

January 2018

12th EDITION

O'HARE'S
GAP



O'HARE'S GAP

The Gap Gazette

SOUP! A TREAT IN SL “AND” RL!

First and foremost, WELCOME BACK to the Gap Gazette! The students were very busy last term and the time to publish a paper was placed aside until after the busy Christmas season. And during a recent staff meeting about revamping the contents of the Gazette, we decided that this paper would be published quarterly this year. And this means the issues will be much larger in order to share all the information we collect. So grab a nice snack and enjoy the latest issue of The Gap Gazette!

A few months ago, a lady named Miss Tali wandered into the school and spoke with me. She talked about both O'Hares Gap and St. Columba Catholic Boarding School and what fascinating places she considered them. Over the weeks, she came to visit more often and we continued to speak more and more and get to know each other. As it turns out, she had gotten to know Master Billy and he originally suggested she check out the world we call home...and she loved it.

Then one day, she asked for a meeting because she had an idea...a mind blowing, grid shattering idea! As it turns out, Miss Tali was part of a school in that other realm we call RL. She had come to our world to study virtual worlds and how people form relationships and how SL family bonds form. After visiting many different places across the grid, she chose our school as her focus of study because it was unlike anywhere else she had been. She had joined us for soup on several occasions which is where we spend each day discussing our lives amongst ourselves. She explained how even though we role play our parts within the school, the bond we shared over soup was genuine and real.

Her school was located in the USA in California and she thought it would be wonderful if her school family could enjoy soup with us one evening. The idea was to find a way to bring our two worlds together and experience a moment of communal fellowship. O M G! What a concept! The people in her world did not know what SL was. We needed to find a way to bring us all together.

Miss Tali had wanted their room in RL to be an extension of our room in SL. Her table was to be part of our table. So she found an “almost exact” replica of our table cloth, placemats and dishes! She even prepared (as best she could), our super secret recipe yellow cream based soup! In her world, they called it Butter-nut Squash. Then she invited people in her school for soup and bread at the same time.

Between her and myself, we opened a mystical portal between our worlds! And our students for the first time EVER, met students from RL and they met us! And yes, this all occurred in REAL TIME! They spoke directly to us while we responded as best we could with text. A screen on our wall showed them and a screen on their wall showed us! IT WAS REMARK-ABLE!!! It was a defining time for St. Columba Catholic Boarding School as several people from the other world got to know us and what we do. And on the flipside, we learned much about their school as well.

Just another day in the life of a St. Columba student!!!giggles

- Miss Sarah Sandalwood
Editor



We see Miss Tali setting up her table in RL



Miss Tali shows us what we look like from her world



We experience the most incredible encounter of our lives and make many new friends in the meantime. We hope this is one of many!

O'Hare's Happenings

Events and happenings around OHG
Real Estate and financial reports



by
Willy
Sandalwood

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year to our entire O'Hare's Gap (OHG) community. 2017 started out as a strong year for our wee bit of Ireland. However, as the year plodded along, so did some of our significant renters. We lost over 2 sims worth of revenues over the course of the year. Yes, we also gained some new community members and renters. Overall, we saw an increase in the need for donations, which the community stepped in and did their part to keep us afloat. Some donated very generously (thousands). Many of you donated what you could. Many have never donated. Please don't get me wrong, every single Linden makes a difference and is greatly appreciated.

I initially wrote an entirely different article for this edition. One that focused on the real life historical events of Ireland in 1939. While it's interesting material, I realized our own history of O'Hare's Gap was more pressing. I thought about looking back at the 2017 financials, listing every renter and donor and how much they did their part to support us financially. We have great people that play a huge role in our success. They know who they are, they know how much time, love, and funding, that they pour into OHG. They surely can't be thanked enough. This article is written to those of you who enjoy OHG without showing your support financially.

I still see donations from one-time visitors that may enjoy our Blarney Castle, or O'Brien's Tower, or the sim in general. The occasional L\$1, or L\$10. Rarely is it L\$50 or even L\$100. It all is appreciated as it moves

us a bit closer to the L\$159,000 that I have to pay for the monthly tier. Most of our community is American so I'll compare this to U.S. Dollars. That L\$159,000 is roughly \$635 U.S. Dollars. After you get your jaw back up, that's just monthly. What about those small one-time donations? Well...lets work it from the US Dollar perspective...\$1 = 250 lindens. No kidding, 250 Lindens only costs \$1.00 US real money! WOW you say! Yeah, we have over 500 members so if each of them donated \$2 US Dollars a month (pretty cheap entertainment in my book) that would generate MORE than enough to pay tier, I could reduce the rent rate to practically FREE and still give back a refund after paying tier for all 4 sims. \$2.00 per OHG member per month, do the math. 500 members times \$2 US Dollars = \$1000, minus the \$635 for tier, leaves an amazing \$365. That doesn't even count what I'm pulling in right now from rentals. But using that scenario, rent would be free right? The sims would be paid for and extra money would be left. What would we do with it? Realistically, some would be held for the several contests we have each year, but those only amount to a few US Dollars. I would have to come up with a way to give the difference back.

OK, how much would it cost to just pay the tier in US Dollars if all members paid something monthly? Well, \$635 divided by 500 tell me if everyone gave \$1.27 US Dollars a month the place would be paid for and rent could be practically free. It roughly comes to 318 lindens per member per month! Why not charge each member L\$318 to join? The group membership system only will charge once. We need more than one month's Tier covered. Besides, would everyone pay that to

join? I'm pretty sure they'd come to the sims and never join the group while they enjoy what we have to offer. So, that plan doesn't work does it? SL does provide a method whereby you cannot even enter the sim without paying a predetermined fee that allows you access for a predetermined period of time. That might work, but would all of you pay to do that? That's like a pay-to-play plan. I don't particularly like doing something like that. However, if you have some ideas on how to get everyone to contribute what is actually less than a cup of coffee a month, send me and IM.

