

*—this only happens—*  
ONCE

CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN ACADEMY  
Nashville | Tennessee

Lion's Roar  
2023

Vol. 38

*—this only happens—*  
ONCE  
*—Lion's Roar 2023—*



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# ONCE

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### Horsing Around

At the Back to School Party, kindergartner Lee Perky beams with joy while trotting around on a horse. "I had to decide if I wanted to feed the animals or ride the horse so that I could still have time to jump on the bouncy houses. I was good at riding horses because I had ridden bigger ones at my GaGa's house, so I decided to go ride the horse," Perky said. "When I was on the horse, I was thinking about how I wished I could jump around to all of the horses." **photo Logan Reid**



### Extending Effort

Watching the process, eighth grader Aiden Amonette gets his arm taped by trainer Alex Heaton. "We were playing Montgomery Bell Academy in the Den when I went for an arm tackle against the running back after the kickoff, and I got knocked down. My arm overextended when I hit the ground, and the trainer strapped it up so I could play the rest of the game. My coaches and teammates encouraged me through my injury even though the other team ended up with the touchdown," Amonette said. "In practice, we gave all we had for the game and for each other, and when we hit the field, we put that into action." **photo Parker Wright**

### Team 2023

Senior Emmie Pack writes "Class of 2023" all over her windows with bright neon markers as she soaks up each moment of her last first day of school. "The whole senior class woke up early to watch the sunrise together at Steeplechase on our first day of senior year. Our senior theme was Michael Jordan, so we all wore number 23 jerseys to school," Pack said. "We wanted to make this year, 'The Jordan Year,' the greatest of all time. My best friend, [senior] Stella Green, and I rode to school together in our jerseys, and it was surreal to look at the number 23 and think that this was the only time we would get to have this day together." **photo Jay Wilkinson**



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CHRIST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
ACADEMY

2323 Old Hickory Blvd.

Nashville, TN 37215

K-12: 1250

Staff population: 227

Head of School: Mr. Nate Morrow

Mascot: Rumble the Lion

TSSAA Division II AA

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*lion's roar 2023*

## Once Upon A Tune

During an impromptu first for a senior class, senior Petra Christensen plays special yet unexpected music for the Class of 2023. "We had finished Passing of the Scrolls, and we were supposed to go back to class, but all the seniors stayed behind. At first, I heard people playing, and I went on stage and was just watching others play. I didn't want to play, but some of my classmates started pushing me towards the bench. I played whatever people requested such as songs from *High School Musical*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, and *Top Gun*. I was surrounded by my whole grade while doing what I loved," Christensen said. **photo Logan Reid**



### Shoes To Fill

Pointing out at the crowd, sophomore Tanner Salinas, alongside sophomore Lyla Daniel, juniors Joseph Hixson, Elysa Matula, and Daniel Perry, and senior Emmie Pack, captivates every eye in the room. "On opening night, people started to get sick," Salinas said. "During the Saturday matinee, our stage manager, [junior] Katherine Rollins, had to take someone's place due to illness. I was amazed at how well she handled the situation." photo Logan Reid



### Play With Fire

Squinting to avoid the singe of flames flying in his hands, eighth grader Brock Denton experiments with fire in Physical Science class. "When flammable gas burns, heat is released, which spends time evaporating on the water we put on our hand. I wasn't scared, but it was crazy to feel the heat of the fire around me but not on my hands," Denton said. "Coach [Bruce] Francis kept our classes lively and took time to get to know each of us individually at the beginning of class, which made science class more doable." photo Logan Reid



### Spirited Sprint

Bolting across the field, senior Ella Bobbitt races the football team, determined to fly the flag one final time. "I had run the flags once before, and my friends convinced me to run again for my last Homecoming. This was the final time, so I was thrilled but nervous," Bobbitt said. "Back in the student section, everyone showed me the videos they took of me, and they were hilarious to watch back." photo Jay Wilkinson



*It happens when the second grade visits the Tennessee State Capitol to learn the ins and outs firsthand from Governor Bill Lee. This is when our first ever TICE members graduate with a seal of certification in their specialized field. It's when we watch in awe as the upper school performs Peter and the Starcatcher, the first show under new director Mr. Jake Speck. It even happens when the middle school Student Leadership Team gathers to plan chapel. It's when the Pavilion opens its doors for the first time, and the faculty parking is restored.*

here's the **STORY.**



### The Cat's Meow

Under the spotlight, first grader Brooks Holt's purr turns into a roar for her passion for cheer. "This was my first year being on the cheer team, and my friends and I supported each other and told each other 'good job,'" Holt said. "In the game, we were cheering with the upper school girls, and when I saw them cheering I knew I wanted to be like them when I grew up." **photo Logan Reid**



