VOLUME VII, ISSUE IV

02 OCT 2026

THE TALON

TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN



PHOTO COURTESY OF

TRIKE-A-THON
SEPTEMBER 23, 2026



FROM THE HEAD

At Tennessee Christian Preparatory School, we are incredibly grateful for the families, friends, alumni, and supporters who participated in the 2026–2027 Hawk Fund Launch Week. Your generosity invests in our students, our teachers, and Tennessee Christian's mission.

We are excited to share that 80 families participated in our Hawk Fund so far this year! Every gift represents a family or supporter choosing to come alongside Tennessee Christian and help strengthen the educational experience we provide our students.

To everyone who has already given, thank you! Your participation demonstrates your belief in Tennessee Christian Preparatory School and your commitment to helping our students grow academically, spiritually, and personally. We are thankful for a community that continues to invest in the future of Tennessee Christian.

There's Still Time to Participate

If you have not yet made a gift to the 2026–2027 Hawk Fund, we invite you to join the families and supporters who have already supported the Hawk Fund. Participation at every level matters. When our school community comes together, individual gifts become a collective expression of support for our students and the work taking place at Tennessee Christian each day. Whether your gift is large or small, your participation helps make a difference.

Our goal is not simply to reach a number; it is for our community to come together in support of a shared mission.

As we continue through the 2026–2027 school year, we hope to see our Hawk Fund participation continue to grow. If you have already contributed, please accept our sincere thanks. If you have not yet participated, we encourage you to consider making your gift today. Together, we can continue building a strong future for Tennessee Christian Preparatory School and the students we are blessed to serve.

Thank you for supporting our school! Go Hawks!

GRANDPARENTS' DAY












ZAXBYS










2016 SCAA
WOMENS
SKETBALL
HAMPIONS
HAWKS
NEST
AT SLUDER ARENA
2015 SCAA
MENS
BASKETBALL
CHAMPIONS



GIDDY UP AND GO!

LEARNING COTTAGE TRIKE-A-THON

This year we celebrated the fifth annual Learning Cottage Trike-a-Thon. My heart could not be more full than it was to see our entire community come together dressed in their finest farm couture. The Upper School and Beta Club members that pitched in were exceptionally impressive. I tell people all the time how great the teenagers at Tennessee Christian are and they proved me right that morning. Some of our volunteers even started before the sun was up, collecting bikes, trikes, and scooters during morning arrival! I also want to thank the parents and TCPS faculty that pitched in to help facilitate all the things.

This year was also exciting because we joined the Learning Cottage Trike-a-Thon with our Annual Hawk Fund. If you are new to Tennessee Christian, the Trike-a-Thon began as a small fundraiser and has grown into a campus wide event that students of all ages look forward to. We have come to love and celebrate working together and building relationships across divisions. For that reason, it seemed fit to pair this beloved event with our Hawk Fund.



All in all, the 2026 Trike-a- Thon went off without a hitch and I am already looking forward to 2027. The Learning Cottage is blessed to be a part of such a wonderful school community.




Yee-Haw
Giddy Up!






JUST TILLIN


Giddy
GO








GO Tiny
HAWKS. YOU
GOT it
GO GO GO HAWKS



humility.

John the Baptist Award

"He must become greater; I must become less." – John 3:30



Allie Epperson (K4)
"I chose Allie for this award for showing a sweet and humble heart each day. She patiently waits for her turn, celebrates her friends when they succeed, and lovingly puts the needs of the classroom before her own. She is always willing to share, help, forgive, and let others have their moment to shine." -Hannah Bullington



Christian Bjornstad (K4)
"Last week I observed Christian stop what he was doing to help his new friend put on his shoes. The following day he helped his friend with his shoes again. When I mentioned to him how kind that was he just shrugged his shoulders at me and said, "Well, that's just what friends do." -Jen Winner



Jacob Bowers (Kindergarten)
"Jacob is a selfless friend and looks for ways to help those around him even when he receives nothing in return. Jacob works hard at school and has learned so much in his first year at TCPS. May you continue to grow in Christ love and remain humble along the way! " -Ashley Dodson and Phyllis Hope



Maverick Watson (3rd Grade)
"Maverick is always humble and kind toward others. He doesn't seek attention or recognition and is always willing to help and encourage his classmates. He consistently shows humility through his actions and the way he treats others." -Abby Runion



humility.

