

the talon

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from the Head

“Carry each other’s burdens and
so you will fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2


On Valentine's Day, the Tennessee Christian community gathered together for a school-wide chapel; everyone from the little ones in the Learning Cottage all the way to our seniors, joined for this special time of connectivity. The intentionality of uniting our divisions is something we believe to be very important for a holistic Christ-centered education and we are always grateful for the opportunity to do so.

It was a refreshing sight and a beautiful sound as our school community worshiped together led by Kristian Campbell, Sydney Goff, Amelia Shepherd and our Lower School worship leaders, Harper Canfield, Adelyne Nichols and Skylar Black. Mrs. Lindsay Sluder’s message gave us a reminder of loving God through loving others by telling the story of Aaron and Hurr, in Exodus, as they physically supported their leader, Moses, and his burden through battle. We were all reminded that we do not have to walk the trials of life alone. God has given us the support of Himself and His people. One of the greatest ways to show God’s love every day of the year is through the power of prayer, whether we know the specific need or not.

The service concluded in a touching moment where each student came to the front to select a hand painted rock with a fellow student's name on it. This meaningful gesture symbolized the interconnectedness of our community and the power of prayer. With these rocks in hand, they were encouraged to lift one another up in prayer and offer support whenever needed.

I would like to encourage all families to be in prayer for our faculty, staff, and students as our students pray for one other.



In Christ,

Jared D. Tilley



Two exceptional Tennessee Christian students were among a select few in our community to be recognized by the Ocoee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for their outstanding achievements and dedication to American heritage and values. The DAR plays a vital role in promoting academic excellence, patriotism, and historic preservation within Bradley County.

The first award, the Good Citizen Award, was presented to senior, Oksana Goroshko. Oksana has dedicated her time to working with children at church and servicing her Russian-speaking community as a teacher's aide for English classes. Oksana acts as a representative in the Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership Program, where she has organized fundraisers on behalf of Habitat for Humanity. She balances all of this while maintaining a full dual enrollment schedule and preserving a 4.0 GPA.

The second award, the Excellent in American History Award, was presented to eighth grader, Ainsley Olmstead. In addition to her proficiency in history, she displays enthusiasm through her active engagement in class activities and discussions. And as stated by her teacher, Mr. Matt Mullins, Ainsley is a "triple threat." She excels not only academically in all subjects, but is active in the arts and athletics of Tennessee Christian.

Congratulations to Oksana and Ainsley, who are beacons of hope that the next generation of leaders will appreciate and dedicate themselves to our wonderful nation and preserving its heritage.

MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL WINTERIM FEBRUARY 2024

ADVENTURE SEEKERS with Kelly Owens and Angie Kesley

These adventure seekers spent the first day of Winterim hiking a 4.5 mile trail at Harrison Bay State Park. Students and chaperones agreed that it was a perfect day for a hike. We excitedly walked and talked to the sound of frogs and enjoyed a view of the lake. We were tired and hungry at the end of hike, but feeling very



accomplished. The day concluded with a picnic and some play time on the playground at the park.



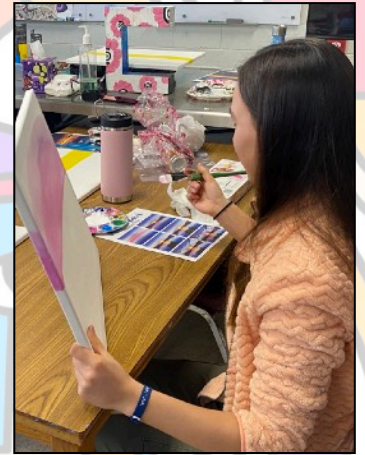
Our second day of adventure was spent rock climbing at High Point topped off with lunch at Gabriel's. Students raced against each other and the clock to the top of the rock wall. Some

students stretched their climbing skills to new limits. Students encouraged each as they free climbed various difficulties of rock walls. It was great to see middle and upper school students interacting together to build and strengthen long lasting friendships.