### Change In Scenery

Cake in hand, sixth grader Jude Chisolm strikes a pose for the crowd, along with sixth grader Kate Noble, eighth grader Anna Green, sixth grader Dee Reeves, and eighth grader Sophia Barton. "My older brother, [sophomore] Liam [Chisolm], did theatre in the upper school, which was why I decided to try the middle school show of *High School Musical Jr.* I played Zeke, which meant I was a baker," Chisolm said. "I wasn't sure how I'd feel about being involved in theatre, but it ended up being unlike anything I'd ever done before. I saw and felt myself adapting and learning. If I made a mistake during rehearsals, the directors helped me fix what went wrong, and I truly saw myself changing through that experience."

**photo Logan Reid**

### Setting The Course

The shared passions and interests are evident as senior Drew Clark chats with one of his most influential role models, Mr. David Pollack. "Mr. [Michael] Ellson took a few media students, including myself, to go watch College GameDay and to see what it was like behind the scenes of a professional production. I got a chance to interview [Pollack], who I grew up watching every Saturday morning on the program," Clark said. "He told me about his story, not only about being on the show but also about everything he experienced that led him to his passion. It stuck with me because it was a perfect example of God's path for us."

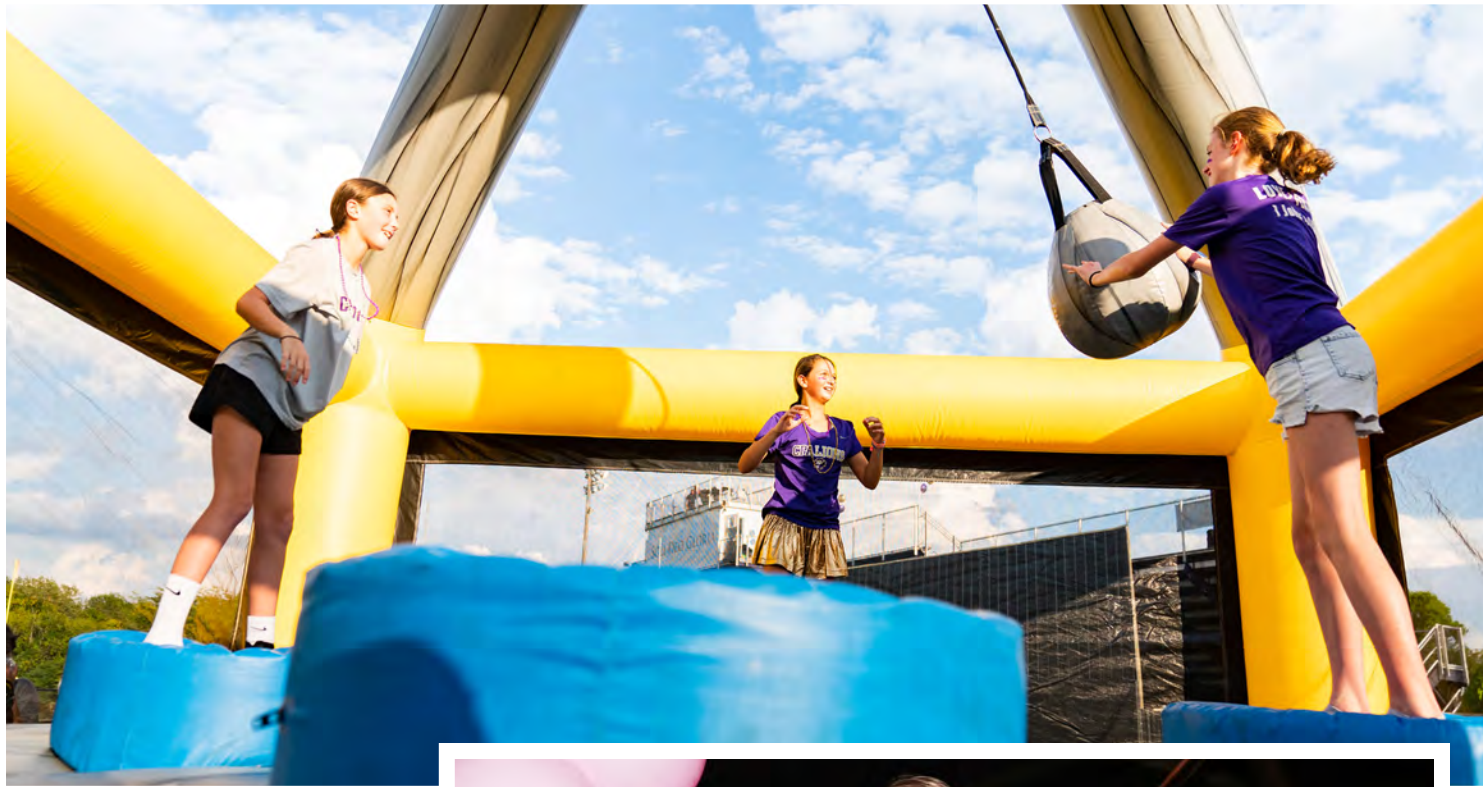
**photo Michael Ellson**



— *did you*  
**NOTICE?**



— *did you* —  
**FEEL IT?**  
— *this is it.* —



### Wrecking The House

Gaze fixed in anticipation of a flying wrecking ball hurtling her way, sixth grader Camper White prepares for an intense game in the bounce house. "I was with my friends, [sixth graders] Emilie [Mark] and Audrey [Townsend]. We were play fighting with the inflatable wrecking ball, and [Mark] knocked me off the platform," White said. "As soon as I fell to the ground, all three of us died laughing." **photo Jay Wilkinson**



### Rock N' Roll

Dancing the night away with her dad, Dr. Brandon Barkley, third grader Avery Barkley dances to the beat. "While my dad and I were dancing in the crowd, he threw me really high up in the air. It felt like I was flying each time he threw me," Barkley said. "At the dance, my friends and I also played games like Bullfrog and Tag." **photo Jay Wilkinson**

### Turkey Trot

Incredibly focused on his own hand, preschooler Alister Kitchen prepares to paint a Thanksgiving turkey. "I wanted to paint my mom a turkey for Thanksgiving because my favorite part of Thanksgiving was the turkey," Kitchen said. "I was the most thankful for my mom and dad because I love them so much." **photo Jay Wilkinson**





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## The Search For Passion

