

A photograph of a group of people in a forest. In the foreground, several children are seen from behind, looking towards a group of people in the middle ground. The people in the middle ground are dressed in historical or theatrical costumes, including hats and long coats. They are holding long rifles or poles. Thick white smoke is rising from the ground around them, suggesting a reenactment or a theatrical performance. The background is a dense forest with tall trees and autumn-colored foliage in shades of yellow, orange, and red. The sun is shining brightly through the trees in the upper right corner, creating a lens flare effect.

the talon

December 3, 2024

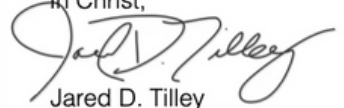
TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN
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from the **Head**

As our world becomes increasingly connected, our needs and wants develop a lack of patience and willingness to wait. I remember the first time I took pictures on my own with the family's Canon AE-1 film camera. It was also my first overseas trip to England; a transformative trip for me. When I returned, I sent my rolls of film off to be developed. When the pictures returned two weeks later, they were overexposed, all of them, picture after picture of white. All I have from that trip are my memories, and they are abundant. Today, pictures are instantaneous, and instead of a roll of 24 shots, we can take hundreds of our coffee, food, kids, etc., and share them with the world in a matter of seconds. Our lives move at a lightning speed never seen before in human history. This pace of life has me wondering how to approach the Advent season this year.

Advent started on December 1 and continues until December 24 and instructs us to do the most painful, arduous, frustrating thing in the 21st century: to wait. As humans, we are terrible at waiting. Not only are pictures instantaneous, but packages can arrive on your doorstep within 24 hours. Communication around the globe is quick and seamless, with tools to overcome language barriers, and even our daily pick-up line at Tennessee Christian is finished in under eight minutes. So, when do we exhibit and practice patiently waiting? I don't think we do, or we do not do it well. Culture tells us to get whatever we want now. Advent instructs us, as Christians, to wait. We are to wait on the celebration of Christ's birth and we are to wait on the celebration of Christ's return. So, what does it mean to wait patiently? In a doctor's office, it is to go through the proper protocol the doctors have laid out for us: fill out your forms, bring your forms to the desk, then sit and wait patiently for your name to be called so we can go wait in a smaller room. We "patiently wait" looking at our watches, wondering what is taking so long. But we follow the rules. As Christians, what does it mean to wait patiently? Not unlike the doctor's office. We follow the leader. We are to show kindness and love, grace and mercy, and truth to all. We are to reflect the Light that comes only from our Father. We are to do so waiting for his return.

To engage in Advent this season, let us shape our students into those willing to wait upon the Lord and live in his love with a willingness to love others and seek out the least, the last, the lost, and the lonely, embracing them with the love of our Heavenly Father. If we do this, our students will not be like my ruined pictures from the England trip but ready to face the challenges of their lives with grace and truth and reflect God's light to all around them.

In Christ,

Jared D. Tilley

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR

Each year, TCPS middle school students participate in their annual Science Fair held each November. In the early fall, local professionals and experts from the community assist students in selecting and developing their project ideas. Then, students conduct their experiments over the course of several weeks, culminating in our school-wide Science Fair where students present their projects to their classmates and teacher. The Science Fair is open to the TCPS community, and we invite local high school science teachers to come judge the projects. Our science fair winners for this year include:

1st Place Winners (tie)

