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from the **Head**

Congratulations to all who have made it to January 8th and have not broken your New Year's resolutions. I, for one, have not broken mine. I guess that is due to the wisdom gained over decades of trying; I did not make a resolution to break. While I celebrate new beginnings and truly appreciate the symbolic and self-growth nature of commitments, reflecting on the numerous years of resolution failure, I decided not to commit to failure this year. I resolved not to make resolutions. Sydney Goff, Class of 2025, wrote a paper for her dual enrollment class highlighting the failure of resolutions dealing with personal health goals. Sydney's approach was valid and presented ideas to help curb the inability of us failing mortals to keep up with commitments that we want to keep but can't for numerous reasons.

Two years ago, the Tilley family sat around the dinner table and tossed out resolutions for the New Year. This guy had the grand plan to read twenty-four history books over the year. As you might have guessed, I didn't get close. When it was Elliott's turn, he spouted off a traditional New Year's resolution: a commitment to improving athletically. This resolution translated to thirty minutes a day working on skills needed to perform well in various sports. Exercise for thirty minutes daily; could my nine-year-old get any more cliché? I chuckled to myself because of the failed attempts by millions of adults each year.

One day in late January or early February, Martin asked me how many books I had read and am I keeping up with my resolution. I told him that I was a smidge behind my quota. But that got me thinking about Elliott, he had not missed a day. Elliott might have missed a handful of days throughout the year, but that never slowed him down or changed his resolve.

What we can learn from our children is amazing. Elliott's resolve and determination toward improvement was a lesson for me. Even though it is January 9, it's not too late for a resolution.

In Christ,

Jared D. Tilley

← BACK... TO THE MANGER



The Tennessee Christian gym was filled with the Christmas spirit as our Lower School students transported the audience through time and through decades, revisiting the simple and majestic birth of Christ with "Back to the Manger." The Middle and Upper Vocal Ensemble entertained us with an acapella Winter Wonderland and Jingle Bell Rock accompanied by Jonathan Jarman on guitar. Our Learning Cottage won our hearts with their adorable personalities that came alive while they were jingling and jangling their hands bells and jingle bells.

For our departing music teacher, Mrs. Jessica Divel, this performance was particularly special as it was celebrated alongside the students who have grown under her love and guidance. As the musical concluded, the applause echoed not only for the show but also for the teacher who has orchestrated countless musical memories for our Tennessee Christian Community.

As a final farewell, Mrs. Divel ended the evening leading us in our Alma Mater. This evening not only captured the spirit of Christmas but also embodied the essence of lasting connections made through the shared love of music. "Back to the Manger" was not just a musical; it was a beautiful send-off, celebrating the impact of a dedicated teacher and promising the excitement of new beginnings for the Divel family.





In a heartwarming holiday tradition, Middle and Upper School came together before Christmas break to link arms with the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program and distribute purchased gifts to families. The Angel Tree initiative allows the community to sponsor children or families in need by purchasing and then delivering personalized gifts during the holiday season. More than the gifts delivered to each car, our students delivered true joy and hope as they offered to pray with each recipient. And in return, our students were awarded the opportunity to reflect and understand the challenges others face and, therefore, grow in empathy and reflect the kindness of Christ.



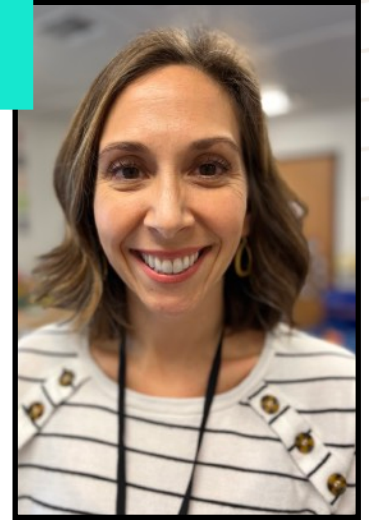
FRESH faces



Ms. Audry Paul is the new third-grade teacher at Tennessee Christian. Ms. Paul has been getting acquainted with her students and their families since coming on board mid December. She has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary and Special Education from Mercer University. Over the past three years, Audry has served in several roles including a third-grade teacher and a special education teacher. She hit the ground running teaching the third grade class last week and has already become a part of the community at Tennessee Christian.



Ms. Hannah Frye is excited to be joining the Tennessee Christian team as our new music teacher. She is a current student at Lee University pursuing a BA in Music and Worship. With graduation anticipated in August, she also is involved with North Cleveland Church of God overseeing worship for the college and student ministries. This is her first week with us and she is very eager to meet all her students and get to know them!



