

the talon

September 17, 2024



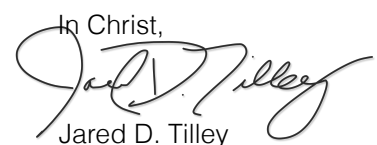
TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN
Volume V Issue V

from the **Head**

It is easy to become absorbed by the loud, the dramatic, and the monumental. We often search for the God's hand in the grand gestures, miraculous events, or profound spiritual experiences. Yet, there is a profound truth that lies in the simple and often overlooked moments of our daily lives. Finding God in these small, beautiful moments and interactions with people can provide a deeply enriching experience.

A few weeks ago, while visiting my parents, we gathered around the dinner table with family and friends, sharing a meal and enjoying card games like Wizard and Five Crowns (both highly recommended for family game nights). The occasion was to support my father, who had recently injured his shoulder playing pickleball, and my mother, who is recovering from a stroke earlier in the year. We came together to offer support and companionship. My Godparents, Betty and Jerry Rushing, who have been close friends of the Tilley family long before I was born, were also there. The two families have celebrated New Years, vacations, and significant events together. I fondly remember the trip to Cooperstown, New York, with Jerry, my dad, and me to see the Hall of Fame ceremony honoring three Atlanta Braves: Bobby Cox, Tom Glavine, and Greg Maddux. The memories with Betty and Jerry are countless, each one meaningful.

During our time around the table together, Jerry posed a thought-provoking question: "How has your perspective on church and faith changed over the years?" As we shared our reflections around the table, I deeply appreciated hearing each person's faith journey. The conversation served as a reminder of the significance of those small, yet profound moments where community and family reflect the essence of God.

In Christ,

Jared D. Tilley

the Learning Cottage

TRIKE-A-THON



“LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE.”

1 CORINTHIANS 16:14

After a multitude of prayers for fair weather were answered last Friday morning, we celebrated Trike-a-Thon for the third time. I choose the word ‘celebrated’ because it truly is a time of joy and celebration. Each year I am astounded by the love and support the students at Tennessee Christian have for one another. Upper School students spent their morning putting in the work to make Trike-a-Thon magical for our smallest Hawks. Later they made seemingly endless laps around that same track, polished helmets, filled tires, and kept their riders in bounds.

Middle School held handmade signs and cheered for riders by name. Lower School cheered and clapped their hearts out. They did it with smiles on their faces and joy in their hearts. In 2024, it is a true blessing to be part of such a rare school community.

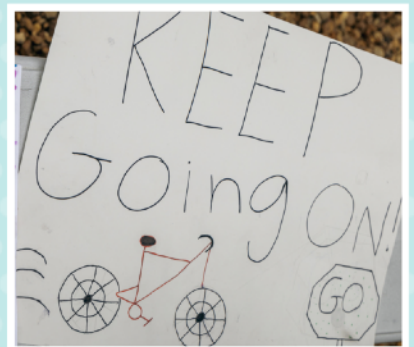
On behalf of The Learning Cottage, thank you to everyone who helped make this event happen. Thank you for the blessing of monetary donations that will be used to better our classroom lessons and toys. Most importantly, thank you for loving our Preschoolers so well.



Written by Megan Naquin

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TRIKE-A-THON



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TRIKE-A-THON



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TRIKE-A-THON



Thank You, Benton Family!

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to Brad and Wendy Benton, our long-time friends and supporters, for generously donating ice cream during last week's Learning Cottage Trike-a-Thon. Your ongoing commitment to our school and community means the world to us, and the students were thrilled to enjoy your sweet treat after all their hard work!

Thank you for your generosity and for being such an important part of our school family!



Penmanship Project

Excitement is afoot in high school English! We have started the Penmanship Project to improve personal writing skills in the 9th - 11th grades. As a part of the project, each of our high school students in these grades have been paired with a lower school student in grades 2-5. The high school students will be writing letters and sending them in the mail to their lower school pen pal. The lower school student does not have to write the upper school student back, but we certainly encourage it.

This project will not only improve our high school students' personal writing skills, it will also help the lower school students improve their cursive reading skills, and will also promote our one campus, one family atmosphere that we treasure at TCPS. The letters will start arriving soon, so be on the lookout!

Written by April Sopczak

Seuss and Speech

The 11th grade English class contains a component in thesis writing that is geared toward speech. Speaking in front of an audience is a skill that will help our students find success in their professional lives, but can be a terrifying skill to try to gain. However, there isn't much that is terrifying about our adorable preschool kids! So, our 11th graders did their first public speaking event of the year in the Learning Cottage and they did an excellent job of it.

On Wednesday, September 11, the Juniors were broken up into small groups and headed over to their assigned preschool class with a Dr. Seuss book in hand. The students used these familiar and fun books to practice speaking volume, pacing, and enunciation. Not only was it a non-intimidating atmosphere, it was a very encouraging one too. The preschoolers were very excited to have the big kids in their classrooms, and the big kids had a fantastic time too. As a matter of fact, the big kids liked it so much that they asked if they can do it again with the lower school kids. That sounds like a great way to ease our way into the more complicated judicial, ceremonial, and political speeches that the 11th grade will be doing later this semester.

Written by April Sopczak





HAWK HIGHLIGHTS

The past week has been filled with exciting achievements for Tennessee Christian Preparatory School's Fall sports teams.

Coach Ahler's lower and middle school cross-country teams continue to show progress and determination. In the lower school division, **Henry Sluder** placed an impressive 7th out of 103 runners, with **Kai Ahlers** finishing 17th. **Sam Hudson**, **Greyson Laws**, and **Leona Fletcher** also posted improved times, with the entire team motivated to qualify for the state. In the middle school division, **Eli Ahlers** continues to shine, beating his previous week's time and finishing second.