John the Baptist Award

"He must become greater; I must become less." – John 3:30



Julieth Fowler (4th Grade)
"Julieth gets along well with her classmates and leads by example. She shows humility in the way she interacts with others and is always quick to help her classmates. She has a kind heart and often goes out of her way to lift others up with a kind word or thoughtful note." -Amond Steinbach



Emilyn Madden (Middle School)
"Emilyn exhibits humility everyday at TCPS. She has a loving, selfless attitude towards her classmates and teachers that resonates servitude. She is always looking out for others before herself and celebrates others accomplishments before her own. As in Proverbs 15:33, humility comes before honor and Emilyn is a perfect example of this trait." -Kelly Owens



Addy Ratcliff (Upper School)
"This student exemplifies humility through their selfless actions. She can put aside her stress and thrive in an uncomfortable situation. At Constitution Bowl, this student was to observe and take in the experience. However, when another school did not have enough players, she joined their team despite it being a new experience. I admire her maturity and willingness to set herself aside to help others." -Kori Weaver





Another correct answer!

I was over the moon.

As I watched my students interact with the young tour guide, my heart began to overflow with gratitude. I am not ashamed to say that I was overcome with emotion. In that moment, I realized that my students were doing more than simply remembering information for a classroom lesson. They were taking what they had learned and carrying it with them into the world.

That is why we teach.

That is our purpose-to plant seeds of knowledge, character, faith, and purpose in the hearts of our children and to “train up a child in the way he should go.”

The rest of the day unfolded in a joyful swirl of activity. I watched our young hawks demonstrate what it means to take their light into the world. They laughed, played, encouraged one another, and celebrated each other’s successes. We explored the grounds, learned important lessons about our history, and even ended the day by trying our hand at shooting a blow dart gun!

Yes, we learned about the Cherokee people and the Trail of Tears. We learned about history, hardship, courage, and perseverance. But as I reflected on the day, I realized that perhaps the most important lesson was the one our students taught me.

They reminded me that learning is not confined to the walls of a classroom.
Knowledge comes alive when children can take what they have learned and connect it to the world around them. Character is revealed in the way they treat others. And faith shines brightest when we allow the light God has placed within us to illuminate the lives of those around us.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

That is exactly what our students did.

They let their lights shine.

As their teacher, I am incredibly proud and deeply honored to watch our young hawks spread their wings, take flight, and soar toward the people God has created them to become.

And on the days when I wonder whether I am really making a difference, I will remember this day.

I will remember those hands shooting into the air.

I will remember those correct answers.

I will remember the excitement in their faces and the way they encouraged one another.

And I will remember that sometimes, the greatest evidence that we are making a difference is simply watching our students take what we have taught them and carry it into the world.

YOUNG HAWKS TAKE FLIGHT



As an educator, I often find myself wondering, *Are my students really getting it?* I work diligently to plan, prepare, and teach meaningful lessons, but at the end of the day, I sometimes wonder, *Am I really making a difference?*

Then comes a day like Thursday, September 24th-a day that reminds me exactly why I became a teacher.

On that day, I had the privilege of taking my fourth-grade class to Red Clay State Historic Park. I had carefully planned a lesson about the significance of this historic site and its connection to the lives we live today. My students listened with interest and, I'm proud to say, were deeply moved by the tragic events that took place not so long ago, right here in the place we now call home.

As we settled in for an introductory video, our tour guide began asking the students questions. I sat quietly, my heart pounding.

Will they remember what we learned? Will they be able to make the connection?

