

January 2017

8th EDITION

O'HARE'S
GAP



O'HARE'S GAP

The Gap Gazette

Christmas Wrap-up and Welcome to 2017!

It's a new year and a new newspaper! Due to the busy holiday season and many kids taking some well deserved time off, we did not publish a December issue so we will cover that here today.

And speaking of skipping a month, we decided that in 2017, we will publish this paper every other month. Having such an active school schedule requires more time for our studies. So papers will be delivered in January, March, May, July, September and November.

We now attend classes 6 out of 7 days, while some days even have more than 1 class! We stay busy but we also find time to relax and giggle a bit.

To the right, you will note a few photos from the O'Hare's Gap Christmas party taken by our field reporter, Lila Swansong. You can get a full report in her "Out and About" section of The Gazette.

St. Columba has started a children's choir and our very first performance will be for O'hare's Gap!

Currently scheduled for **Sunday Feb 5th at 1:30pm**, this new venture will bring heart warming choral favorites inside the walls of the abbey. We hope you join us for this 1 hour event and come out and support the kids in the school.

But if you miss it, the choir will be performing at Sarah's Magic Kingdom up on the hill on March 19th. Don't miss these shows unless you hate kids and music!! ;-)

Miss Sarah Sandalwood
Editor-in-Chief



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O'Hare's Happenings

Events and happenings around OHG
Real Estate and financial reports



by
Willy
Sandalwood

Spot light on Síochána Yoga. The name is Irish for what I believe the translation to be "Peace Yoga". I have to admit I don't know much about Yoga but this location near the Sandalwood Park is very peaceful. Our own long time friend and resident, Hunny Spiritweaver, has provided this serene place to tie your body up into knots. Seriously, she has provided multiple mats so you can bring friends, hold your own classes, or just hang out to find your inner self. Visit Síochána Yoga and you'll thank yourself, but also thank Hunny when you see her. Just remember that change is inevitable, except from vending machines. Don't just do something -- Sit there! (A little yoga humor?).



Do you all know how many ponds exist at O'Hare's Gap? Take a guess then I'll tell you where all three are located. Actually, I'll tell you where two are and you have to find the third. One is located within the confines of Sandalwood Park. The second is just near the end of the airstrip. Now, lets get down to that third pond. I'm going to ask that you seek that one out on your own. Don't cheat and fly, and certainly don't cam out. I suggest you take in the entire experience and find it on foot, horseback, or bicycle. You'll learn so much more about our wee bit of Ireland, especially if you explore around the pond area. Oh, by the way, the ponds are frozen until they thaw so I suggest you come back again to enjoy them once the flora and fauna return. Slainte!



Resident Spotlight

Welcome to new residents and
spotlight stories on existing ones



by
Tina
Ludlow

I apologize for not spotlighting someone this month. I will make sure I do my article next issue.

I would like to put a shout out to all who helped decorate the town. All the shops were so festive!

Thank you Liath and kaleenomalley for decorating the pub! It went from Christmas to New Years with the holiday spirit.

Thank you so much to Skyrim for all the decorations in Hangar 39 and the wonderful Christmas party she DJed and hosted for OHG.

All had an awesome time! Even Santa showed up!

I hope you all saw the notices about the skiing, sledding, ice skating, and snowmobiling in our town. We thank Liesbeth Flores and Martin Leider for extending an invitation to use their ice skating rink!. She puts out hot chocolate and cookies daily!

Thank you Hunny Spiritweaver for taking care of the Church with all the decorations. I don't know what we would do without all of you here. We appreciate all of your help and good memories to hold onto.

If you havent heard, we have an awesome Pianoist, Arisia Vita, that has come to OHG to play the piano for us. If you see him in the pub, please stop by and enjoy. We were lucky to hear his Irish music and Christmas music through the holidays.

If there is something you would like to see in OHG, give me a hollar and Ill see what we can do!