On the tennis front, the middle school boys and girls teams played against Chattanooga Christian. **Gracie Gilbert** secured a victory in her singles match, **Esther Van Dyke** delivered her strongest performance of the season, and the doubles pair of **Elliott Tilley** and **Elijah Bentley** fought hard but narrowly lost. A match against OLPB was postponed due to weather and rescheduled for September 27th.

The high school boys and girls golf teams celebrated a win against Copper Basin, with the boys victory particularly gratifying as they triumphed over a more experienced team. A standout moment was freshman **Sam Turner**, who, after recovering from illness, shot his personal best of the season with a score of 49.

In soccer, the high school boys team lost a closely contested 4-3 game against Knoxville Apostolic but is eager to face Rhea Academy in their first home game at the GCSA facility on Friday, September 20th.

The high school Lady Hawks volleyball team continues to compete with determination, with Coach Georgia McPherson praising their fighting spirit.



Lastly, in our student-athlete Q&A feature, we asked, "What is the most memorable moment in your sports career so far?" This week, sophomores **Joey Meir** and **Frannie McPherson** were selected to respond to the question.

Joey Meir: "My most memorable moment was making a 40 foot birdie putt, my first birdie ever. It helped me come from behind in the game, and I felt it was a blessing from God, especially since I had been sick and not playing well that day."

Frannie McPherson: "My most memorable moments in volleyball are playing with my friends and being a starter since eighth grade. Volleyball has given me confidence and a strong passion for the sport. The experience of playing with friends and being part of the team is something I will always remember."



MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME



PICTURE DAY:
DÍA DE FOTOS

Wednesday
October 2, 2024



grandparents
day

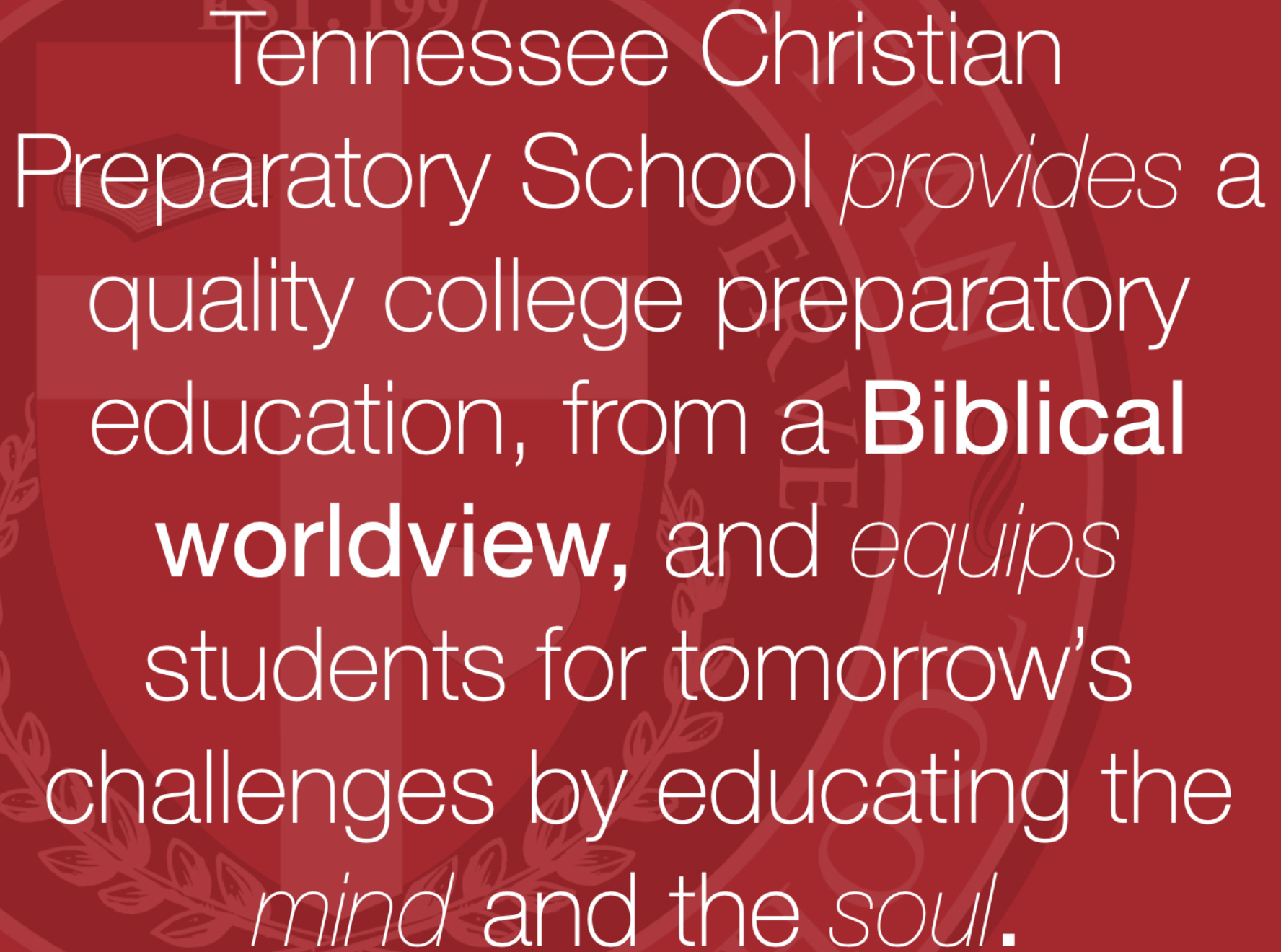


Friday | September 20, 2024



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.