Those of you who are NOT contributing your \$1.27 a month, think about the value you are getting. Is it worth \$1.27, or is it worth finding other free entertainment if we have to shut down OHG after 8 years. By the way, I am NOT pursuing shutting down but it's always an option because I am NOT going to put anymore of my own personal funds into it. Over the years I have probably put a couple thousand US Dollars into keeping things running - I can't afford that anymore. Asking for donations is demeaning and should be unnecessary - it gets old very quickly for me and I'm sure you don't like getting the pleas either.

Thank you for your donations and understanding.

Out and About

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



by Lila
Swansong

What a busy fall and holiday season we had at the Gap! Luckily for you, in case you snoozed through any of it, I'm here to wrap up the times we had. Halloween came to town like it always does and our wonderful neighbors and townsfolk had the town spookily decorated. The children of St Columba kicked off their annual Halloween party dressed as fairies and goblins over at SMK which was decorated specially for the holiday as an old cemetery complete with a fog machine. A wonderful time was had by all. Over at the Hangar, the town Halloween party saw as many as 25 residents and guests all dressed up and monster mashing their way through the evening. Also in October, we had the first annual OHG talent show. Bit of a small turnout but we will be sure to have one again. Yours truly performed a magic act going so far as to even make a tiger disappear! Master Addy, one of St Columba's newest students, wowed us all with a wonderful ballet performance complete with special lighting and mist. The act that took home the gold though was Jackson and Corina's Burns & Allen routine. Our sides split with the madcap jokes and one liners as they acted their piece out over voice.

On a boisterous Saturday night, the Hangar hosted long-time favorites Brightest Day Productions. They make frequent tour stops at the Gap for their concerts so be sure to always check the events board. This time Jefferson Airplane came to do a show. The band was decked out in full 70's regalia and performed all the classics like White Rabbit and Somebody to Love. There was even a "magic mushroom" machine that you could touch for the full experience. The adults seemed to be getting a kick out of it. Now we have mushrooms at the school that we take to all stay exactly

the same age. I never thought much of them or thought the grown ups would be interested in trying them. But the strange thing was they did not grow or shrink. They just seemed to sort of laugh a lot and act all funny. Mayor Sandalwood was even talked into trying these strange mushrooms. I watched him closely and he stayed the same size, surprisingly. Some things will just have to remain a mystery I suppose.

The first snow came to OHG in November blowing away all the crumbling leaves. There was a feast held at the pub as usual. Thanksgiving services were performed at the Abbey. Before we knew it, Christmas had come to the town with every pole decorated and the town bedecked in bows. The newly renovated school put their twinkling tree up in the new bay window and all was festive and bright. The town Christmas party in the Hangar was one to remember. Every year the theme changes a bit. Last year we saw a cozy, old fashioned decorating scheme and this year it was a snowy Wonderland in a forest. Big shout out to Miss Tina for always decorating to the nines. New resident Miss Bebe



Florise, myself, and Vincent Markovic from the Lepanto Parish represented the children in attendance. Captain Sidney Pobieski from the Navy Kitty Hawk came and regaled us with tales of the high seas. Kesha Crawley certainly had the brightest outfit of the party wearing striped holiday stockings and a hat that lit up. We even had a Woodland couple name the Starwolffs come by, it was a wonderful time of meeting new people and seeing old friends. A terrific job in the DJ end as always was carried out by Hunny Spiritweaver.

With the close to the year, a New Year celebration to ring in 1939 again took place by the beach as firecrackers snapped and sparklers lit up. We made sure to do it far away from the school. One fire renovation was enough this year. And just like that another year had passed and we looked away even more memories in our hearts and minds. It was a delightful year and we all look forward to a new one in the place we all love. Please check the calendar for the upcoming rummage sale to be held in the Hangar in the next few weeks. Lots of great items will be up for sale all to benefit our town and school! See you out and about, OHG!



The SOUNDS of Music!

by Billy Auster
and Anneke Van
Trijp

Musical Exploration at its finest

Music is my first love.....

In this new column, Billy and I want to write about music. Sometimes about the now-a-days music, sometimes about classics, even about classical music.

But the first column with this topic, we want to write about where music came from. Obviously, music has been a part of our lives a long time. But how long....

Lets start with ancient Egypt. (Music has been known for far longer than that, but Egyptians started to document music.

Music has been an integral part of Egyptian culture since antiquity. The ancient Egyptians credited one of the powerful gods Hathor with the invention of music, which Osiris in turn used as part of his effort to civilize the world. The earliest material and representational evidence of Egyptian musical instruments dates to the Predynastic period, but the evidence is more securely attested in tomb paintings from the Old Kingdom (c. 2575–2134 BC) when harps, end-blown flutes (held diagonally), and single and double pipes of the clarinet type (with single reeds) were played. Percussion instruments, and lutes were added to orchestras by the Middle Kingdom. Bronze cymbals dating from the Roman period—30 BC to 641 AD—have been found in a tomb on a site near Naucratis. Egyptian folk music, including the traditional Sufi dhikr rituals,

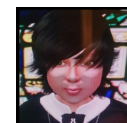
are the closest contemporary music genre to ancient Egyptian music, having preserved many of its features, rhythms, and instruments. Although experiments have been carried out with surviving Egyptian instruments (on the spacing of holes in flutes and reed pipes, and attempts to reconstruct the stringing of lyres, harps, and lutes), only the Tutankhamun trumpets and some percussion instruments yield any secure idea of how ancient Egyptian instruments sounded. None of the many theories that have been formulated have any adequate foundation.