ART AT THE SQUARE

with Chloe Hinchcliff and Tawnie Locklear



Art at the Square was a Winterim full of painting, great fun, and even better food. For our first day, Thursday, students were able to have their choice of a sunset on the water reference photo. Miss H then conducted a mini lesson on how to properly blend and create sunsets. From there, students were encouraged to continue creating by adding all sorts of extra details like mountains, trees, clouds, birds, etc. Every painting came out beautifully and all the students worked so hard making it their own. It, of

course, would not have been a Mrs Locklear and Miss H Winterim without some stellar tunes and killer snacks. On Friday, we piled together and drove to the Bradley Square Mall. Once there, we were met by the owners of Art at the Square where we had our own private painting party! Students had their choice of painting whatever they wanted at the store. Some highlighted choices include: vases, a hippo, earrings, a tractor, and so many other fun items! The majority of the items are bisque fired pottery and we were able to paint them with acrylic paint and finish off with a nice glossy coat. While some students finished their paintings early, they got to walk around the mall and maybe purchase an item or two. We ended our day at Ok Maguey surrounded by friends and bowls of queso!

BROADWAY EXTRAVAGANZA

with Matthew Mullins



This Winterim we were blessed to take a small group of students down to Chattanooga and then to Atlanta to learn about the art of performing.. On Thursday we went to The Chattanooga Theatre Center

to learn all about what happens backstage during a production. Friday we were able to see a fantastic performance of Hamilton at the Fox Theatre. We had an amazing time filled with fun, laughter, and an amazing performance.



BOARD GAME BONANZA

with Jared Tilley



On Thursday and Friday, a mix of middle and upper school students came together to engage in an array of games. The sessions kicked off with spirited rounds of Sushi Go and Tsuru, igniting competitive spirits and generating enjoyment all around. As the days unfolded, certain games like Nuns on the Run, Exploding Kittens, and Plunder captured the students' interest and held them in thrall. However, the real essence of the board game Winterim lay in the bonds formed among the students. Their camaraderie was palpable as they relished each other's company, even during lunch breaks when they congregated and shared laughter.



GET FOCUSED with Kylie Machacek



Students in the *Get Focused: Photography Winterim* had the privilege to learn from two expert photographers. On Thursday, our very own Lindsay Sluder (who also happens to be a family/lifestyle photographer whose incredible portraits fill our hallways and publications) shared her creative process from start to finish. From successful photo composition to the editing process, students learned practical, useful tools they can implement immediately. Philip Slowiak, professional real estate photographer, joined us on Friday and introduced students to a thriving industry that merges artistic creativity with precise technical skill. Philip also talked through gear and lenses and taught them some tricks with their own personal cameras. Both days ended with specific photo prompts related to what was covered that had students circulating campus applying their new skills. Students left the experience excited to go out and capture their world.



INDOOR SPORTS with Jonathan Hammond



Last week the Indoor Sports Winterim had a blast competing with each other in multiple sports! We started off strong with a Hoop Ball tournament! The Champions (Jack, Alyssa, Isaac, Ashton, and Elijah) outlasted the 2nd place team in a tie breaker shootout to take home the Championship! On Friday, teams went at it in a Volleyball Tournament. Coming down to the wire, Ashton, both Eli's, James, Ben, and Elijah came up clutch to win the tournament! The final tournament of Handball was easily won by the team led by senior Noah Hawver. Also, on the team was Greyson, Elijah, Monroe, Ainsley, and Sophia!



Outside of the tournaments students enjoyed playing dodgeball, kickball, and basketball. It was a fun and competitive week, and definitely a much needed breather from the classroom. We all left with smiles on our faces and even got a workout while doing it!

YARNSPIRATIONS

with Kori Weaver and Nicki Smith

This Winterim was lead by Susan Bishop. Susan taught us how to chain, single crochet, double crochet, make a magic loop, and how to make a granny square. Though we all struggled, we struggled together and had the best encourager, Susan, at our side. She celebrated every small victory we had. She also talked to us about her ministry. Almost every Saturday she and others get together to make sleeping mats for the homeless. They collect plastic bags, cut those bags into three to four loops and tie them together to make what would be a string of yarn. It takes about 500 bags to make a sleeping mat. She does offer service hours and would love any plastic bag donations. If you are interested, please let Mrs. Smith know.