- Skateboard Science; Cove Nelson
- What's in Your Water; Carolina Machacek

2nd Place Winners

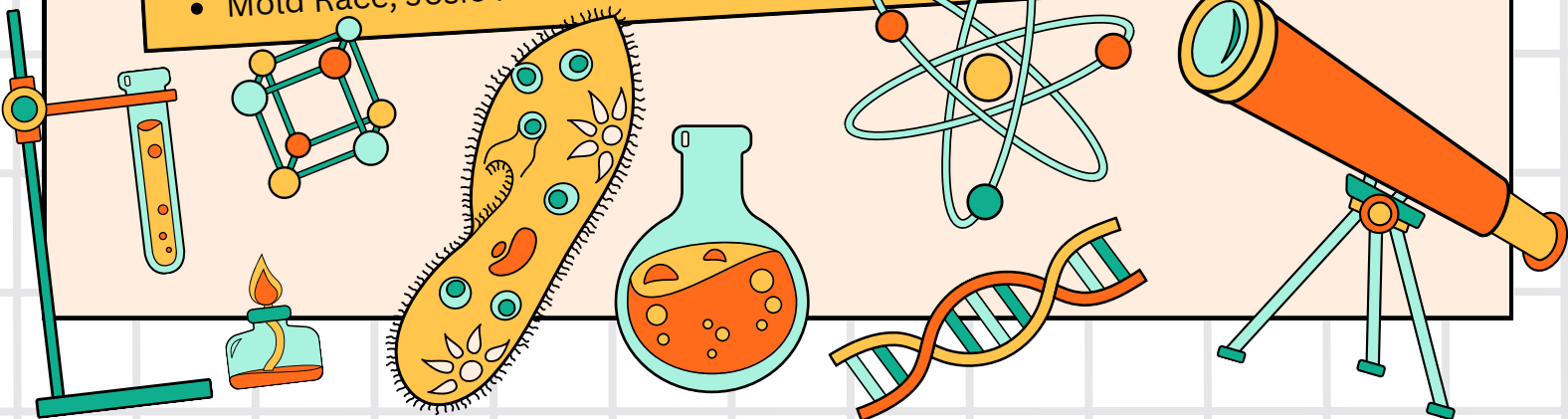
- Ace the Race; Zoe Smith
- Time to Review; Gracie Gilbert
- Polluting the Soil; Emma Moore
- Sphygmomanometer; Callie Jacobsen

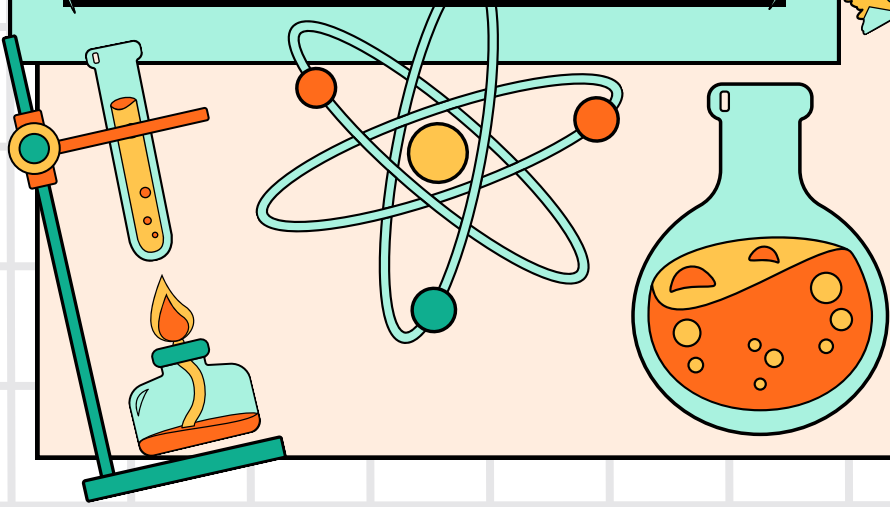
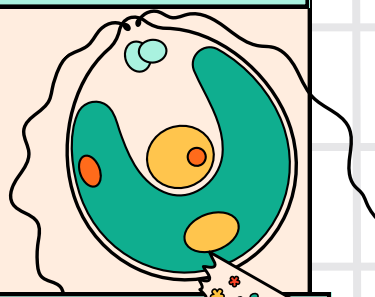
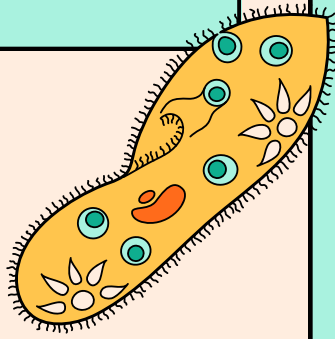
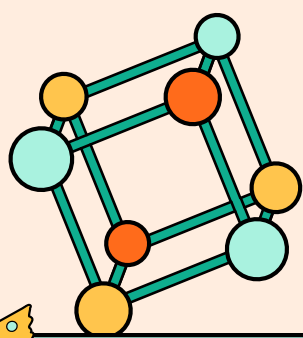
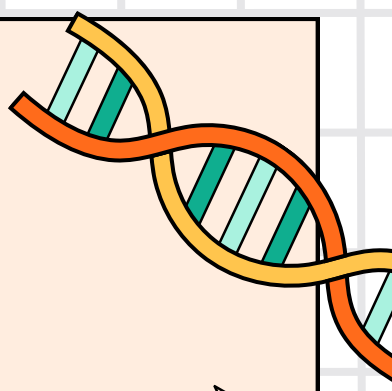
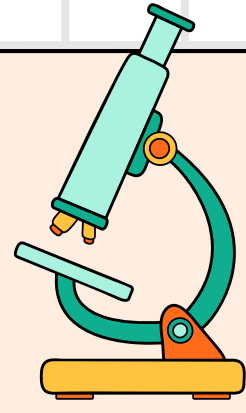
3rd Place Winners

