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# The Talon Times

ISSUE 1

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

## Our First and Foremost

As the year is full of new beginnings for Tupelo Christian Preparatory School, the idea for a student-run newspaper surfaces to a group of hopeful, hardworking writers who are dedicated to serving God and the school through journalism. The mission of The Talon Times is to share school and world events with the students and faculty of TCPS and to report them accurately. To the team of journalists involved in this first edition, reporting is an avenue to represent the school in a godly manner. The columnists of this newspaper are ready and willing to inform the public and present current events with clarity and diligence.

Several students responded to the newspaper's arrival. Freshman Abrielle Carnathan commented that a newspaper allows the reader to know the details of a story; it edifies the story for reader comprehension.

This is a new experience for many of the new student journalists and photographers finding themselves on The Talon Times staff, all of whom are very thankful to each other and the readers alike for this opportunity. In conclusion, the journalists and photographers of The Talon Times are committed to the news and are fully dedicated to the further production of this newspaper for many more issues to come.

By: Sarah Beth Stewart and Madeline Bonds

## New Teachers: by Elizabeth Gaines and Grace Fox

This school year we added many new teachers to the Eagle family. These new teachers have already started making a great impact within the school. We are thankful for them, their Christian values, and their love for the school.

### High School

Mr. Hughes—Spiritual Disciplines and Studies in New Testament

Mrs. Holcomb—Chemistry and Physics

### Fine Arts

Mrs. Mitchell—Art

### Middle School

Mrs. Russell—6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math and Science

Mr. Harrison—Math 7, Pre-Algebra, and Algebra I

Mrs. Mahan—7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English

### Elementary

Mrs. Fowler—2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher

Mrs. Pannell—3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher

Mrs. Herndon—4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

Mrs. Vinson—Art Teacher

Mrs. White—Computer Teacher

**\*\*Ask three teachers what they like the most about TCPS so far\*\***

Mrs. Mitchell— “I enjoy the fellowship between students and teachers and the environment, the Christ-like environment.”

Mr. Harrison— “The way the kids work and behave, and they are wonderful children to be around. I love the fact that you are able to share God with students.”

Mrs. Vinson— “I love the spirit of the school, like everybody is smiling. Kids are quoting scripture and that kind of brings me to tears.”

## Retreat: by Madison Laney

There is not a better way to start the school year than on a retreat, growing closer to the Lord and to your classmates. The theme for Tupelo Christian Preparatory School's 2017 high school retreat was "Renew." The retreat was located at The Grove in Cordova, Tennessee. The seniors arrived at the retreat on August 9 and were joined by the underclassmen on August 10.

Sophomore Ainsley Hale commented that "[The retreat was] much better than the one last year because I think since I was a freshman last year, I didn't really know what to expect, but this year I had a better idea about what we were going to be doing, so I was more relaxed and less uptight about it. My favorite rotation that I did at the retreat this year was the lake. I loved going down the water slide, playing on the trampoline, and just swimming." Hale said for next year she would like "a little more free time just to relax." Senior leader Katie Metts added "[The retreat was] very successful in helping students bond with each other, especially new students to the school." Metts' favorite rotation at the retreat was gopher ball.

The high school students learned how to work together as a class and depended upon their classmates through the activities and worship sessions. The retreat is a blessing for the students at TCPS, and it should not be taken for granted.

The middle school students went to Camp Lake Stephens in Oxford, Mississippi, for a one day retreat. The theme for the middle school retreat was "All truth is God's truth." The speaker was Jason Marshall, the youth minister at First Baptist Church in Corinth, MS. Marshall stated "[My favorite part of the retreat was] Worship time. The message was on things that keep us from God, such as social media."

Mr. Ritchey enjoyed watching the kids fellowship together as they welcomed new kids. His favorite rotation at the retreat was the lake, and he also enjoyed watching the students zip lining and flipping the canoes. Eighth grader Grace McMullen replied that she really enjoyed the retreat and the student body came closer together. McMullen added, "I really enjoyed him [guest speaker Jason Marshall]. He was really open and spoke good messages." The middle school retreat was thoroughly enjoyed by the middle school students and was a great experience for each student. Some developed a relationship with God, while others grew stronger in their faith. Growing in faith is vital at a young age as students go through many trials throughout the rest of their lives. It is great to have a strong foundation for the struggles that will come, as well as having someone to depend on through those times. Both retreats aimed to bond the student bodies of Tupelo Christian Preparatory School and give them stronger foundations in their walks with Christ.