So, music is very old. Unfortunately, no pieces are preserved, so we only can guess what kind of music the Egyptians liked. It more than probably won't be hard rock or disco. But you never know!



“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.

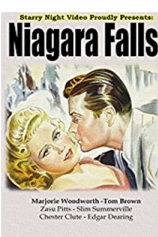
Billy spotlights a few of the upcoming movies that you really shouldn't miss!

It's going to be a long summer of incredible movies (well, at least incredibly old movies).



FEB 5-11 Eternally Yours

When I was a kid, love stories used to bore me. Now that I'm a mature young man of 12 and a half these movies start to look interesting. With a title like "eternally yours" I thought for sure this would be quite the tear jerker. But the only jerk in the movie turns out to be a dazzling charming magician who's all talk with no substance and the heroine wonders why she would have ever left the safe stable arms of her former love.



FEB 12-18 Niagara Falls

Lots of O'Hares Gap citizens and school children have come up to me and asked, "Billy is this going to be a good movie to take our date for Valentines Day"? Well, that would be spoiling the ending wouldn't it? You will just have to go and see for yourself but what I will tell you is that at least at first, one wants long term commitment and the other wants short term love affair, what happens in the end is anyone's guess!

FEB 19-25 Spooks Run Wild

Leave it to mister Sandalwood to throw in a scary movie in the middle of winter. I think he must have nerves of steel. Does nothing scare him!? Well fortunately, this film is half comedy, half scare. In this comedic thriller the "gang" are forced to stay in a spooky mansion and hilarious yet horrible hijinks ensue!

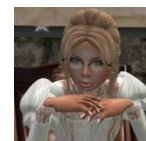


Feb 26-March 1 All American Co-Ed

I've always wondered what it would be like to go to an all-boys Catholic school, instead of the mixed environment we are in now. On the good side, us boys would probably be given a larger living space with more room for our gear. On the downside, those of us with sweet-hearts would be lonesome all the time. In this movie it's boys vs. girls but what happens when two of them fall in love !?

Saint Columba Class Report

A summary of school and educational events



by
Victoria
Temple

Dear Pupils, Staff, Parents, friends and town of OHG

The school wishes to send our greetings and a some news on what we are working on now....

It is no top secret on what happens in the school. You can visit us at any time and speak with the pupils or staff at the school. We love to get to know people in the town and show them the school and atmosphere, we are so proud about. Our busy times are from 12 pm to 3 pm, and this is the best time to visit.

You are also welcome to visit our classes, which start at 1:15 SLT every day. You can see our program outside the school and participate with our pupils at a class. In today's world, even adults needs education, and we welcome anyone at our class that can and will participate.

The term is now 10 weeks, compared to 8 weeks before.

The first 4 weeks are normal class. Week 5 is a special week where we do a project. Then we have 4 weeks again of normal classes. We finish with 4 days of exams and 3 days off!

The big difference is in the middle of the term, we have "project work", which means we learn and have fun with a project. It could be making a film, or medieval week... or whatever we are interested in at the time. "Project work" may sound too modern for a traditional school like us. Still we can see the benefits in trying these modern fads, that will make our education offer better. It also helps the community spirit as it shows how to work as a team.

We do know there are many schools and they offer a good education. However we are special. Our education is as good as any other school, yet what separates us is we are a little establishment and we are more like a family than a school! No amount of bricks or books can replace the atmosphere we have here, that is about learning, praying, living with people we care about.

Still sometimes, someone breaks the rules and gets a tick. The "tick" system has been upgraded. Here is a summary of the new system:

- Scholars can now give ticks.
- If a pupil gets 4 ticks, they speak with Miss Sarah and Temple.
- If a pupil gets 8 ticks, they get a school hearing in where they get a relevant punishment plus positive help to mend their ways.. Scholars are judges in these hearings.
- Parents or guardians are given copies of ticks.

Pupils can also loose student tag and be a reformer. However a reformer at SC is not like other places. It is a short term program to get them on the right track again. They have extra duties and loose some privileges. One major thing is they are taught we still love them, but not some of their actions. Reformers get a big brother or sister to guide them.

On the other side of the scale from reformers are scholars. These are pupils that have shown dedication and spirit, that are beyond words, and an inspiration for others. They have extra duties and privileges.

The school is also building and bricks. We always ask how we can improve the facilities for pupils on the limited budget we have. Father Eissmann's hall will be refurbished, with a small gym, reformer room, game room and discussion classroom. This has been talked about for a year and the reluctance was if they would add to our school or destroy some of the atmosphere. We decided we will try and if it doesn't work, we can boast that we tried it.

I doubt obesity will be a problem our pupils will get on a bowl of soup every day. Still they need fresh Irish air and sport. To deal with this, we will have sports next to the choir hall.

The school is a hierarchal school, where pupils have different roles, as well as adults. This is a foundation of the school and something we will keep. Everyone has their place and this means we

love and need everyone! Its a basic human need, to feel wanted. This can be felt in our pupils lives and their puppeteers lives. It is their home and everyone does have a possibility to give their views. Even what classes we do are voted in!

One of the great things the pupils have done is the Choir. Its hard to know how many places we visited last year and the amount of people that saw us. We are very aware that we not only represent Saint Columba's, but we also represent OHG. We take this responsibility as ambassadors very serious. The choir has done miracles, as the many successes we have and stress has strengthened our bonds, and shown everyone the spirit of OHG

You can see two concerts on youtube:

[Clip 1](#) and [Clip 2](#) and [Clip 3](#)

Finally, the school has a new coat of arms.....



Yours

Victoria Temple

Resident Spotlight

Welcome to new residents and
spotlight stories on existing ones



Did you know....

