

# the talon

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# from the Head

On this Veterans Day, I extend my deepest gratitude to all members of our community who have served our country. Today, we are reminded to pause, reflect, and give thanks to the men and women who have protected our freedoms. Our reflection and gratitude are the very least we can do.

Many of my own family members have served, but one stands out in particular: my cousin, Jonathan Miskelly. Jonathan had a profound influence on my growing up. He was an incredible guitarist, and when I'd call out a song, he could play it flawlessly without a moment's hesitation. From then on, a guitar was never far from my hands.

But it was the first time I saw a photo of Jonathan in his Marine uniform that left the most profound impression on me. The rock-and-roll guy I admired had become a picturesque example of honor, discipline, and service. Jonathan served as a Marine, and his courage and dedication continue to inspire me to this day.

I also want to thank my family members who served:

Rick McClure: Air Force

Bud Leonard: Army

Wayne Leonard: Army

Heather Curnett: Air Force

Michael Leonard: Air Force



In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jared D. Tilley". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "J" and "T".

Jared D. Tilley



# MIDDLE SCHOOL BONFIRE

This past Saturday, our middle school students attended the annual Middle School Bonfire. The decades-long tradition, shifted locations from Ms. Kesley's beautiful family farm to a new location. This year, the Ahlers family hosted the event, and the middle school interaction and enjoyment did not skip a beat. As the students arrived for the event, they were greeted by a fire. This fire was not just a subtle burn but one for the ages. If I were stranded on a deserted island, I would want the assistance of Eli Ahlers in creating a signal fire.

The students enjoyed a well-lit field under a starry sky and the moon as they played football, tag, and conversed with each other. There is a common understanding in education that middle school students struggle socially, often feeling awkward and disengaged. This is not the case with our students. They were excited to see each other and joined in conversation and play without hesitation. They were not looking down at their phones but engaged with each other. It was heartwarming to see the connection this tradition fosters at Tennessee Christian.

Thank you to the Ahlers family for allowing our middle school students to enjoy their excellent property. Their care and attention to detail made for a wonderful evening.

-Jared D. Tilley



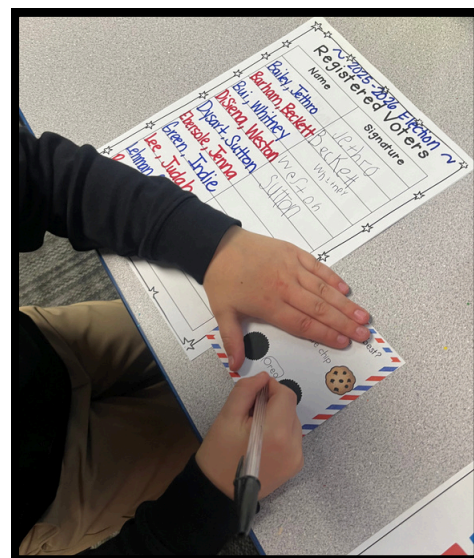




Election season swept through Kindergarten this week as our young voters hit the polls for the Great Cookie Election! The candidates, Oreo and Chips Ahoy, made their cases to the people with mouthwatering appeal and plenty of campaign buzz.

Students lined up to cast their votes in a voting booth, taking their civic duty very seriously (with just a little drool involved). When the ballots were counted, Oreo claimed a landslide victory, proving that creamy filling and chocolate cookies make a winning platform!

Chips Ahoy accepted the results with good sportsmanship, promising to stay sweet and maybe make a comeback next year. It was a fun and delicious way for our Kindergarten students to learn about elections, fairness, and the power of having their voices heard, one cookie at a time!





# FOOD DRIVE

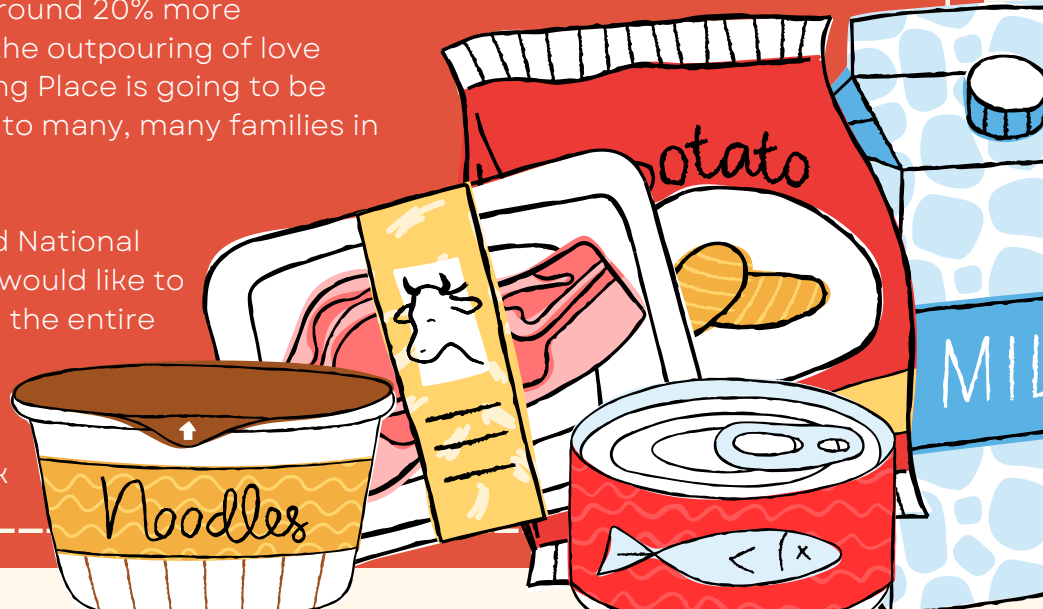


We outdid ourselves this year! Thanks to the solid commitment of the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, and all of our loving Tennessee Christian families, we collected even more food than last year. You filled up the back of an F-150, plus the back and backseat of an SUV. Incredible!