High School history teacher, Beverly Cotton canoeing at the high school retreat.



A group of junior girls posing in front of the lake at The Grove during retreat.

## Chapel: by Jayce Carney

Many people say they have a relationship with God, but do not spend time in His word on their own time. Chapel is a vital time to minister to students. Freshman and sophomore Bible teacher Mr. Casey Hughes has taken on the role of chapel director, and has worked to bring in wonderful speakers as he is trying to make every aspect better.

Avery Boren commented that “[Chapel is] Growing closer to God as a unit by studying God’s Word. [Our Foundations time] Helps us explain what happened in the verse and apply it to our lives today.”

Hughes Powell “I like it [chapel] and I think it’s a great opportunity.” Powell thinks Foundations time should be optional, and students should be able to do homework during that time. Several students have agreed with Powell’s comment.

Mr. Hughes’ vision for Foundations is “to help students get to spiritual maturity.” Mr. Hughes added “Are we pursuing God or are we just going to another class period? We should not just listen to God’s word or read it, but instead we should engage in it and apply it to our daily lives.”

Foundations time occurs between first and second period during homeroom. Students and teachers participate in a workbook designed to guide them through Scripture using Robby and Kandi Gallaty’s *Highlight, Explain, Apply, and Respond* method.

## Homecoming Dance: by Anna Hamilton

The 2017 TCPS Homecoming Dance was held at the Tupelo Country Club on Saturday, September 23.

Senior leader Bryce Lindsey **joked** that “It was not as good as last year’s homecoming dance because my date was terrible, but I still had a great time with my friends.” Several students, including sophomore Grant Trussell, freshman Braden Scott, and sophomore Sarah Grace Dillard all agreed it was a good dance overall. Everyone enjoyed the dance, and it was filled with good music and great friends.

## Homecoming Week: by Brock Kelly

Every year, students look forward to one of the most exciting weeks of the school year. A time where they can break the school dress code and not get a demerit. A time where they can dress up as their favorite superhero or show their American pride. From Donald Trump to a Mexican border wall to a full-on American Flag Tuxedo, this year's 'spirit week was one to remember.

### Monday - Merica' Day

This year, Merica' day was a fan favorite among the students.

One of the costumes that really stuck out was worn by Ben Woolhouse who dressed up as a Mexican Border Wall.

### Tuesday - Beach Day

Beach day was a fairly difficult day for the students this year, because most people wear a swimsuit or swim trunks when they go to the beach.

This type of apparel does not follow the school's strict modesty guidelines so students had to improvise. Most students dressed up as tourists, while others wore T-shirts that they got from the beach.

### Wednesday - Superheroes Vs Villains

For Superheroes vs Villains day, students dressed up as their favorite superhero or villain. Some students went all out for their costumes with full body spandex, while others preferred to keep it casual with a shirt or an occasional cape.



Sophomores, Ben Woolhouse and Jack Newell, dress up as Superman and high school teacher, Mr. Medlock, on superhero vs. villain day.

### Thursday - Color War

For Color War Day, each grade dressed up in their assigned color, which were chosen by this year's junior class. The ninth grade dressed in white, the tenth grade was decked out in pink, the eleventh grade was covered in black, and the seniors were attired in purple.

### Friday - TCPS Spirit Day

Every year, for the final day of spirit week, students dress up to show their school pride. This year, there were not very many people covered in TCPS attire, and most students preferred to just wear a TCPS t-shirt.

## 2017 Solar Eclipse: by Danielle Becker

On August 21, 2017, the nation watched as the moon crossed the path between the earth and the sun. The last total solar eclipse that was visible from coast to coast in America occurred on June 8, 1918. Though the entire eclipse lasted a few hours, the peak of the solar eclipse only lasted two minutes or less. Tupelo had 92 percent totality at 1:26 p.m.

Sarah Foster Brown, a Tupelo Christian Preparatory School fifth grader, recalled her eclipse experience, "At the beginning, the sun looked like a half-eaten sugar cookie. I thought it was going to get darker than it was. It looked just like a cloudy, rainy day. Once it was completely in the middle it looked like a donut."