My gazette role is to spotlight someone.. I start next gazette. As I ride my horse around OHG, I discovered a few things, that I didn't even know were here. I guess I was gone longer than I thought..

Down in Hangar 1, our artist, Alasdair Magic has some gorgeous black and white painting of OHG. Well. I pleasantly found he has changed some to some colorful art pieces of OHG. Stop in there and grab yourself a couple. It really is amazing art.

The diner has gone through some changes. They make the best burgers. You just have to try one! Did you know above the diner Sammi has opened a lounge? I wasn't allowed past a certain point (only for men, I guess to play chess) but I enjoyed the singer that was there with some awesome songs!

One of the new stores that has opened up is the O'Hare Gap Merchantile. They have just about anything you need there, from spices to grains, cloths, fans, eggs, fresh baked goods to radios, and even ice cream!! Around the corner is our Sio-

chana yoga space!. With all the great baking that I see in our future, we better plan on spending some time there. Its a good place to wind down after working out at Voo's Gym!. Still gotta look good at Christmas!

Passing by Mother Catherine's cottage, I noticed she has a small worship area. The soothing sounds of the birds in the birdbath, the smell of the flowers and the water wheel splashing in the canal nearby makes it a great place to reflect our thoughts.

Sadly we lost our Post Office. The Ballet Studio has expanded and on occasion you can stop in and watch the students practice their routines.

Its good to see the fairy..... is still here. When you want to feel young, stop by and grab a set of wings and anything can happen!

As I traveled around Velbert, I stopped in the Ohare garden. Strawberries, grapes, carrots, lettuce, and potatoes are ripe for the pickins. Better get there before the ground starts to

cover with snow! I can tell that fall is fast approaching. Over at the Peterson's cottage are some fresh pumpkins. I can already smell the fresh pumpkin breads and pie that Mrs. Peterson will be baking!

Oh ! I just noticed all the leaves are turning to pretty fall colors. The smell of the chill in the air puts a smile on my face.

On over to Tabary! I stopped by my favorite place to go when I want to relax. Its Hunny's Pub!. Hidden behind a patch of tall trees I found an outdoor theatre right on the water!. I just had to stop and watch a movie while eating a couple of pretzels she left out!! I even got to pick out what I wanted!

I apologize that I wrote this mid December and a few changes have occurred.

Take that stroll or drive around and find these places.

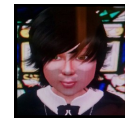
See ya next Gazette!!



by
Tina
Ludlow

Master Billy's Babblings

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



by
Billy J
Auster



I was laying in my room one evening contemplating the pure deliciousness of a hot bowl of soup on a cold winter's day..., when I heard a big commotion outside the boys' dorm window. Apparently, there had been a crime committed! And Madam Hunny was the poor victim. Or, at least, her poor car. I looked out the window, and even from a great distance, I could see the reflection of tears streaming down madam Hunny's face. I wasn't going to let this happen.

"Not on my watch." I said to myself resolutely.

Well, as they say, when the chips are down, and the going gets tough, the innocent citizens of O'Hares Gap call on.... The CSI:SC (Saint Columba Crime Scene Investigators) – Which, I must admit... is still truthfully only one "Investigator" (singular).

When I arrived on the scene. Poor madam Hunny had to be consoled and calmed. "Don't worry." I said, bubbles flying confidently from my pipe. "We'll catch whoever did this." But truth was, when it was just myself, all alone at the scene, and everyone else had gone home, I began to question my own abilities. For example: It took me many long, nail biting minutes of thorough investigation to even realize what had actually occurred – turns out, I finally noticed, that someone had swiped the tires! All four of them!



This was about as low as crime can get in O'Hares Gap (other than mister Sandalwood's corny jokes) and it made my blood boil. I knew we weren't dealing with any two bit hood here. This was going to take real skill to solve. But it terrified me. Whoever could do something this low... was capable of the unthinkable. I tried not to let my mind go there.

I looked near and far for those tires. I looked in spaces so small not even one tire could fit but I checked them anyway. I skipped soup after class, one day after another, days turned into weeks... I was THAT dedicated to finding and apprehending these slime balls. In the evenings I drew blueprints of fantastic mechanisms I might construct if I ever had the time, or the Linden, that could be used to catch them. My favorite, was a gigantic-sized "mousetrap" that you inserted a single tire where you would normally put the cheese.

It was when I looked behind the school gym at our treehouse when I found my first clue!!! Our tire swing was missing! I couldn't believe it. Would this tire thief ever stop? You have to understand something... With that tire swing, they took so many fond memories. Now, they had gone too far. Originally I had planned to bring them back alive, but now I wondered if I would be able to control myself when the time came. Sure, my "gun" was only a stick, sort of shaped like one. But a boy's vivid imagination is his ally.

"Another clue has been found!" someone yelled and I scurried off back to the crime scene to see. It was a carrot! Could this be the "smoking carrot" we'd been waiting for? I reminded myself: There's no such thing as questions, just hidden answers. After everyone had examined it, I took it back with me to the school to give it my own detailed investigation. And after that I figured we could just add it to the evening soup so I gave it to Amber our attendant for the finishing touches on the day's batch.