We are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Rachel Hudson as the newest addition to our Learning Cottage. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our Preschool. Rachel has more than eight years of experience working with children from infancy through elementary school as both a teacher and a nanny.

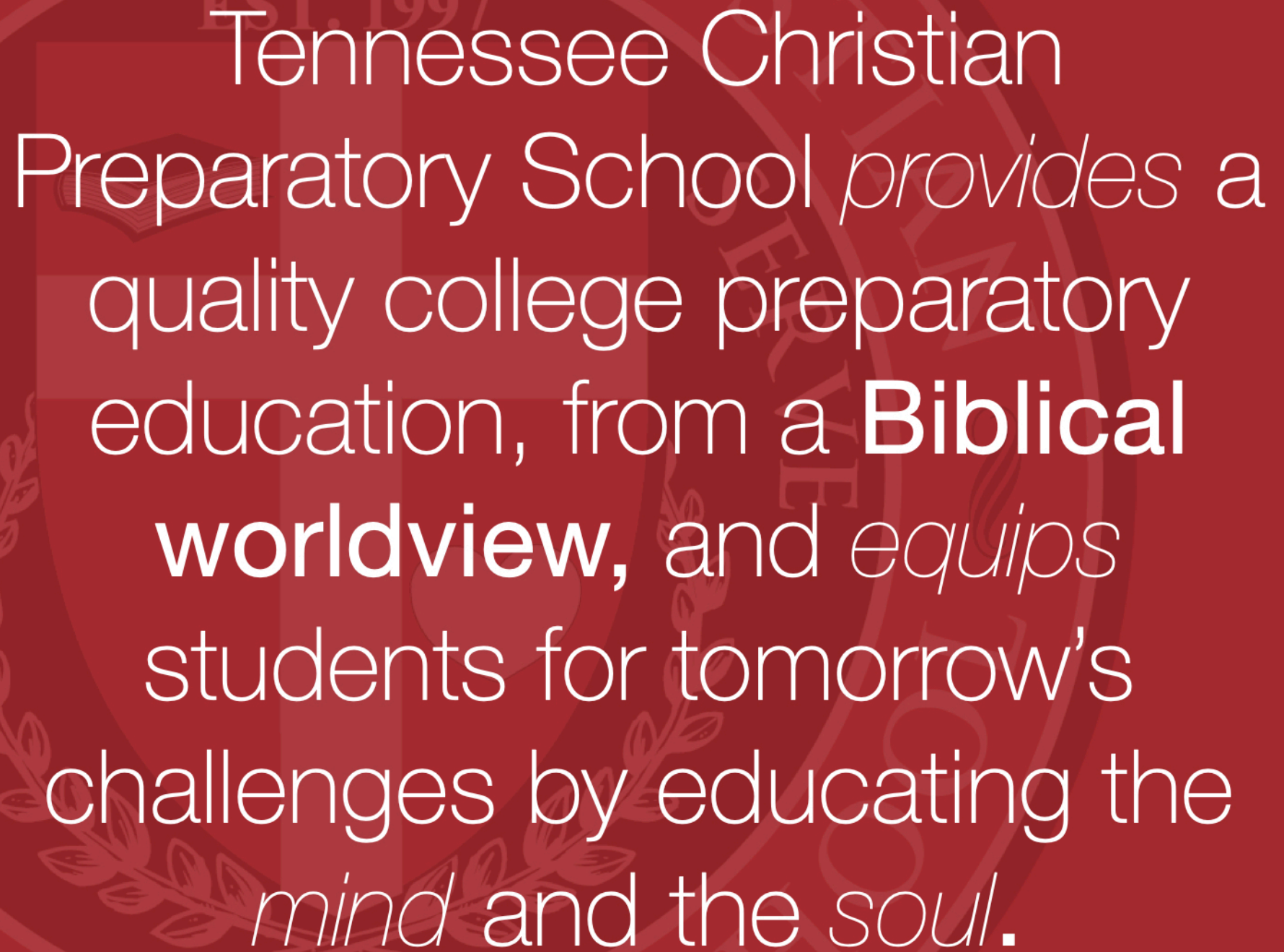
Rachel is dedicated to fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment where students feel loved and secure. She encourages students to be independent, inquisitive, and values each child's individuality.

Outside of the classroom, Rachel has a husband (Bradley) and three children (Sam, Sadie, and Stella). She enjoys spending time outside, walking, spending time with her family, and traveling.



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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.