Hugs

Sister Caroline Frank (Polлиеfrank Resident)

Ðᄡᄢᄡᄢ (alasdair.magic)

Heike Danube

welcome to our new renters in OHG. Hope you look around and meet our community and love it here as much as we love having all of you here

The Post Office

The OHG Postmasters talk about Post happenings



POST

by
MaxymilianHax
and Viola Lecker

A MADE-UP STORY

Not so long ago a mysterious couple was seen at the post office. They did not talk at all. They just stood many hours in total silence. Observers wondered what is going on. Someone with overactive imagination discovered a secret and described it in an open letter with photo attachments addressed to the post office.



T: My dear, I have to confess something. I correspond with someone. It lasts for a long time. In fact I start it every year just after I finish it on your request to not continue that and focus on your... "T".

W: What?! You did that again? I can't stand it any more, my sweet. It is beyond my possibilities



T: Please try to understand me, my dear. He is so special. Contact with him is so intense. I cannot break it. It makes me a shiver and I cannot sleep waiting for his response and seeing he is coming.



W: You said I am the only man in your life and I always will be. And now you do such a thing again to me... I cannot describe my feelings.

T: Oh! Please forgive me, my dear. Please! I have to write letters to Santa every year, otherwise he would not bring me the presents and...



T: ...and I could not skate with a professional.



W: Maybe I cannot skate but I can stand all day forming the initial letter of your name. This means something!

T: Yes, my dear, I know. It means teatime.

To be continued... next Christmas.

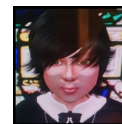
* Disclaimer - only photos are real, made by second paparazzi.

Must have links:

- * P.O. website: <http://bit.ly/postoffices/>
- * P.O. fanpage: <https://www.facebook.com/postoffices/>
- * P.O. teleport: <http://maps.secondlife.com/secondlife/Wilde/138/204/25/>

"At the Movies"

Billy reviews the films playing this month at O'Hare's theater



by
Billy J
Auster

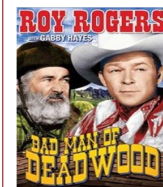
Did you know O'Hares Gap has it's very own movie theater? Even with FREE ADMISSION there is plenty of room for all to sit back and enjoy a good film! Features change weekly!

If you like, you can follow [THIS LINK](#) to teleport you directly there! You need Quicktime Player installed for the theater to work.



January 15-21 Bowery Blitzkrieg

They say that in this second world everything is in a finely tuned balance with everything else. If things get out of synch here we could have catastrophic effects -- like second world climate change. Such Ying Yang is apparent in this riveting tale of a bookworm gone bad and a hoodlum turned honorable!



January 22-28 Bad Man of Deadwood

When I first heard this film was coming to O'Hares, the words "Bad Man" and "Dead" made me say to myself.. "Another Sandalwood Halloween movie (in January no less) because the Sandalwood family is so obsessed with Halloween and scaring innocent young kids". But it turns out it's about gangs, and stolen Linden, back in the old west times where gunslingers ruled the land! You know. The good ol' days.



January 29- February 04 Parachute Battalion

Months ago, my classmates and I took a helicopter ride over O'Hares Gap. While the pilot was very skilled and seemingly knew what she was doing, it was still terrifying. I think Miss Lucie had bruise marks in her arms in the shapes of our fingers from some of us holding on to her for our dear lives. Well if I had watched this movie beforehand, perhaps I would have been a bit braver. This movie was made for aspiring young soldiers to rally behind the country! And, though its documentary style and very militaristic, guys don't worry: you can still bring your gals because they still find time to throw in gratuitous mushy stuff between two cadets competing for the heart of the sergeant's daughter.



February 05- February 11 Let's go Collegiate

Miss Sarah teaches us through her disciplinary tick marks not to lie or cheat. If only this group of conniving students had gone to Saint Columba and learned that it never pays to be deceitful as they try to replace the team's star athlete with a burly truck driver.