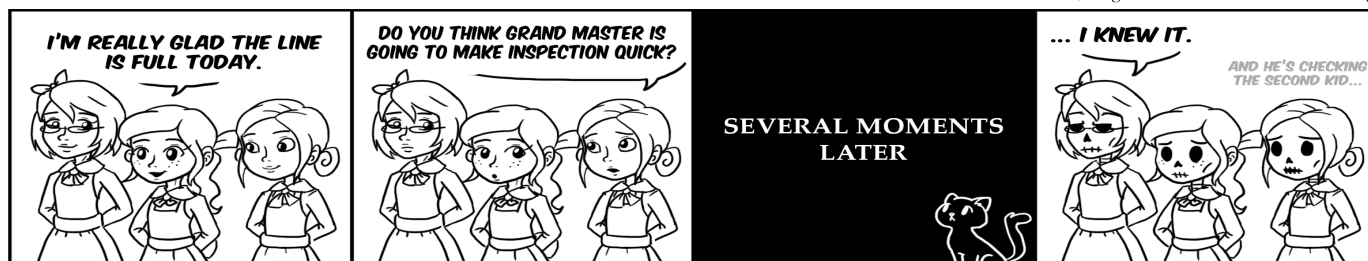
Well, to make a long story just a bit longer.... my lack of sleep and attention to my homework eventually caught up with me and in the midst of trying to catch up on what studies I had slept through, the crime was apparently solved by an amateur in O'Hares. I never found out the details and who was responsible, nor who solved it, but, boy, thinking back, it was such a great adventure and I was proud to help as much as I did.

ST. COLUMBA'S
ADVENTURES

IN A little too long

by Annie Baum

FT. Anneke, Virginia Donahue and Lila Swansong.



The Art of Art

Arts Review



by
Anneke Van
Trijp



'De Stijl' volume 1 #1, Delft, October 1917. Cover of the first 12 issues, 1917-1931, original design by Vilmos Huszár

"De Stijl" is a Dutch artistic movement, also known as Neoplasticism, founded in 1917 in Leiden. The movement consisted of painters and architects. It refers to a body of work from 1917 to 1931.

The paintings advocated pure abstraction and reduced the essentials to form and colour. Simplified visual compositions to vertical and horizontal, using only black, white and primary colors (red, green and blue). Most known "Stijl" painter is Piet Mondrian, whose work is known all over the world. His work allows only squares and rectangles, only straight and horizontal or vertical lines. Using only black, white and the primaries.

The best known architect in "De Stijl" was Gerrit Rietveld. The photo shows his "Rietveld Schröder House", which was designed and built in 1924 and is realized completely according to the principles of "De Stijl". This building, situated in Utrecht, was commissioned by Mrs Schröder-Schröder and her three children. She commissioned the house to be

designed preferably without walls. However, when the lady saw the result, she was not happy about it. Yet she lived in it until her death in 1985. Now it's a museum, open for visits, and it is a listed monument and Unesco World Heritage Site since 2000.

Other more or less famous artists who were members of "De Stijl": Theo van Doesburg, Bart van der Leek, Antony Kok, J.J.P. Oud, Jan Wils, Robert van 't Hoff, en Georges Vantongerloo.



About the Abbey

The clergy reports in on church happenings!

by Deacon Hunny Spiritweaver
and Father Alberto Eissmann

Hello, Miss Hunny here, AKA Deacon Hunny, AKA Deaconess.

Father Eissmann and I were invited to talk about St. Columba Abbey in this generation of the Gazette. What a privilege!

*****First of all...*****

For those new to St. Columba, we are an ecumenical community with daily prayer services at various times.

Sister Catherine leads early morning prayers at 6:00am Monday - Wednesday. (if you would be willing to lead prayers on the other mornings, please contact Miss Hunny)

At 12:45pm, every day, Father Eissmann leads services for the St. Columba school children. The students participate in the service by taking turns saying prayers. Sometimes, we are treated to a children's choir performance.

Weekday evenings at 7:00pm SLT there are brief prayers led by our five different leaders. These services last about 15 minutes. This service was started by Friar Chimera Hermit in 2010 and we continue the tradition.

Recently, we were blessed with two new evening prayer leaders. Miss Sarah Sandalwood and Miss

Lila Swanson are leading Thursday and Tuesday prayers, respectively. Thank you to both for stepping up in the absence of Brother Manolo.

We've found that with multiple prayer leaders comes a diversity of worship and prayer in our Ecumenical church community. There's something for everyone!

Brother Manolo left SL in November. We will continue to remember him in our prayers and hope he returns.

*****Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord*****

Miss Sarah Sandalwood has provided new music for the church. Although we enjoyed the Gregorian Chants, and the organ channel, Miss Sarah's selections range from traditional to contemporary. Again, something for everyone!

*****A True Pilgrimage*****

This past Christmas, St. Columba Abbey co-sponsored the SL Posada with the Anglican Cathedral. The Posada is a Latin American tradition where figures of Our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph are carried from home to home, imitating their journey to Bethlehem. The SL Posada is where the figures are passed from home to home each day. Mary and Joseph

stopped twenty-one times and found rest and refreshment with each host.

****Shrine to the Blessed Mother****

If you've been to the mill in town, you'll find Sister Catherine, Abbess O.S.B has created a beautiful shrine to Our Blessed Mother. Meditating with The Virgin Mary next to the river is a beautiful spiritual experience. The Rosary is available in chat, by clicking on the boxes near the shrine.

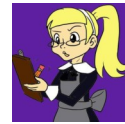
****It's always Spring at the Old Chapel!****

Walk through a field of daisies to enter the Old St. Columba Chapel. This little building is the original St. Columba that stood in the center of town where the Inn is now. Click the sign in the front of the Abbey to teleport to where time stands still. Services are held there every once in a while.

Well, that's all the Abbey news for now. See you in the next issue!

Saint Columba Student Report

Public listing of student disciplinary records.



by
Sarah A.
Sandalwood

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.

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

Master Billy:

November 27,2017 - Whispering in class

Miss Kirstie:

November 12,2017 - In church in white uniform without floral crown.

Miss Annie:

November 8,2017 - Not wearing tights, but socks.