Intrigued to learn, Ms. Mimi Stricker appreciates each opportunity to teach students to use their gifts in the real world with Ms. Shannon Sedgwick Davis. "As an upper school, we read Shannon Sedgwick Davis's *To Stop a Warlord*. We were privileged to hear her speak, and she challenged us to step into and pursue what motivates us. The Q&A was helpful because it illustrated how TICE empowered each student to discover why and how God made them differently," Stricker said. **photo Logan Reid**

## Break It Down

While being interviewed, senior London Humphreys speaks about his team's recent win against Oakland High School. "We beat Oakland which ended their undefeated streak of the past four years. The whole game, [junior] Asher Keck was running the ball, and they couldn't seem to stop him, which opened multiple opportunities for touchdowns," Humphreys said. "After the game, we celebrated, and Coach [Cole] Smith started dancing with us." **photo Jay Wilkinson**



## Into The New

First grader Elikya Kwolo takes on a new adventure. "This was my first year. It was different being with people I had never met before, but I liked my new friends and learning with them. My teacher, Ms. [Beth] Graham, encouraged our class to work hard by giving us breaks and time to relax," Kwolo said. "She read to us when we had time off, and my favorite story was *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* because he also had to work hard to achieve new things." **photo Jay Wilkinson**



# STUDENT *life* — 11



## Last Taste Of Pride

Shaking the stands, senior Caroline Mikos strains her vocal chords cheering for the first touchdown of the season. "The game was against Independence High School, and the theme was purple out. All the students met in the parking lot to get ready, and I put purple paint literally all over my body, which ended up making me stained purple, and it took me forever to get all the paint off. Because it was my last first football game, the whole thing was bitter sweet. I thought about that game from a different perspective because I knew I'd never get to live it again," Mikos said. **photo Logan Reid**



## Angelic Attire

The girls make the rules this time of year, and for eighth grader Miller Haraf that meant being wrapped in toilet paper by eighth grader Bennett Songer. "Each year the girls in advisory came up with a game that the boys had to participate in. This year the competition was who can dress a member of the team as an angel the fastest. I was the smallest on the team so I was nominated to be the angel. They covered me in toilet paper, streamers, and bows," Haraf said. **photo Jay Wilkinson**

## Spin It To Win It

To win a prize worthy of any competition, second grader Mary Denley Caughman twirls three hula hoops, supported by second graders Madi Tomlin and Siloam Embry and fifth graders Ashlyn Tomlin and Elsie Grai Ashley. "We were doing a contest to earn candy for the Homecoming football game. I had my friends behind me, cheering for me. It wasn't hard to do three hula hoops at once," Caughman said. "My friends cheering me on while I was hula hooping helped me to win." **photo Jay Wilkinson**