Saint Columba Class Report

A summary of school events over the past 2 months



by Sister
Victoria

Dear O'Harians

The school has now started term 2, and life is getting back to normal since Christmas events. The school is very strong now and this is because everyone does their best to make it a home in a place that everyone feels happy. I cannot name one person, as I think pupils and staff do their utmost to make this not just a school, but a community and family.

Not everything is fun at school. We had exams that were well attended. Most exams went fine, but some pupils thought the history exam was hard. This has persuaded Miss Sarah to think that we need a school nurse. I have never seen so much sweat during one exam and so many praying. Luckily, everyone passed exams. A special mention should be for Miss Zlatka that got the best grades and Miss Annie who did well on the exams even though she just started.

We even had our own ceremony, in which we gave each other awards. Master Billy was the big winner that evening... but in reality everyone was. Not everyone got a ribbon, but everyone was recognized. Everyone got a positive vote for something. This has shown me the spirit we have, no one is forgotten. We are not sure we will have these awards again, or do them in another form.

We have tried with a new concept at school called democracy, in which pupils can pick what classes and events they wanted. It was an interesting experiment. I would never have put a Disney class on the program. But it was voted in. From what I hear the first class was inspiring and well done. Sometimes it is good to ask pupils what they think, as they have voted some good classes in. Democracy is not always good, but it is good when Miss Sarah allows it.

We even have extra classes. We have more Europeans at the school, so we have 3 extra classes at

11:45 am SLT a week. So far these have been well attended. We also decided to be good Catholics and rest on Sundays. The problem we have is time zones, as no time can suit everyone, so we try our best to make a plan that suits the vast majority.

We have new staff, which is great and much needed. A new governess has started, which means pupils are taken care outside class. I hear that she is strict, but that is because she cares. Being a governess is a difficult job, as there is no job description. Considering this, Madam Morris has been a blessing to us and things will get better when she finds out her routine.

We also have new teachers. Mr. Sebby does the choir, Mr. Mercy does field trips, Miss Michelle does ballet and Miss Lavinette has fairy tales. We are so honored and proud to have them.

Considering the exam stress we seen, and some pupils being accident prone and not talking about the latest where Master Billy shrunk in mysterious ways, we are working on a school nurse. Her name is Nurse Small.

One of the most exciting projects we are working on is a choir. This choir will travel to places that want to hear us and even be on social media. When we perform, we ask for tips and the pupils decided these should go to funding the school and O'Hare's. We hope that the choir will be something everyone at O'Hare's is proud of.

Another thing Miss Sarah is working on is a school council. This is not democratic as her Excellency has the final say. However it will help with the administration side of the school, the plans we have and communication.

You can see that the school is striving. I personally am so proud to be part of it. Every pupil and staff member has a special place in my heart and I consider them as family. The school wants to be a

central part of the community at OHG, even if you do not work there, or have a child there. Come and visit us. We love to get to know people that live where we do. You can attend any of our classes or meals as well. Sharing is something we love doing. We have lots of orphans, so if you are looking for a good catholic child, let us know.

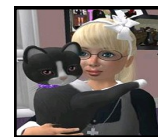
Until next time,
Sister Victoria

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11:45 AM		Judge	History	Ballet		
12:45 PM						
1:00 PM						
1:15 PM	Catechism	Soup	Music	Field Trips	Disney	Choir
1:45 PM	Soup	Fairy tales	Soup	Soup	Soup	Soup
2:15 PM						



Ask an Excellence

Miss Sarah answers your questions to life's most puzzling issues in the most Excellent ways!



by
Sarah A.
Sandalwood

Miss Sarah, what is the secret ingredient in Lucie's soup that makes all the kids go nuts over it?

IWannaKnow

IWanna, such questions should never be asked! Any of the ingredients in Lucie's soup are a coveted and copyrighted secret that I couldn't POSSIBLY share! I have been captured by other schools and held for ransom for the soup ingredients. But I never spoke and had to escape on my own!! Needless to say, your question here in public is most improper. Do you realize the implications that could be gained if that recipe fell into the wrong hands!?!?!? I think minding your own business is the best advice I can give you!