Miss Heidi:

September 25,2017 - Speaking while seated in class.
September 25,2017 - Speaking while seated in class.
September 27,2017 - Speaking while seated in class.
September 27,2017 - Yelled "damnit" in class
September 27,2017 - Yelled "damnit" in class
September 28,2017 - Wearing nightgown to class
September 28,2017 - Wearing face paint in class
September 29,2017 - Speaking while seated without raising hand.
September 29,2017 - Threw paper dart at Mr, Sebby
September 30,2017 - Wearing queen stuff instead of uniform
October, 3,2017 - Entered church and sat down without genuflecting.
October 11,2017 - No tag
October 11,2017 - Spoke out loud in class
October 12,2017 - wore princess dress
October 13,2017 - Spoke out in class without raising hand or standing..
October 13,2017 - Yelled "damnit" in class
October 13,2017 - Wore winter tights prior to winter season being declared.
October 13,2017 - Wore hula skirt and bikini at dining room table.
October 18,2017 - Yelled "damnit" in class!
October 29, 2017 - Got drunk at the pub
November 2,2017 - Wearing the wrong tights.
November 3,2017 - Wearing the wrong tights
November 3,2017 - Wearing a crown
November 3,2017 - eating ice cream at the dinner table.
November 8, 2017 - The great spider fiasco of 2017
November 21,2017 - Was not in uniform during a field trip

December 2,2017 - left soccer ball outside

Miss Lila:

October 9,2017 - Came to school covered in paint.
November 21,2017 - Was not in uniform during a field trip
November 21,2017 - Was not in uniform during a field trip
November 27, 2017 - Speaking out loud in class
November 27, 2017 - Changed clothes without permission

Miss Virginia:

November 27,2017 - Spoke outloud in class

Miss Sven:

October 15,2017 - Did not know class prayer.

Miss Hannah:

September 25,2017 - Speaking while seated in class.

Master Addy:

September 27,2017 - Spoke out loud in class
September 29,2017 - Spoke out loud in class
October 13,2017 - No student tag
November 21,2017 - Was not in uniform during a field trip
November 27, 2017 - Speaking out loud in class
December 4,2017 - Wrong tag

Miss Lourdes:

September 29,2017 - Did not know class prayer
September 29,2017 - Speaking while seated in class
September 29,2017 - Speaking while seated in class
October 2,2017 - No headcover in church
October 7,2017 - Smoking in school
October 7,2017 - Offering an Excellence a cigarette
October 12,2017 - Speaking while seated in class
October 12,2017 - Yelled at me in class to put the book away.
October 13,2017 - Sat before permission was granted at class
October 28,2017 - Not in uniform
October 30,2017 - Entered prayers without genuflecting
December 1st, 2017 - Entered church without head covering.

Master Sueno:

October 5,2017 - Wrong tag
October 5,2017 - Hair grown past the collar
October 5,2017 - Called an attendant Miss
October 6,2017 - Wearing baseball cap in uniform
November 2,2012 - Wearing ballcap with uniform
November 11, 2012 - Wearing ballcap with uniform

Master Cade:

October 10,2017 - Did not genuflect when entering church
October 13,2017 - No tag

October 13,2017 - Did not stand to speak
October 13,2017 - 2 ticks for homework and 1 for lying to Mr. Sebby = 3
October 13,2017 - Spoke out in class without standing
October 14,2017 - Showed up at school in trick or treat costume
November 21,2017 - Was not in uniform during a field trip
November 21,2017 - Was not in uniform during a field trip
November 27, 2017 - Speaking out loud in class
November 27, 2017 - Speaking out loud in class

Master Mutt:

November 1,2017 - Wrong tag

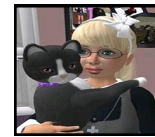
Miss Julie:

November 30,2017 - Wearing dark blue/black nail polish



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, it appears you can at times, be difficult to read. Sometimes you are sarcastic, sometimes sincere. Yet try as I like, I have trouble "reading" you. Jason

Dear Jason, Really!? Am I THAT transparent!? Let me see if I can help you with a guide to my many emotions. This should make it easier for you to decipher my thoughts.

THE MANY MOODS OF MISS SARAH



Excited



Worried



Concerned



Sarcastic



Delighted



Miss Heidi

Mercy Murmurings

The Three Mercy Sisters share their musings...



by The
Mercy
Sisters

I think we told you that the Mercy sisters on a farm, and we often help looking after the animals and watering and tending them.

We do have our own two pet donkeys, called Hercules and Eos.

We thought we'd like to make up stories about them so here are the two stories.

Eos was a timid little donkey when she first arrived, it took time for her to get used to strangers but it was obvious she was very pleased when she saw that she would have a friend to live with, Hercules, and since they came together, they have been very happy. Eos likes attention, she loves being brushed, she likes having a halter put round the neck and taken walks, and we try and do this specially at the weekend

It's quite easy to tell when she's hungry, because she always lets us know with a loud braying noise, that we can hear right through the house. Eos didn't have a very happy life before she arrived.

She lived in Ireland, with a man and his wife and several children, who lived in a large caravan. They moved from place to place, never really settled down, never stayed more than a few weeks in one place, and Eos could never get used to it, one time, it might be a nice open field with the river at the bottom of it, but the next time she could find herself tethered at the side of a busy road, with traffic hurtling up and down, and a horrible smell.

She didn't starve, and get thirsty, one of the younger children, would come out and dump a load of straw and fill her water basin in the morning and at night. If it was cold, she got cold, she very rarely had any shelter. Yes, it was a miserable life.

One day the previous owner, Pat Murphy, came to Eos, and said, I have some bad news, I need to pay my bills and we are just not earning enough, what can I do Eos, what can I do?

Eos of course didn't answer, and it didn't matter because Pat Murphy answered himself. He looked the donkey up and down.

You are a skinny thing aren't you, not really much use, and the children are getting tired of feeding you, I think I'll sell you to the glue factory, and they can make you into glue, that will give me some money, and we don't want you anyway, we won't miss you!