*It happens when the fifth graders see how a business world runs at BizTown and get a taste of their future careers. For the first time ever, the Middle School Tinker Club successfully creates a pinball machine entirely out of Legos. It is when Dr. Brandon Barkley and Mr. Nate Morrow bring laughter to the upper school hallway dressed as Gru and his brother from the movie Despicable Me.*

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- 38-39 Houses
- 40-41 Coming Home



*It's when Head Basketball Coach Kevin Maggard takes on a new role as the Head Coach of the Kindergarten Basketball Team. It happens when the Upper School Competition Cheer Team finishes 2nd at State—the best finish in program history. It even happens when three sixth graders make it to the Little League World Series Finals.*

- 44-45 LS/MS Football
- 46-47 US Football
- 48-49 LS/MS Cheer
- 50-51 US Cheer
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### Following A Legacy

Looking on, junior Maddux Routh listens intently as Coach Craig Bradshaw helps him get into the right position. "My uncle, [Drew Maddux], coached Coach Bradshaw when he was playing in the upper school, and I saw similarities in the way they led the team," Routh said. "They were both player-oriented rather than focusing on the wins and losses. Coach Bradshaw got on to me more than anyone else, but it was because he was determined to make me better. We played one-on-one in study hall, and because of him, I learned how to dunk in one year. I definitely saw him as a friend as well as a coach." **photo Jay Wilkinson**

### Gone Flipping

Supporting her Lions alongside her friends first graders Millie Sawyer, Kali Hughes, and Ann Louise Owen, first grader Penny Sarantos cheers at the Homecoming football game. "We practiced our cheers and dance for four days after school. I did cheerleading because my mom did it when she was in school, but it was a lot more work than I thought it would be. When we were at the game, [Sawyer] and I were doing cartwheels around the field, and the announcer said 'Oh look! There are girls doing cartwheels down there,'" Sarantos said. **photo Jay Wilkinson**

# SPORTS

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### Never Too Young

Following in the football referees' footsteps, sixth grader Corbin Cyphers' dream becomes his reality. "My job for two years was to be at football games and ask the referees if they need water during timeouts. At one game nearing the end of the quarter, a referee walked up behind me and started placing some of his own gear on top of me because I had told him I wanted to be a referee in the future. He said it would help me get closer to reaching my dream. I've held onto his gear since then." **photo Jay Wilkinson**







### Learning To Connect

Whisper phone in hand, first grader Lucas Janson uses his love for reading to connect with those around him. "I loved reading because I could use my whisper phone to hear my own voice, and my friends and I would talk about what we read during breaks so that we could know each other better," Janson said. "We also made 'me books' to learn about each other with pictures. My mom and I printed mine out and worked on it together so that my friends could see all my favorite pictures." **photo Jay Wilkinson**

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- 116-117 MS/US Math
- 118-119 MS/US Fitness

### Bright Ideas

A sunny day makes for the perfect opportunity to take class outside and for junior Ellen Shipman to sprawl out her color coded notes to share with her classmate, junior Grace Hobday. "Through the many discussions our class had over our book club books and other novels we read, I learned that everyone has something valuable to say," Shipman said. "It also taught me that everyone has a different way of expressing their ideas." **photo Jay Wilkinson**



### Literature Adventure

Soaking up the silence, eighth grader Caroline Weaver immerses herself in the class book alongside eighth grader Bennett Songer. "The best book we read was called *The Book Thief*. It was historical fiction, so it was filled with countless adventures," Weaver said. "It never failed to keep me on my toes, and it made me want to read more." **photo Jay Wilkinson**

*It happens when the upper school Marketing students strategize and create a plan to increase ticket sales at Belmont University basketball games. It's when sixth graders design colorful kites to learn about wind patterns in Earth Science. This is when fifth graders choose endangered animals to research and inform their peers about.*



### Frenemies

Charging across the stage alongside seventh grader Miles Roberts, seventh grader James Denton defeats his enemies. "It was the Greek Day play, and I played Jason, one of the heroes," Denton said. "In the Heroes scene, I chased my friends around and fought them as if they were my enemies."

photo Jay Wilkinson



### Pointed Toes And Bowed Heads

With eyes fixed on the bar, junior Maria Giovanetti dances for an audience of one. "Every Wednesday, we had Worship Wednesday where one of the dancers would share a devotional with everyone. After that, we split up and spent about 15 minutes with the Lord, expressing our adoration in any way we felt fit. This time was very grounding for me, as it was a time to recenter my mind on what truly matters," Giovanetti said.