/me mumbles while walking away.... "I really need to get that soup recipe someday...."

Miss Sarah, what makes YOU an EXCELLENCE!? What makes YOU soooooo special!?!?!?

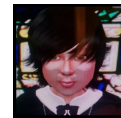
Lord L.

Lord.....I have a newspaper column and you don't

To ask Miss Sarah a question, please submit it on a notecard to sarah nikitin in an IM or via The Post!

Master Billy's Babblings

Billy needs to babble...and YOU need to listen! :)



by
Billy J
Auster

Most residents of O'Hares Gap at some time or another have happened upon at least one of the charming students who attend Saint Columba Boarding School – an orphanage connected directly to the Abbey. To some, though, it may seem that there's something very curious going on there. The school has been happily running for over a year now -- birthdays have come and gone -- yet the pupils have not grown an inch, not one of them! This has left some of the townsfolk understandably bewildered and perplexed. I felt it might be in order to attempt to set your mind at ease by explaining just how this can be -- even for those children at that age where growth spurts are the norm!

I assure you, this is NOT because we are malnourished. Truly, Miss Lucie's soup can satisfy the belly for days (and often it must). Within the walls of the boarding school itself, you see, there lies a curiously small room situated under the stairs, whose doorway is hardly noticeable standing at any distance away from it. Should you choose to open this door, you will be met with a powerfully musty odor, and even perhaps hit with a light mist from the humid conditions inside. Why is this, you ask? It is because this is the mushroom closet, and conditions must be just right for their growth. But these aren't any ordinary mushrooms! A small bite of any one of them would surely send your world into a spin! In fact, it's these very magical properties within these fungi that keeps us so youthful. Yes, it is a bit like "Alice in Wonderland" in a way. But that is merely a story, a fairy-tale. Our mushrooms are very real. And, our mushrooms don't affect only one's height ONLY. Behold! Our mushrooms can bestow true youth! Even the most aged and withered can re-find their long-lost childhood they once adored!



I hope this has helped clarified some things. But I also hope this serves as a pathway for you or someone you know who wants to rediscover their youth. And who knows.... maybe even become a fellow student with us at Saint Columba!

NOTE: Do not attempt to eat Saint Columba mushrooms without supervision. See sign on the outside of the door for all legal disclaimers.

Funnies

This is an Irish Boomerang

*Whats the difference
between an Irish wedding,
and an Irish funeral?
There's one less drunk.*



**It never returns—
but it sings a lot of sad songs
about how much it wants to**

The Art of Art

Arts Review



by
Anneke Van
Trijp

Jan van Eyck (before c. 1390 – 9 July 1441) was an Early Netherlandish (Netherlandish being the Low Lands: Holland and Belgium: they were one at that time) painter active in Bruges and one of the most significant Northern Renaissance artists of the 15th century. The few surviving records of his early life indicate that he was born c. 1380–1390, most likely in Maaseik. He took employment in the Hague as painter and Valet de chambre with John III the Pitiless, ruler of Holland and Hainaut in the Hague around 1422, when he was already a master painter with workshop assistants. After John's death in 1425 he was employed in Lille as court painter to Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy, until 1429 before moving to Bruges, where he lived until his death. He was highly regarded by Philip, and undertook a number of diplomatic visits abroad, including to Lisbon in 1428 to explore the possibility of a marriage contract between the duke and Isabella of Portugal.

Apart from the Ghent Altarpiece and the illuminated miniatures of the Turin-Milan Hours, about 20 surviving paintings are confidently attributed to him, all dated between 1432 and 1439. Ten, including the Ghent altarpiece, are dated and signed with a variation of his motto, ALS IK KAN (As I (Eyck) can) always written in Greek characters, always a pun on his name.

Van Eyck painted both secular and religious subject matter, including altarpieces, single panel religious figures and commissioned portraits. His work includes single panels, diptychs, triptychs, and polyptych panels.