Eos didn't understand the words, but she realised that what Pat Murphy was saying wasn't good news for her! The next few days, Eos was certain something was badly wrong.

Once or twice she had seen the children huddled together, and once a twice she had seen the youngest one crying. Then one day, children didn't come at all.

A large lorry drew up and men let down a board at the back, Pat Murphy came up, put a rope round Eos neck, and not too gently. Eos knew that something that was wrong, and refused to move. This was at the side of road, where they had been pitched few days. As two of the men from the van tried to help Pat Murphy push Eos into the back, a large lorry passed them slowly.

Suddenly, she noticed that Pat Murphy had started to smile, he talked to the men, who shrugged, and to her surprise left them and drove the van away.

Pat Murphy and Eos had both seen a large sign on this lorry, Pat understood it and thought he could make use of it, but Eos just saw the sign as a large picture which said: Donkey races, first prize: 25000L!!

A few days later, another van arrived, and Eos was put into it.

This time, she didn't feel worried, because the children were all around, and clambered into the front of the van as well.

The eventually arrived at a large field, there were crowds in it, and there were flags flying.

Eos was taken out of the van and led up to a group of donkeys who were standing there, as if they were waiting for something.

Eventually she was put into a line with five more donkeys. One of the older children came up to her and held her rope. Eos could see that other children were doing the same with the other donkeys in the line.

Then a man shouted something and the children all started walking as fast as he could with the donkeys.

Eos wondered what it was all about, but everybody seemed happy so she was.

Here's walked on and on with the older child holding onto her rope, but suddenly, she stumbled and fell.

The older child gently tried to get her up, but was pushed aside by her father who was most annoyed, because she wasn't running any longer, and all the other donkeys were well ahead.

He took a kick at Eos, and then suddenly a big man came up to him put his hand on his shoulder and said something to him.

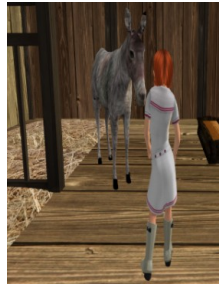
Then the big man bent down and examined Eos very gently, and stroked his head, which Eos liked

Eventually Eos was helped up and taken away in another van, a lovely clean one full of fresh straw.

What Eos didn't know of course was that this was a man from the RSPCA, (Royal Society for the Protection from cruelty to animals) and Eos had been taken away from his neglectful master and she was going to be taken to a new home.

And the new home turned out to be with another donkey called Hercules in a lovely clean stable, looked after by several children, and their mama, who made sure that she soon forgot the cruel treatment she had had in the past.

Things went very well for Eos from then onwards!



This is the story of Hercules, the slightly larger donkey in our stable.

Hercules used to be a beach donkey at a seaside town not far from here.

Donkeys like company, and Hercules certainly liked children. His owner kept a sharp eye out on any who might misbehave and frighten him, and he liked walking up and down the beach with a child in his back, and often with mum or dad walking beside them.

His owner was a sensible man, this was his job, and he earned his money from it, so he looked after his donkeys very well. They weren't worked too hard, they were given rests during the day and of course plenty water and food. At night, they were taken back in well-equipped horse-boxes, back to the farm where they stayed, and clean comfortable stables.

One day the beachman came to Hercules, I have some bad news, I need to pay my bills and we are just not earning enough, what can I do, old friend, what can I do?

Hercules of course couldn't speak, but he did understand that his owner was worried about something, and from the look of his clothes, he wasn't earning enough money.

Hercules was being held by his rope by his owner as he was speaking, so Hercules gently pulled him up the beach, towards a notice, which announced that there was donkey riding on the beach.

Next to this notice was a clockface with movable fingers so you could move the time around.

Hercules pressed his muzzle against the fingers and moved the time to show a much later time for them to close.

He was telling his owner that he wouldn't mind working longer hours if that would help.

The beach man realised what Hercules was trying to tell him, and thought it might be worth a try, so he added an hour onto the start of the session, and an hour onto the end.

But he did make sure, because he was a good employer, that Hercules and the other donkeys had a longer rest time in the middle to make up. They had a rest time around lunchtime, because that was when fewer people came.

This worked for a week or two, as it was lovely warm weather, and more people came and things began to look up.

Then unfortunately, the weather broke, and they had several days of pouring rain, and of course nobody wanted donkey rides

Nothing much happened over the next few days, but it seemed that his owner had decided that Hercules had worked hard enough, so the happy end of the story, is that he was sent retirement to the Mercy family, very lives happily now with his friend Eos.





Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi was a 13th century Persian poet, a dervish and a Sufi mystic. He is one of the greatest spiritual masters and poetical intellects. He was born in 1207 and died in 1273. He made use of everyday life to describe the spiritual world.

ONLY BREATH

Not Christian or Jew or Muslim, not Hindu
Buddhist, sufi, or zen. Not any religion

or cultural system. I am not from the East
or the West, not out of the ocean or up

from the ground, not natural or ethereal, not
composed of elements at all. I do not exist,

am not an entity in this world or in the next,
did not descend from Adam and Eve or any

origin story. My place is placeless, a trace
of the traceless. Neither body or soul.

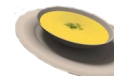
I belong to the beloved, have seen the two
worlds as one and that one call to and know,

first, last, outer, inner, only that
breath breathing human being.

~Rumi



Master Sueno and Master Addy are two super-
poets still alive and thriving today. They copied
Rumi's idea to use everyday life to describe the
spiritual world.