- The Best Toothpaste; Addy Ratcliff
- Are You Smarter Than an Eighth Grader?; Aubrie Epperson
- Another Pump; Maddux Mullins
- Walking on Sunshine; Scarlet McPherson
- Mold Race; Josie Ford

Congrats!

Written by Angie Kesley





THANKSGIVING

Feast



Once again, our annual Thanksgiving Feasts garnered pure delight from students, staff, and families as we gathered to fellowship and truly feast. Seated around tables beneath twinkling lights, the warmth of our community was almost tangible as we broke bread together. But this year's celebration offered an added gift as we were able to share the abundant blessing of food outside the walls of Tennessee Christian. All leftovers from both feasts were donated to the nonprofit organization, Atypical Place for Transformation, which feeds and ministers to the tent city homeless community in Chattanooga. Through the generosity of our families, we were able to feed 75 hungry bellies. What a privilege it is to show our gratitude to the Lord by sharing with those in need.

Written by Kylie Machacek

Chattanooga Audubon Society

Second and Third Grade stepped back into pioneer life on November 21st. The field trip was located at Chattanooga Audubon Society and every year they hold their annual “Pioneer Days” celebration where students can learn the talents and skills the pioneers needed to live and survive. Our students made us all so proud because they demonstrated superb listening skills and showed respect to the different demonstrators while asking thoughtful questions.

We started our Pioneer Days by having the students practice drawing water from a well. They all had smiles on their faces as they raced to bring the bucket up from the well and learned how difficult it was to prepare clean water. Next, we entered an original log cabin that has been on the property for over 200 years. We walked into the dimly lit cabin greeted by the warm crackling fire and saw the simple yet touching lifestyle of a pioneer family. The students were all very amazed to learn the way people used to live and how they used their skills to persevere through those long winter months.

Afterward, our students each helped one demonstrator with the process of making candlesticks. They learned how crucial it was to have candles throughout your home as there was no electricity. One of the highlights was drinking fresh apple cider, which they helped make by putting their apple into the apple press churned by a demonstrator. They all had bright smiles as they watched the juice run out of the press and into a cup for them to enjoy!

A lot of cheerful screams and laughter were heard when they watched the pioneer demonstrators shoot off a rifle filled with gunpowder. When the smoke cleared we were left with many excited and bright-eyed students amazed by what they encountered! The students enjoyed asking questions about camp life and saw all the preparations that went into starting a fire for pioneers to cook their food properly.

We ended the field trip playing games like the pioneer children, and the students thoroughly enjoyed playing and laughing with one another while learning what it took to be a pioneer kid.

This field trip was an exceptional learning opportunity to bring history to life for our students and we are so proud of 2nd and 3rd grade for representing TCPS to the fullest.

Written by Rebecca Hake



STUMP SPEECHES

The Ninth Grade English Class is currently working on descriptive writing, and just completed an essay describing the formation of a tornado for an audience at the fifth grade level. This assignment gives students the opportunity to consider all of the steps needed to properly describe a process, while remaining aware of the needs of a specific audience. So, who better to give feedback than the fifth graders themselves? The essays (with names removed, of course) were given to the Fifth Grade Class, who will learn to use a detailed rubric to assess how well the Ninth Grade addressed both the topic and the audience, while also learning a little something about tornados. This is the second year that we have done this project, and it is well loved by both the upper school authors and the lower school critics.