He was well paid by Philip, who sought that the painter was secure financially and had artistic freedom and could paint "whenever he pleased". Van Eyck's work comes from the International Gothic style, but he soon eclipsed it, in part through a greater emphasis on naturalism and realism. Through his developments in the use of oil paint he achieved a new level of virtuosity. Van Eyck was highly influential and his techniques and style were adopted and refined by the Early Netherlandish painters.

Jan van Eyck died young, on 9 July 1441, in Bruges. He was buried in the graveyard of the Church of St Donatian. As a mark of respect, Philip made a one-off payment to Jan's widow Margaret, to a value equal to the artist's annual salary. He left behind many unfinished works to be completed by his workshop journeymen. After his death, Lambert van Eyck ran the workshop, as Jan's reputation and stature steadily grew. Early in 1442 Lambert had the body exhumed and placed inside St. Donatian's Cathedral.

In 1449 he was mentioned by the Italian humanist and antiquarian Ciriaco de' Pizziccoli as a painter of note and ability, and was recorded by Bartolomeo Facio in 1456. Giorgio Vasari, erroneously, credited him with the invention of oil painting in 1550.



SMK Report

Sarah's Magic Kingdom: Disney Museum News and Financial report



by
Sarah A.
Sandalwood

SMK had a dismal holiday season receiving only "1%" of what it needed in donations for the month. And so far in January, half way through the month, it is only 1% again.

However, all attractions except one have a sponsor and all of our shops are rented which still is a remarkable thing! As we wait patiently for the new Space Mountain to open, I am told it will be remarkable. Nance Clowes has been working on this new attraction that starts down at the park but then rockets you up to the ride building.

Jafar has been DJing monthly Disney Dances in the hall and we appreciate her keeping social events moving along.

The St. Columba Catholic Choir will be doing a concert in the hall on March 19th.



Saint Columba Student Report



by
Sarah A.
Sandalwood

Public listing of monthly student disciplinary records.

My job at St. Columba as an "Excellence" is not an easy one. In my world, constant vigilance is essential and it is my duty to ensure that St. Columba remains an exceptional institution. With my trusty "Tick Mark Book" always by my side, I record every student infraction and error in hopes of correcting inappropriate behavior. This is a task that I take VERY VERY seriously and the students know it.

After so many infractions, students may have to submit essays, stay behind during field trips or the ultimate punishment, expulsion! Our rulebook is immense and every person who wears the uniform must comply.

Public display of these records help encourage the students to be more diligent in their thoughts and actions. Here are the records for this month..

As a Christmas present from myself to the entire student body, I disregarded ALL tick marks for the month of December!

I am pleased to say that even knowing this was the case, MOST students remained well behaved the entire month.

HOWEVER, as of January 1st, tick marks returned with a vengeance so be prepared for the flood in our next issue!!

Opinion



Reader's submissions and comments

There were no submissions for Opinion this issue. Please share whatever you would like to say in this editorial comment section.

Submit your NC to Sarah Sandalwood (Sarah Nikitin) or send via Post

Saint Columba Student News

School Spotlight and New Enrollments



by
Sarah A.
Sandalwood



Granted it is rare that a new student gain such notoriety to be featured in the "Student Spotlight" so quickly, but when the need arises.....

Miss Annie came to St. Columba early November and from that moment on, has really put forth great effort in everything she does. Miss Annie is a friend to everyone and one of the sweetest students you will ever meet. She instantly became heavily involved in prayers and classes and has a very successful attendance rate. Be it Hail Mary or assisting with prayer readings, her church participation has been noted. Occasionally she may bump into you by mistake and knock you out of line. Yet she will always excuse herself in a manner that befits that of any St. Columba student. She is always eager to help and has a smile on her face. This is why she is this issue's Spotlight Student!



Welcome
Newly Enrolled
Students!



Miss Annie Baum

Miss Annie came to us in early November and left her mark immediately upon us. She is 8 years old and very well mannered.

WELCOME TO THE ST. COLUMBA FAMILY!!