Our NHS grocery baggers were practiced and more efficient this year, so we had 78 bags, which we thought was less than our goal of 100. However, when we delivered it to the drop off place at Heritage Bank, we took up much more room in the collection bays and it showed us that we collected around 20% more food than last year. Thanks to the outpouring of love from our TCPS family, the Caring Place is going to be able to show the love of Christ to many, many families in our local community.

The National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society students would like to express their sincere thanks to the entire Tennessee Christian family!  
Soli Deo Gloria!

-April Sopczak





Tennessee Christian



# ALUMNI HOMECOMING RECEPTION

Reunite. Celebrate.  
Cheer together!

**NOV. 14  
5:00 PM**

\*At TCPS in the fifth  
grade classroom

\*RSVP to Jenn Blaylock  
Email [jblaylock@tcpsk12.org](mailto:jblaylock@tcpsk12.org)



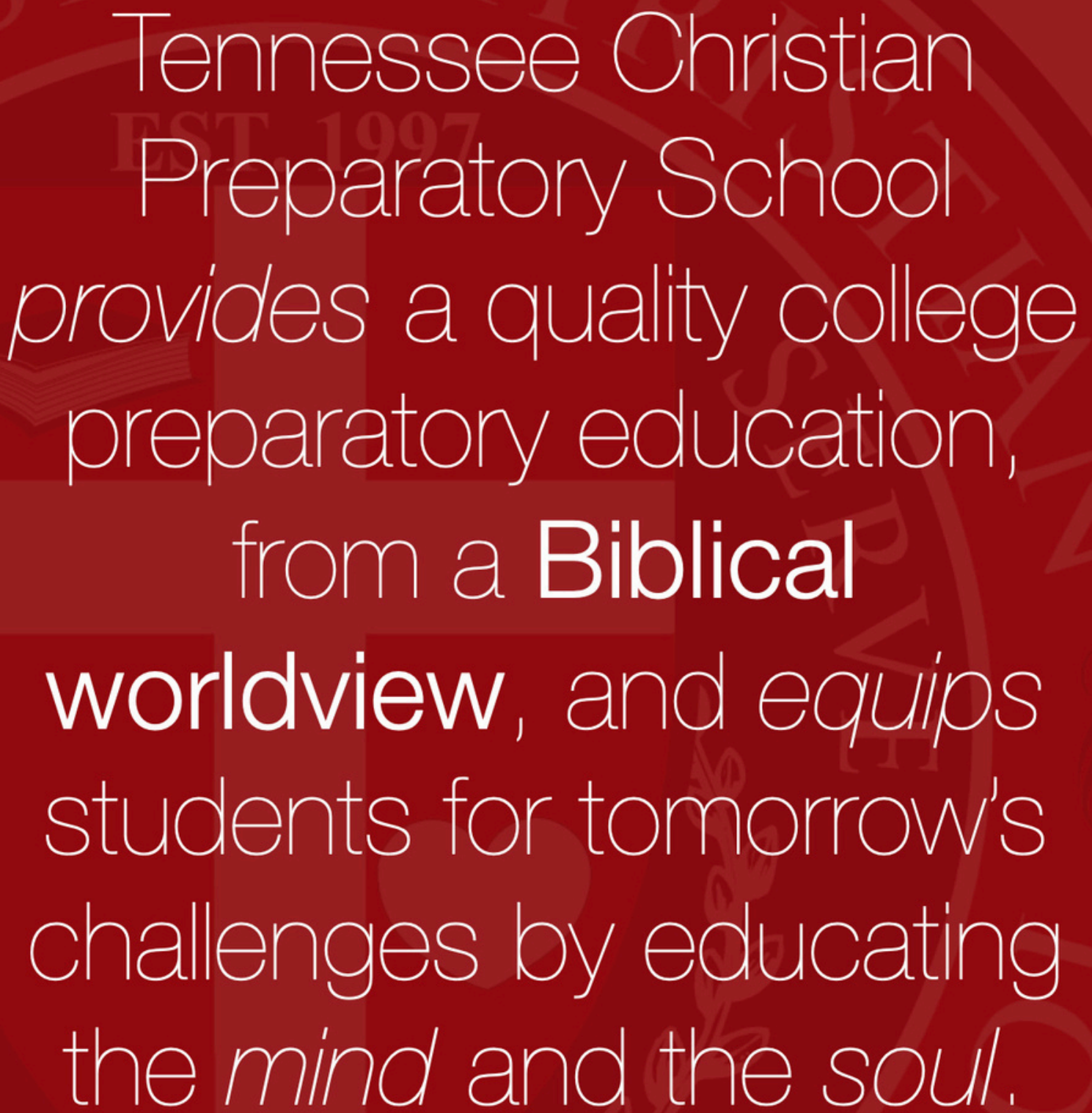




**LEE**  
UNIVERSITY

# **A TOP-TIER, CHRIST-CENTERED EXPERIENCE**





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*.*