Last week, the Tenth Grade English Students gave stump speeches. Since we have no actual stump, they used a chair. Students had to pick a random topic and argue for it for 45 seconds and then argue against it for 45 seconds. We had topics ranging from taxes to the necessity of reading to whether or not you can worry too much about your looks. It was a riot! And it gave students the opportunity to practice impromptu speech.



LOWER & UPPER CONNECTION

Written by April Sopczak

patience



EJ Ramirez (K4)

“EJ is always gracious in waiting his turn. He shows respect to his friends by happily allowing others to go before him. EJ comes to school with a smile on his face and always shows an abundance of patience in his role as a big brother.”

-Megan Nauqin

Olivia Rodriguez (Kindergarten)

“Olivia is a wonderful example of patience. There have been multiple times this year when she has had to wait and she does so with a joyful heart. We are so proud of you Olivia!”

-Ashley Dodson and Phyllis Hope



Elouise McPherson (2nd)

“Elouise constantly adapts to different situations and shows patience even when circumstances might not go her way. She is kind, courteous and patient with her classmates in different scenarios. I am so proud of the young woman she is and her kindness towards others is very admirable. She works hard everyday in class and she constantly seeks out ways to help others. Congratulations Elouise on being a great example of displaying patience.” -Rebecca Hake



patience



Grace Laug (5th)

"Grace regularly waits her turn and consistently follows teacher instructions. She isn't afraid to take her time on assignments, ensuring she turns in her very best work. Grace works well in various group settings, allowing her classmates to contribute in their own unique way. I have been impressed with the unhurried, steady way Grace approaches life."

-Sarah Van Dyke

Ashton Copic (MS)

"When the world is going awry, Ashton is someone you want by your side. He exudes patience and in turn rubs off on everyone around him wanting to portray the same level of patience."

- Chloe Hinchcliff



Sam Tyner (US)

"Sam shows patience in his overall calm demeanor. He does not get flustered and remains cool when faced with challenges. He has helped numerous staff members on campus with technical challenges or media projects and exhibits patience in every interaction." - Kylie Machacek





HAWK HIGHLIGHTS

TCPS Hawks Basketball: Week of November 18-22 Recap

The Tennessee Christian Preparatory School Hawks and Lady Hawks Basketball teams showcased their talent and determination last week in conference games.

Lady Hawks Dominate Fairview Christian

The Lady Hawks varsity basketball team continued their stellar start to the season with another commanding performance, securing their second 30+ point victory over Fairview Christian in an SCAA conference game. The offense was spearheaded by standout performances from Maggie Botts and Ashlyn Henry, who led the scoring charge. With the win, the Lady Hawks improved their record to 2-0, and 1-0 in the SCAA. Congratulations to the team on their fantastic start!

Hawks Split the Week with a Conference Win and a Close Loss

The varsity Hawks basketball team opened the week with an impressive 48-29 conference victory over Fairview Christian. The Hawks pulled away in the fourth quarter, thanks to strong leadership from Thomas Nicholas and Tucker Myers, who led the team in scoring. Key contributions also came from senior Franklin Campbell, sophomore Caleb Cigliano, and eighth grader, Eli Ahlers.



The Hawks faced a tough non-conference challenge later in the week against Knoxville Christian School. Despite a hard-fought effort, the Hawks' undefeated streak was halted with a narrow loss in the final two minutes. Nicolaus and Myers again led the team offensively, but the Hawks fell just short in the end. The Hawks' record stands now at 3-1 overall, and 1-1 in the SCAA.

Looking Ahead

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 3, as the Hawks and Lady Hawks take on Rhea Academy in critical conference road games. Additionally, the middle school boys will make their season debut on the same day against Rhea Academy, bringing even more excitement to TCPS Basketball.

Let's rally behind all our Hawks teams as they soar this season!



LOWER SCHOOL BETA CLUB PRESENTS **BRADLEY COUNTY SPCA FUNDRAISER**

We are collecting needed items for dogs and cats. Please help by bringing in pet beds, collars, leashes, treats, and of course, Christmas toys!

**DONATIONS
ACCEPTED
DECEMBER 2-6**





TENNESSEE
CHRISTIAN
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL

Alm♥st, Maine



Saturday, Dec 7th
2pm & 6pm

Lee University
Blackbox Theatre



Get tickets here!