Notes from Miss Sarah:

This Christmas was a remarkable time for St. Columba. We continued to participate in the Posada again this year, which is where different people host Mary, Joseph and their donkey as they travel to Bethlehem. Also our own Miss Lila prepared a Christmas pageant for the students. We dressed as characters and our own Miss Anneke and Master Billy played the roles of Mary and Joseph. Yours truly was a humble shepherd....

With so many children in the school now, we brought onboard a Governess to help with watching over all the activity. I will constantly evaluate the usefulness of this position and its progress.

The "Rules and Policies" of St. Columba are in need of an update once again to stay current with our operation. Once released, EVERY student will be expected to know them inside and out. I love rules and can't wait to have them in your hands!!

As always, I can't say enough how proud I am of each and every one of you be it staff or student. We are a loving and caring family that cannot be matched anywhere else! God Bless to you all!

Miss Sarah

O'Hare's Meeting Minutes

A summary of O'Hare's monthly town meetings



by Lila
Swansong

The town meeting commenced on a blustery December evening. There was much business to discuss as the Christmas season came upon us. The mayor started with a gentle reminder about having appropriate Irish hospitality. Perhaps some of our visitors have gotten a less than jovial greeting lately as the temperatures have dropped and the banality of the long winter ahead has soured some moods. Just a friendly mention though, for we all know OHG is home to some of the most dynamic and wonderful people in all of SL. There was much to plan as OHG was gearing up for not one, but two large parties in December. The first being the annual Christmas party. Decorations, music, and theme were discussed eagerly amongst the mayor, Kesha, the Deacon, and Kaleen. The next party was the Jimmy Buffett concert which was also held in the hangar and was being brought courtesy of Brightest Day Productions. There was talk of the right times to get everything done as to help appease everyone with the vast array of time zones for our residents. Kaleen O'Malley noted the upcoming event of the Irish piano playing friend that would be performing at the pub in the next week (side note: he was absolutely wonderful and not to be missed. Try to get to see his next performance). The final topic that was covered was the question of when spring should return to OHG.

Sarah Sandalwood noted that she thought it came a bit too early this year and the mayor mused that while it started getting green typically towards March, he thought he would introduce some grass in February. I think it is wonderful that the mayor is able to control these things in addition to his usual civic duties. It is only a shame that this power does not extend outside of SL either. As a reminder to all residents, the town meeting is held the first Wednesday of every month. All are welcome to attend, libations and refreshments provided. We are always eager to hear from you!

Out and About

Miss Lila heads out into O'Hare's to see what's going on....



by Lila Swansong

It seemed like only yesterday we were dancing the Monster Mash but here we were in high holiday spirits during the annual OHG Christmas party! As usual, it was a fiesta not to be missed. Packed full of OHG's dear members we danced the night away to our favorite Christmas tunes courtesy once again by the talented DJ Sky. Jackson and Corina were tornadoes on the dance floor as were Tina and Willy. The Mayor requested a dance with everyone and we Jingle Bell Rocked with him. One thing never missing from an OHG party is amazing music. A special thank you to all those who make it happen. Upon arriving, I was awestruck with all the beautiful decorations. Garlands and red bows hung from every corner. A Christmas tree twinkled and a roaring fire kept us toasty warm. A large spread of holiday goodies including gingerbread men, cocoa, and candy canes warmed our bellies. The theme of the party was "Best in Red" and boy, did everyone come dressed to impress. Jessie Sorbet wore a stunning red satin gown that even had candy canes affixed to the bows. Miss Kaleen O'Malley dipped and twirled in her long red dress with holly sprigs decorating her hair. The mayor wore his best holiday tweed and Tina was dressed to kill as usual in her stunning Christmas party dress. Nathan Marshall came in third in his best holiday suit, Miss Glimmer took home second and Hunny Spiritweaver took home first prize of 1000 Lindens. What Christmas party would be complete without an appearance by SANTA? Sure enough, halfway through the evening the big guy himself came

strolling in. I could swear the twinkle in his eye looked more like Mr. Dee's but he said he was Santa himself. Like Mr Dee, Santa seemed real fond of dancing Miss Kaleen and I didn't know Santa could cut a rug like that! All good things come to an end and we retired in the evening headed for bed and visions of sugarplums. Hope to see you at the next OHG party!