The first question was asked, and hands immediately shot up around the room. The guide called on one of my students, who confidently gave the correct answer.

Whew! We got one!

I was so proud.

Then came another question: "How many Cherokee people died along the Trail of Tears?"

Once again, hands shot into the air. I felt like a batter stepping up to the plate for the first time. Time seemed to stand still as the guide selected a student.

The answer came: "4,000."

Smash! Home run!

SAFETY PATROL

KEEPING OUR HAWKS SAFE







Safety Patrol is underway! We would like to introduce the fifth grade students who will be responsible for keeping our littlest hawks safe on campus! Our fifth grade students are selected through an application process based on an essay they have written explaining why they should be chosen for this assignment. Most students respond with: I want to keep the students safe, I can be responsible, and I want to serve. These are all attributes that we find valuable in our young servant leaders on campus. It is a joy to watch students serving in small but meaningful ways and learning what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Safety Patrol Fall 2026

Madeleine Naquin
Everly Workman
Reid Campbell
Finn McCrae
Graham Osborne
Iris Tilley

Athletics

TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN

Weeks of 9/21-9/25 and 9/28-10/2



3rd-8th Cross Country

The TCPS Cross Country team has officially come to an end and we cannot be more proud of the improvements they have made throughout the season. With every runner hitting numerous pr's, to even the lower school girls taking home the first place plaque at the championship race.

We are continuing to cheer on our athletes who are competing in various races, between qualifiers for state and different community events. We are so proud of our young athletes here at Tennessee Christian.

Middle School Tennis

Both boys and girls middle school tennis ended their season with improvement and something to look forward to as they think about their next tennis season. They capped it off with the boys winning the first place trophy and the girls placing second place. We are so proud of both tennis teams, led by coach Erin Debusk, with the hard work they put in this tennis season.







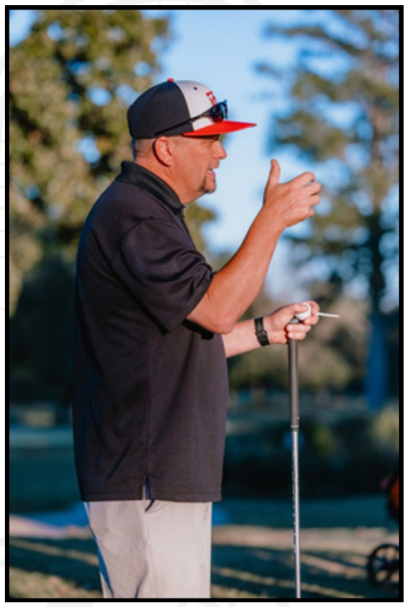
High School Flag Football

Flag Football has officially wrapped up their season and we cannot be more proud of the hard work and dedication that each of them have put in. They went into every game ready to step out onto the field with their best steps forward and that is all you can ask for a team. Their heart and passion for Flag Football was evident in not only their games, but also through practice and how devoted they are to each other. To take from the Athletic Code of Conduct, we are buildng athletes to be humble in victory yet steadfast in defeat, and that is what we have seen with this Flag Football team.

High School Volleyball

The High School Volleyball team is continuing to have a historic season. With remaining undefeated in the conference thus far, they are looking to win it all as the season is coming to an end. This team has been led by teammates who have played together while at TCPS since middle school, and it only proves to show the commitment they have to each other with each and every win.

As they continue to seek and give their best effort heading into the final weeks of the season, let us as a community continue to cheer on our volleyball team in their historical season.



High School Golf

The High School Golf team has had a remarkable year, defeating teams leaving no room to doubt, and continuing to show up and give excellence in all they do. They have shown improvement this season and that is something any coach hopes for in a team. We are proud of each and every one of our guys who has played golf this season, and cannot wait to see what they bring to the table for next year.

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Tennessee Christian Preparatory School *provides* a quality college preparatory education, from a **Biblical worldview**, and *equips* students for tomorrow's challenges by educating the *mind* and the *soul*.