TENNESSEE
CHRISTIAN
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SCHOOL

THE SECRET OF SNOWFLAKE COUNTY

Friday, December 13, 2024
Tennessee Christian Gymnasium

Showtimes
10:00 AM and 6:00 PM

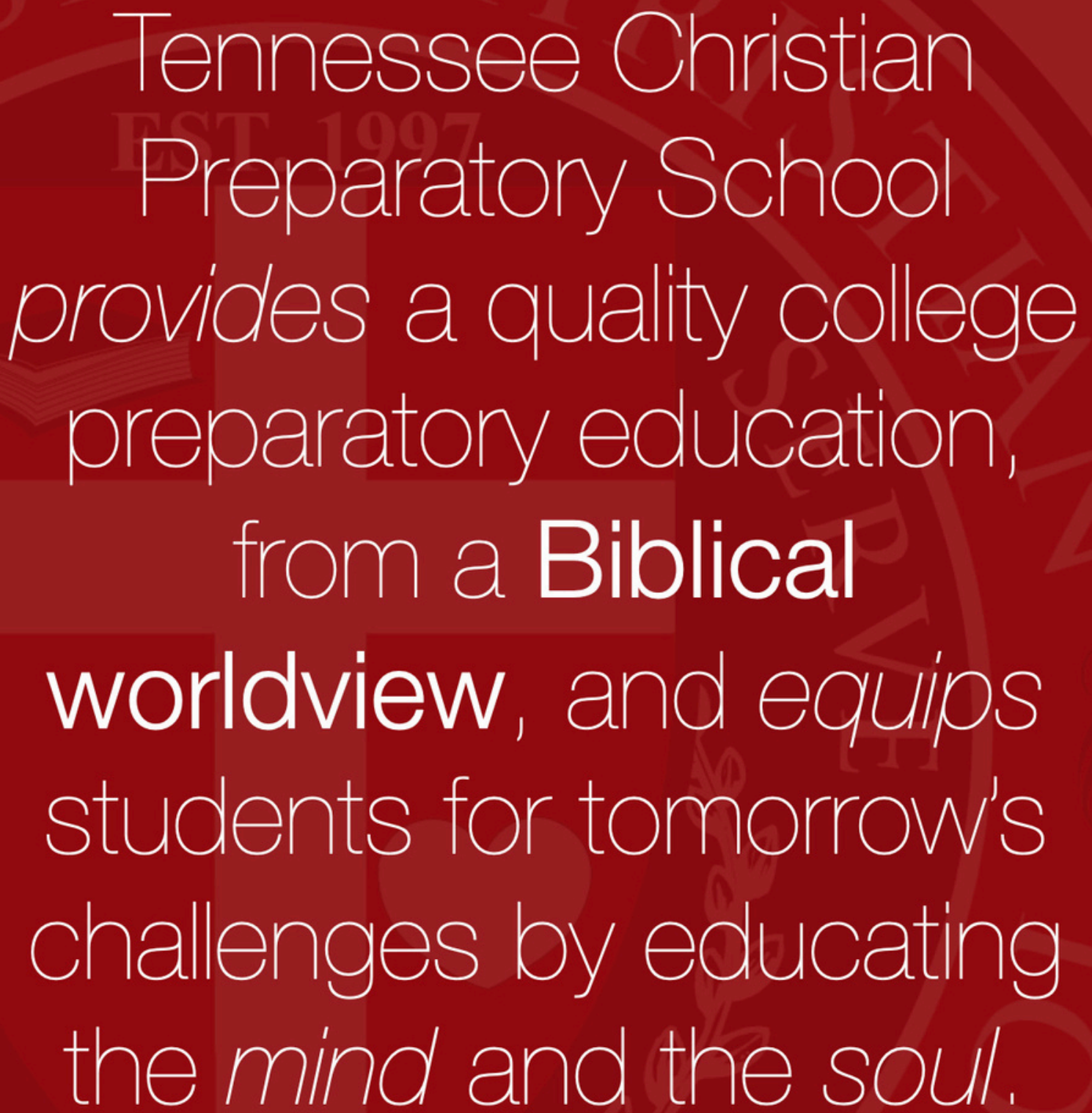
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worldview**, and equips
students for tomorrow's
challenges by educating
the *mind* and the *soul*.*