Mercy Murmurings

The Three Mercy Sisters share their musings...

by The Mercy Sisters

This issue, we'd like to offer you a story by Chloe Mercy.

Augustus Grump sees the Light.

Augustus Grump was in his 60s, quite well off, and lived in a large house at the edge of the village, alone, except for a housekeeper, a motherly young woman who had lots of patience, and ignored his constant complaints. His favourite saying was: children should be seen and not heard, and rarely seen.

He wasn't popular in the village. Before he bought the house, the land around it was crisscrossed with pathways that had been regularly used by villagers. However as soon as he arrived, he had the land fenced off. He owned a lot of property in the village. Things went from bad to worse when the local orphanage, which was extremely well-run, full of happy children, was told that their lease had just run out and would not be renewed, they had two weeks to move. His one passion was his car, which he drove at speed through the village. One day however, he went through a traffic light, just as a group of children were crossing. He hit one of the children a glancing blow, and might well have driven on, if the car in front hadn't stopped. The child fortunately was shaken but not badly hurt, and a policeman on duty walked up to Augustus Grump's car taking out his notebook.

You were going rather fast sir, you might have killed that child. Augustus didn't do himself any good when he was heard to mutter, it was only a child! At his court appearance, the court room was crowded with villagers hoping to see him properly punished. The magistrate had a reputation for letting the punishment fit the crime. The village of course hoped he would be sent to prison. However the magistrate had different ideas.

You will not serve a custodial sentence, he said, instead, I am directing you to do some work which may help you reconsider your attitude in life and will certainly help the people you are working for.

Augustus went home in a bad mood and his temper didn't improve the next morning when he opened the official letter. It was coming up to Christmas, and he had been ordered to report to a large

department store in town, where he would serve as Father Christmas for three weeks.

He tore the letter up and put it in the bin, but half an hour later there was a knock at the door, and he opened it to find two policemen standing there.

We've come to escort you to town sir, one said, to start your work as Father Christmas. What if I refuse? Augustus asked. Then we have instructions to take you back to court, you will be charged with contempt of court and the chances are you will spend Christmas in prison.

Augustus muttered and growled, he didn't want to spend Christmas in prison so he went along with the two officers. At the department store, he was kitted out with his Father Christmas outfit, and given training on what he was to do and how he was to distribute presents. The manager hadn't been keen on the idea, he wanted a jovial Father Christmas who would delight the children, not an old grump, so he watched the first few hours from a distance.

Augustus did what he had been told to do at the training, with no feeling at all, rather like a robot giving out presents. He thought that all children were spoiled little devils, and just before he was due to finish on the first day, he felt that one girl was proving his point. What do you want for Christmas, he said in a monotonous voice. This child reeled off a list of expensive presents and then turned smugly and said, I know I'm getting these, I always get what I want! Typical!

Augustus wondered if the next child, who was the last in the queue would say the same thing. It was a small girl, not very well dressed, who came quietly up and stood beside him. She had big brown eyes and looked up and smiled at him.

He was about to speak in that flat monotonous voice, but something stopped him, ...that smile! So he said more gently than he had before, And what do you want for Christmas, little girl? The little girl answered softly, I want a mummy and daddy, I haven't got one!

As she spoke, tears slowly rolled down her cheeks. Before he knew what he was doing, Augustus lifted the little girl on to his lap, and asked her to tell him something about herself. With lots of prompting, little girl told him the sad story of how mummy

and daddy had been killed in a car crash only a month ago, just when they were thinking about getting things ready for Christmas. As she was talking, a lady came up whispered into Augustus's ear, that she was in an orphanage at the moment, very quiet, and very unhappy. Augustus looked at the girl again, the girl looked up at him, and again, she gave that smile. Augustus glanced at the clock, and gently lifted the child off his knee. He turned to the woman and said quietly, I'm finishing now, I'd like a word. Let's go to the cafe, he continued, I believe it's still open.

