for your time and care with these students!

## **Dresses for Africa**

Students in Mrs. Fought's sewing class made a colorful variety of pillowcase dresses to be sent to Africa. Little Dresses for Africa distributes these dresses throughout many parts of Africa, to show these little girls that they are valuable.

Typically, in Africa little girls are last when it comes to handouts, but they often work the hardest in the family taking care of the fields, homes, and younger children. Because girl orphans are among the most devalued and abused in their culture, it is the mission of Little Dresses for Africa to plant in the hearts of these little girls that they are worthy. It is reported that girls wearing a new little dress are much less likely to be abducted, abused, or molested because the new little dress shows that someone cares about them. Kudos to the sewing class for giving of your time and talents to help serve others!

## **Kindness/Empathy Project Garners Over 1,600 Pairs of Socks**

During the holiday season, the school counseling department focused on "Empathy/Kindness – Put Yourself in Their Shoes". This theme was carried out school wide and incorporated into classroom lessons, service projects, and celebrations.

Students in each grade hosted a sock drive to benefit local families, thrift stores, and shelters. Students were encouraged to donate a pair of new socks to go to those in need. Guidance Counselors Mrs. Losh and Mrs. Bruce collaborated on this project with Mrs. Birnesser, Mrs. Baumgartner, Mrs. Weisenburger, the LEO Club, National Honor Society, and Student Council to coincide with the high school Food Drive. Donations began for high school students the week of December 4th - December 8th.

The counselors also collaborated with Ms. Rohdes and Mr. Suever by doing presentations and projects regarding Kindness and Empathy. The elementary and middle school classes took part in their sock donation drive as well last week. The grand total pairs of socks that were donated came to 1,621! To celebrate, all KG-8 students were invited to our "Sock Hop" yesterday. Students wore ugly Christmas sweaters and their own crazy socks and danced to some fun music in the elementary gym. High school students celebrated by choosing a variety of fun activities to participate in that included Minute to Win It games, relay races, Bingo, corn hole, ping pong, board games, Zumba, making ice cream, baking cookies, movies, and more.

Many thanks go to our staff for helping our students see the importance on focusing on the needs of others, particularly during the holiday season. Kudos to our school counselors, Brenda Bruce and Mindy Losh, who coordinated this project!

## **Random Act of Kindness from CG 3<sup>rd</sup> Grader**

Recently our playground monitors mentioned to student Ana Gratz that they liked her hand crocheted hat. So as a random act of kindness, Ana and her mother shared their talents and made hats for the monitors. Pictured with their hats are monitors Linda Ridenour, Joanne Gray, Deanna Ricker, and Ana Gratz.

### **Elementary Students Conduct Vitamin Drive**

The elementary classes collected bottles of multivitamins for the children of Guatemala. National Honor Society members have been tallying the totals for each class and 109 bottles of multivitamins have been collected. Congratulations to Mrs. Bohrer's class for collecting the most vitamin bottles and earning a pizza party.

Due to poverty and malnutrition, Guatemalan children are undernourished and are typically 6-8 inches shorter than an American child of the same age. Teri Grothaus will be making a medical mission to trip to Guatemala in February and will be taking the vitamins to care for the Guatemalan children. Good job elementary students!

### **Sophomores Studying Forensic Anthropology**

Sophomores in Mr. Hassan's Human Body Systems course are currently studying forensic anthropology. They have looked at various "skeletal remains" making observations and measurements to identify a skeleton's race, sex, height, and age. The students compare data that they collect from sample bones to formulas derived from data collected from skeletons for which the identities are known. They learn that the problem with this method of trying to identify an individual is that it is not exact. The students can learn some basic details, but not definitively ID an individual. To complete this type of identification requires the collection of DNA evidence. Students are provided with a sample of DNA collected from their assigned bones, and using some sophisticated technology, will be able to find a match between their bones and a specific missing person. It's been a very exciting and educational project.

### **CGHS Hosting Hoopin' for a Cure January 13<sup>th</sup>**

A few years ago, Leipsic and Columbus Grove began to schedule both the girls' and boys' basketball games on the same Saturday, with parents from the hosting school holding a fundraiser for funds to either the Putnam County Cancer Assistance Program (CAP) or the Sherry Halker Pink Ribbon Warrior Fund. The Hoopin' for a Cure Crew is requesting donation items to be raffled off during the games that day. If you would be able to donate a service, gift, gift card, or any other item, the crew would greatly appreciate it. Donations can be dropped off at the Columbus Grove High School (attention Kristal Pingle).

Please join us for these games on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. The girls' games begin at 1:00 p.m. and the boys' games begin at 6:00 p.m. More information regarding this fundraiser will be featured in an upcoming edition of the Sentinel and Vidette.

### **Reverse Raffle Meeting Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**

The Columbus Grove Athletic Boosters are getting ready for their Reverse Raffle on March 3, 2018 at the Columbus Grove American Legion. They will be holding another planning meeting on Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### **Substitute Bus Drivers Wanted**

Columbus Grove Local Schools is accepting applications for substitute bus drivers. This position has the potential of becoming a full-time bus driver in the future, if the applicant is interested. Substitute bus drivers are contacted to drive extracurricular and field trips and occasionally drive a regular morning or afternoon route. Certification requires the completion of attending a pre-service class, a written and driving test, CDL license, a medical physical exam, drug test, BMV check of driving record, and a background check. Cost for training will be fully reimbursed by the district for any individuals who serve as a substitute bus driver for Columbus Grove Local Schools. If you are interested in becoming a bus driver for Columbus Grove School, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 659-2639 for further information.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Thursday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>**

Christmas Break – No School Dec. 21-Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Boys 9<sup>th</sup> Basketball vs. Lincolnview, 5:00 p.m.

Boys Jr. High Basketball vs. Delphos Jefferson, 5:00 p.m.

Girls JV & V. Basketball @ Lincolnview, 6:00 p.m.

#### **Friday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Boys JV & V. Basketball vs. Lincolnview, 6:00 p.m.

#### **Saturday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Boys 9<sup>th</sup> Basketball vs. Patrick Henry, 4:30 p.m.

Boys JV & V. Basketball vs. Patrick Henry, 6:00 p.m.

#### **Thursday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>**

Girls JV & V. Basketball @ Ottawa, 6:00 p.m.

#### **Saturday, Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>**

Boys JV & V. Basketball @ Van Wert, 6:00 p.m.

#### **Tuesday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Boys Jr. High Basketball @ Bluffton, 5:00 p.m.

Girls Jr. High Basketball vs. Bluffton, 5:00 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Scholastic Meet vs. Wayne Trace, 4:00 p.m.