photo Sally West

### The Gift Of Creativity

Smelly marker in hand, first grader Sawyer Stanford creates her next masterpiece. "One time in Art class, I was placing my snakes in a circle to make my clay bowl, and I decided that I wanted to give it to my dad for his birthday. I even painted it yellow because it was one of his favorite colors," Stanford said. "Art class gave my mind a break from school but also allowed me to think of the perfect gift for my dad." photo Lyla Kelley



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*It happens when the first ever Middle School Media Club creates a movie about Greek Mythology. It's when Vision performs Christmas carols at the Biltmore for the first time since before COVID-19. It even happens when the Lower School Dance Team learns new moves to showcase at halftime during the Homecoming football game.*

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*It's when lower school P.E. class takes a break and gathers together to watch the USA Men's team beat Iran in the World Cup. It even happens when middle school students cap off their unit on flight and space with a field trip to U.S. Space and Rocket Center. For the first time, upper school classes take place in the gym due to an electrical fire.*



## Christmas Cheer

With a smile on his face and an outfit ready for the "All-Out Christmas" theme day, Head of School Nate Morrow closes the preschool Christmas Program. "The Christmas Spirit got me fired up," Morrow said. "Being in a leadership role, if I went all in on something, I felt like it gave everyone else permission to go all in, too. I wanted to create a festive atmosphere around the holidays because it enhanced the work and school environment." **photo Jay Wilkinson**



## Loop The Loop

Circling back in time, first grader Addi Fitzsimmons, along with first graders Brooks Holt, Rosemary Kitchens, Penny Sarantos, Tatum McPhee, and Jay Thomas Ullum, hoops away her problems and lets loose. "At the '50s Dance, we did many dance moves, and one of them was the twist. The hula hoops were my favorite part of the whole dance," Fitzsimmons said. "The disco ball was down, and they put up pictures of people from the '50s, which made it feel real." **photo Jay Wilkinson**

## Building Towards A Win

Seventh grader Jaden Jones builds both robots and relationships alongside seventh graders Jack Wenzel and Evan Wheeler in the Middle School Robotics Club. "We went to the robotics tournament at Ensworth [High School] and ended up rewriting half of the code because it malfunctioned. Whenever we ran into problems, we all had different ideas on how to get it back running," Jones said. "At the tournament, [eighth grader] Drew [Wilson] came up with a solution that none of us probably would have thought of otherwise. At the end, the judges called our name last, so I was shocked with excitement to hear that we had won." **photo Jay Wilkinson**







so, that's the **STORY.**

*It happened when upper school students coordinated extravagant outfits for a tacky prom themed Coming Home. For the first time ever, we had a new middle school principal, Dr. Nate Miley, who stepped into the role in December. It was when fourth graders took a field trip to Cumberland Caverns to discover all about the second longest cave in Tennessee. This was when TICE members got a chance to give back to our community through service days at our partner nonprofit organizations. It even happened when preschoolers took the day to shadow upper school arts classes.*

### Wherever I Go

Performing one last time in *Coffeehouse*, senior Emma Lynn Doyle sings alongside her friends, seniors Etta Snider and Ellie Foster. "For our last *Coffeehouse*, we sang 'Wherever I Go' by the National Parks. It was a sentimental song about how even though we were leaving for college, we would always have each other to come back to. It was sad because I had been a part of *Coffeehouse* for all four years of upper school, but it was sweet to have my last performance in *Coffeehouse* be with my best friends," Doyle said.

photo Logan Reid

### Shouts And Claps

Ball in hand, sixth grader Benton Freije analyzes the court to plan his next move. "I felt connected with my team when we won a close game. Our game against Oak Hill [School] was a memorable one because we were competing for the number one seed in the bracket," Freije said. "Lots of people came, which created an energetic atmosphere, and we ended up winning."

photo Lyla Kelley



### Lighting Up Learning

Face lit with creativity, fifth grader Jackson Kennedy explores new mediums. "In class, we were working on a project where we wrote our names with sharpies on a folded piece of paper and transferred it to a lightbox. Then your name would magically be fanned out in a pattern. This was exciting because we had never done artwork like this before," Kennedy said. "Art was different in fifth grade because we learned new skills when we drew and painted." photo Jay Wilkinson

did you **NOTICE?**

did you \_\_\_\_\_

**FEEL IT?**

this was it.

— this only happened —

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