The next total eclipse visible to the country will occur in 2024. In conclusion, it is a marvelous display of God's majesty made plain to us.



Photo of the 2017 Solar Eclipse taken by TCPS sophomore, Danielle Becker.

## Natural Disasters: by Lauren Graff

Over the course of several weeks, multiple hurricanes have developed, destroyed, and dissipated. The most violent hurricanes of the United States' 2017 hurricane season were Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma. Both of these destructive hurricanes did major damage and left many people homeless.

Harvey did major damage when it hit landfall as a category 4 hurricane at maximum sustained winds of 130 mph on August 25, 2017, at Rockport, Texas. Harvey was the first major category 3 or higher hurricane to make landfall since Hurricane Wilma of 2005. There were over 83 fatalities.

As Hurricane Harvey dissolved, Hurricane Irma came into effect. Irma was the most intense Atlantic hurricane to hit the US since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Irma developed on August 30, 2017, near the Cape Verde Islands. As it entered the Caribbean Sea and drove through Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba, it reached a category of five. It traveled from the Florida Keys into Florida and weakened to a category three. Irma dwindled into a tropical storm when it spread into central Florida and the neighboring state of Georgia. As of September 21st, over 100 fatalities have been confirmed due to Hurricane Irma.

TCPS took these natural disasters as an opportunity to reach out to those affected. The school partnered with Eight Days of Hope, a local disaster relief organization. Families donated gift cards, box fans, generators, extension cords and monetary gifts. As of now, many are still without water and electricity and are in need of prayers and donations.

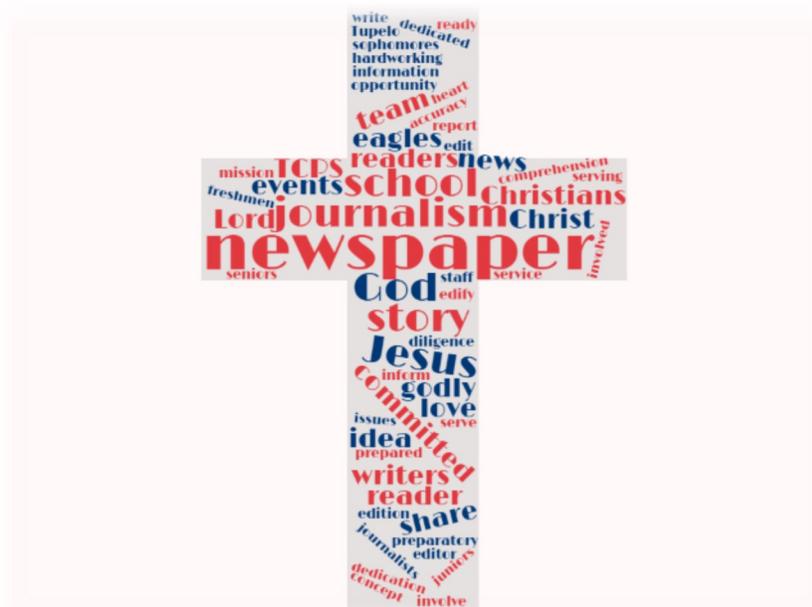
## Community Service: by Rebecca Talton

Lori Warnick, the high school math teacher, discussed some ways the TCPS student body can get involved in the community. The community of Tupelo has lots of upcoming service opportunities including basketball game concessions for elementary and high school, peer tutoring, Operation Christmas Child, First Baptist fall festival and a Thanksgiving food drive.

The fall festival is on Tuesday night, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Services needed include face-painting and working game booths. Another way to get involved is by collecting goods for Operation Christmas Child. Mrs. Warnick is starting a drive to collect goods for shoe boxes starting mid-October. Items to bring include toothbrushes, toothpaste, paper, pens, and socks (a full list will be posted on the bulletin board outside Mrs. Warnick's room, room 101). Thanksgiving is the perfect opportunity to provide for those who are less fortunate. You can serve by providing canned goods during our school food drive the week before Thanksgiving.

Many may have trouble finding motivation to get active in the community, but there are tons of benefits. Mrs. Warnick says "The joy of helping others" is enough to get out and serve. In addition to the happiness some feel in providing for others, members of the Beta Club need a minimum of 25 hours of service work, and college admissions, scholarship awarders, and employers look for community service when making decisions.