While the little girl was busy enjoying an ice cream, he spoke quietly to the woman.

I've disliked children for most of my life, he said, but this girl has somehow changed me, made me see things differently, I'd like to make sure that at least she has a Christmas she'll remember. I'd like to make arrangements for her to spend Christmas with me, I have a housekeeper who would probably be about her mother's age, I'm sure she would love to look after her, and,and he started smiling, I'd be sure to spoil her myself.

Things didn't happen with the snap of a finger, investigations were carried out, decisions had to be made, but eventually it was decided that the little girl would have Christmas with Augustus and his housekeeper. When he heard the official news, Augustus spent that evening making plans of how to decorate the house, what presents and food to buy. He constantly called on the housekeeper to ask her advice. When he called for about the 10th time he asked her to get him a glass of sherry, and to pour one for herself. They sat for a few minutes in silence sipping their sherry, and perhaps this gave her the encouragement to ask a question.

Mr Augustus, sir, I've got to ask, what's happened to you, why this change? She sat back expecting a rebuke, but Augustus simply smiled. Very simple, he said I've seen the Light! From now on, I vow I shall do all I can to make this child's life a happy one.

Starting with this Christmas!

And so he did!

O'HARE'S GAP



O'HARE'S GAP THE GAP GAZETTE

Wilde/Toyah/Velbert/Tabary Sims

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Miss Anneke digs up the dirt and
gossip around O'hare's

"Don't let the truth stand in the way of a
good story"



by
Anneke Van
Trijp

A couple of months ago yours truly wrote about a "certain" girl who's tick mark list was longer than the empire state building. Everything she could frustrate, she did frustrate. Like fighting with me, threatening the good doctor Pearl and blackmailing him, coming after me with a sword, even holding a pistol pointing at miss Sarah. You all probably remember all that.

The last bad thing, as far as writer theses could remember, was that she was completely wasted after drinking two bottles of beer in our local pub. This of course was over the limit, even for miss Sarah, and the girl was punished with the heaviest punishment you can think of: she was denied to wear the tag we all are so proud of: the "Columba Student" tag. Together with master Sam, who did the same bad thing Miss Sarah told the two, they could get the tag only when they had proven to be good Columba Students.

Since then, dear readers, since then the miss didn't do anything wrong anymore. She became a sweet, nice little girl, perfectly dressed, very polite, an example for us all. Victory for St Columba and miss Sarah, and well done miss Heidi, for turning into a sweet girl like you are now.

Of course miss Heidi and master Sam got their proudly worn "Columba Student" tag back.

Just one thing yours truly is wondering about. You never know with miss Heidi. Is she genuinely turned into the sweet little girl we all want her to be, or is it just a facade, and will she be her old self again in a little while. Of course we all hope for the first possibility, but some of us, not in the least miss Sarah, fear the last. We'll see. And pray to the Lord miss

Heidi has seen the light.

Another topic yours truly wants to memorize is the following. Master Billy told us a couple of months ago about the famous Columba triangle. For all the newcomers: when you leave our beautiful little town O'Hare's Gap and head for the church, it is very possible you will be caught by the triangle. When you are caught, you loose control over your body, starts flying towards wherever it takes you. Billy can tell you so much more about it.

That triangle has been kind to us: it brought back miss Zladka, miss Lila, miss Virginia, and even occasionally master William. A lot of students still are somewhere in the triangle, but we pray to the Lord, the triangle will give everybody back in due time. When that happens, we could fill three pews in church easily. And Lucie would be the happiest attendant in the whole SL.

Editor's Note: Since this article was written, Miss Heidi appears to be back to her old tricks. We knew it was too good to be true....and too good to last....

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Good of the Village



St. Columba Christmas Dance held at SMK



Students act out The Christmas Story to a sell out crowd.



Master Billy works on his Gazette articles

**The Gap Gazette is published monthly
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Miss Virginia has trouble sleeping