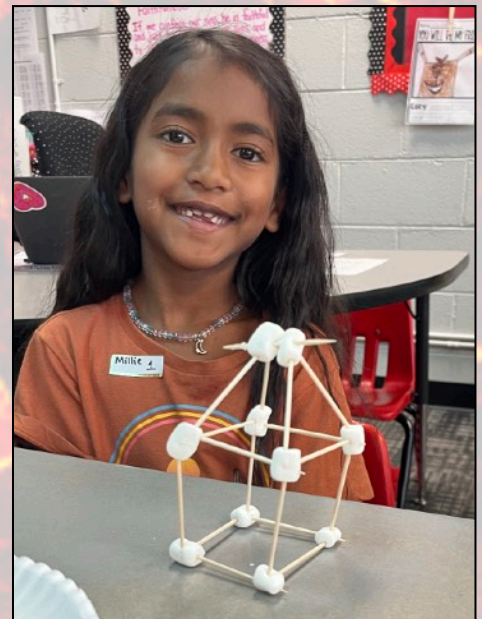


LOWER SCHOOL WINTERIM FEBRUARY 2024

The Floor is Lava

with Ashley Dodson and Phyllis Hope

Mrs. Dodson and Mrs. Hope invited students on a wild adventure with the Floor is Lava. They began by listening to the story *The Floor is Lava* written by Timothy Luckey. Students then created a structure with toothpicks and marshmallows to see if it would withstand the molten lava. The children commented that the lava smelled just like jello! At the end, students played a game of the Floor is Lava and hopped from stone to stone to avoid the lava!



Artsy

with Katie Nichols

For the Artsy Winterim, we dove into learning about artists named Henri Matisse and Louise Bourgeois. Matisse was known for his use with colors, initially with paint, but then by putting together various pieces of colored paper together to make abstract art. In contrast, Bourgeois was known for her large-scale sculptured art. Thus, during Winterim, the students created their own art by gluing pieces of various colors together to make their own artistic illustration and also created different sculptures from thin, colorful wire.



Pete's A Pizza

with Lindsay Sluder

Combining literature and culinary arts, Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders experienced an educational Winterim adventure inspired by William Steig's "Pete's a Pizza." The charming tale of Pete's imaginative pizza-making journey set the stage for learning a little of pizza's rich history, from its ancient origins to modern variations. Students transitioned into the “kitchen”, transforming bagels, pizza sauce, and mozzarella cheese into their own personalized bagel pizzas. The hands-on experience not only reinforced lessons in cooperation, following instructions, and creativity but also created a multi-sensory connection between storytelling and the joy of culinary exploration, making the learning process unforgettable and yummy!

Let it Snow!

with Audry Paul

In my class, we learned all about snowflakes! Students studied what snowflakes are made of, how they are created, and why snow is important to the Earth. Most importantly, we discovered that each snowflake is unique; there are no two identical snowflakes in the whole world! We talked about how snowflakes are similar to people in their distinctiveness. What a wonder that God created so many individual people and snowflakes! Students discussed how this phenomenon is evidence of God's love, attention, and care for us and our world. Finally, we made our very own snowflakes using beads and pipe cleaners. It was a wonderful time full of learning and play!



Flower Power

with Donna McKee

Third, fourth, and fifth graders learned the art of making tissue paper flowers. First, each student decided what color of flower they wanted. Then they folded the tissue paper accordion-style, secured it with a pipe cleaner, and very gently pulled each piece of tissue paper towards the center. At the end, a beautiful flower bloomed!



MOTHER/SON

LASER TAG NIGHT

MARCH

01

BRADLEY SQUARE MALL
ULTIMATE BUNKER GAMES

\$15 per person

Check e-mail for
full details!

FRIDAY

6:00

PM



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.