Check Mrs. Warnick's bulletin board for service opportunities and for further information stop by her room or contact her by email at [lwarnick@tcpsteachers.com](mailto:lwarnick@tcpsteachers.com).



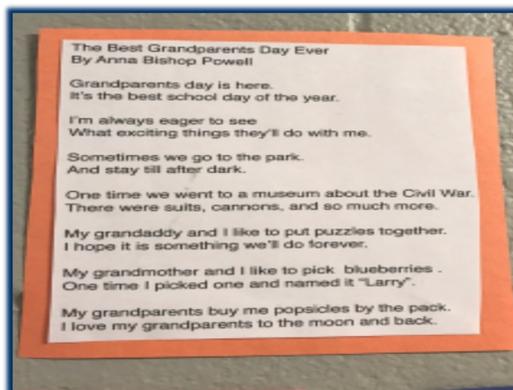
## Little Birdie News: by Abby Hutton

This segment of *The Talon Times* is dedicated to reporting events and informing the parents of their creative elementary students of Tupelo Christian Preparatory School.

**The Scholastic Book Fair:** The Scholastic Book Fair was a huge hit in the elementary school! Students from grades PreK-5 were allowed to go to the library and purchase a wide selection from books to erasers and everything in between.

**Grandparent' s Day:** Grandparent' s Day was a delightful event for the grandparents as well as the students. Grandparents were invited to visit their grandchildren in their classrooms and receive sentimental items made for them. They enjoyed songs, crafts, and stories presented by the students.

**4th Grade Field Trip:** Mrs. Garrett's, Mrs. Herndon's, and Mrs. Noland' s classes went on an eventful fourth grade field trip to the Natchez Trace Parkway Visitor Center on Friday, September 22nd. The fourth graders were allowed to visit all day and had many adventures! They watched as a fire was built from scratch, and helped aid in providing the sparks with an arrow and a metal slab.



Poem by Anna Bishop Powell about her excitement for Grandparent' s Day.

### Elementary Events:

October 5th: 1st grade pumpkin patch field trip from 8:30-2:00.

October 6th-9th: Fall Break.

October 11th: Pre-k field trip to the fire station from 9:30-10:45.

October 17th : Art show at Lifeway, and 5th Dismal Canyon field trip at 8:30.

November 10th: 1st grade learning fair at 2:15.

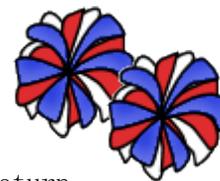
October 27th: 3rd grade field trip to Helen Keller's Birthplace from 7:30-3:00.

November 20th-24th: Thanksgiving Break.



## Varsity Swim and Cheer

by Bryce Lindsey



TCPS Boys Swim looks to repeat a successful first season after the return of Coach Phil Jones. The boys team finished third at North Half last year, and Chase Cervantes, Rob Pillow, Bryce Lindsey, and Miles Harrison became the first boys to medal in swim at TCPS after they finished third in the 4x200 relay. The team has three returning state finalists and shows a lot of potential to perform well at North Half again.

The girls team is showing promise to make big strides this season and possibly finish top three in North Half this year. They are led by senior Katie Metts.

The year is already off to an exciting start for TCPS Cheer. The varsity cheerleaders are led by Captains Victoria Fox and Rachel Stephenson, both of whom are juniors. They had a successful trip to Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg this summer for UCA Cheer Camp. Be sure to check out our cheer squad on the sideline of the next TCPS home football game.



## Varsity Football and Cross Country

by Parker Spencer



So far, the varsity football team is 6-2 with a loss to Biggersville and Okolona. The football team, since moving from independent to Division 1A Football, is now able to compete in the playoffs and the state championship. Currently there are thirty members on the high school football team ranging from freshman to seniors. Eight seniors, seven juniors, five sophomores, and ten freshmen. On September 28, 2017 it was first responders' night honoring firemen, police, paramedics, and veterans against HW Byers.

The boys cross country team is doing exceptionally well this season. The boys team is currently number one in Division 1A. The team is on track to win state by over a minute. Brock Kelly holds the school record for a five kilometer race with a time of 16:46 which he set earlier this season.

The girls cross country team is currently ranked second in the state. Allison Hamby has the fastest time this season with a time of 21:44. The girls team is young, and they are predicted to make great strides in the next few years.