ONLY SOUP

Not Novice or Student or Scholar, not Attendant,
Excellence, Cat, or Guest. Not any class

or educational system. I am not from O'Hare's Gap
or SMK, not out from the School or in

from the Abbey, not solid or liquid, not
made of any known ingredients. I do not exist,

am not from girls dorm or the boys dorm,
I never said "cool", never said "awesome", I never

went up to the attic. My bowl is bowlless, a spoon
of the spoonless. Neither pot or steam,

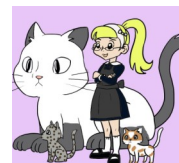
I belong to the eater, have seen the kitchen
and the refectory, and rest on the table,

up, down, in, out, only that
warm, fresh, healthy, tasty Soup.

~Master Sueno and Master Addy

Saint Columba Student News

School Spotlight and New Enrollments



by
Sarah A.
Sandalwood



Adversarius Mancini

One of our newest students to enter our beloved school is Master Addy. Sadly in this day and age, we do not see much of him any longer, yet credit is due where credit is due.

Upon his arrival, he was a pure ball of energy and excitement. He was a sponge thirsty for knowledge and enrichment. I dare say it was even a task to keep him quiet but his passion outweighed his ability to listen. He literally wanted to Try Every-thing.

Master Addy came with his own set of talents which became evident when he hosted a "student film class". He edited and produce some memorable student films starring us that will no doubt go down in a hall of fame somewhere (see them below). He even produced videos of our choir highlights.

His outpouring excitement was felt by all guests and prospective students who came through our doors. For this reason, Master Addy has earned the Student Spotlight for this issue! We hope he brings his energy and delightfulness back to us soon!

Adam and Eve - Student Film

Cain and Abel - Student Film

The Horrible Haunted House of Cootie Horror



Welcome Newly Enrolled Students!

Miss Nina Novira

Miss Nina was Miss Naomi but has taken a name change. She is an 8 year old and writes this about herself....

I have come to St. Columba to enjoy the beautiful scenery, meet wonderful students and faculty members. Enjoy the spiritual and ritual concepts of prayer service. To finally find a place for kids like me to enjoy school life and learn about obedience and discipline to shape me up into turning into a wonderful human being and follow the ways of God. Also it has very delicious soup, I like soup. Plus my guardian believes that I should have a bit of manners and part-take in school-life activities as she believes I am too anti-social so due to that she has requested and accepted that this school would be a great experience for me to socialize with other children around my age group and for once enjoy life of being a kid.



Miss Soria Avro

Miss Soria is an 8 year old who was drawn to us by our choir. She is friends with other St. C students and thought it was time to enroll as well. We look forward to getting to know Miss Soria better!

We had several other students enroll over the past 6 months but many either never showed up for the interview or did not stay with us long enough to make note in this paper.

WELCOME TO THE ST. COLUMBA FAMILY!!

Notes from Miss Sarah:



Inspections!

Full inspection lines are a thing of beauty. The ability of students to fall into perfect formation and remain motionless is a gift in and of itself. Eyes forward, mouths closed, backs arched....uniforms perfect....minds attentive....

Maybe one day, my visions will come true. Sadly, it's not today....

O'Hare's Meeting Minutes

A summary of O'Hare's monthly town meetings



by Lila
Swansong

The town took a Christmas break from the meetings at the end of the year but I'd like to review what has been discussed in November and within the start of this year. You may have noticed that as you walk to the pub, your feet feel a little sluggish on the way there and not just on the way back. This has been due to lag. That same lag that grips your ankles as you get out of bed every morning and see the sun barely peeping up. Measures were discussed on what the Mayor was doing to do to reduce lag and also the news that our sky-governors, The Lindens, are working to do something called putting us up in the cloud. Is it a cumulonimbus? A stratus? Do we run risk of electrocution or hypothermia?

That remains to be seen, folks, but rest assured I will be on the case providing answers as more on this develops.

On a serious note, the deficit has been the topic of the last two meetings. Sadly, we have lost some renters over the natural progression of time and that leaves us in a bit of a precarious position. Running a big place like this takes time, money and quite a few coins. We all know how much we love this place and how wonderful the people are, but outside of us knowing this, many people don't and they are truly missing out! Friends, be sure to tell your other off-sim friends what you like about the community. Invite some people to some of our wonderful events. Being a kid-friendly sim is an added bonus and opens a whole new community. The school is busy and thriving and I think the longevity and dedication of the students who come here is a testament to its success. Lastly, my dear schoolmates, please don't forget to support the town if you can. Every Linden goes a long way and we would like to be here for many more happy years with each and every one of you. As a reminder, town meetings are held the first Wednes-

day of every month at Malone's at 6 SLT. We hope to see you at the next one and that you come by and share your thoughts or even just a pint.

Special Recognition:

The St. Columba Catholic Children's Choir performed at least "10" AMAZING Christmas shows throughout the month of December! With sometimes more than 2 shows per week, we traveled the grid bringing our 1 hour message of the holiday season of peace and love to dozens of appreciative audiences. With more photos taken than we could possibly fit in here, enjoy some highlights from what was perhaps our most magical show yet! ^_ ^





These photos speak for themselves. Never have I been more proud to be part of something that shows what incredible unity we have as a school and family. The hours of practice and dedication has confirmed yet again how much I love these kids. From Master Alexander's show concept through Master Calen's stage effects, we made a lot of people smile and had a great time while doing it! God Bless you St. Columba Students!

- Miss Sarah

O'HARE'S GAP



O'HARE'S GAP THE GAP GAZETTE

Wilde/Toyah/Velbert/Tabary Sims

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Tina Ludlow
Hunny Spiritweaver
Father Alberto Eissmann
Adversarius Mancini
Master Sueno

When you're here, you're family!



Visit us on the Internet
Like Us on Facebook!



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

Last week, my puppeteer let me see a movie. It was a very scary movie. The movie was called: "Invasion of the Body snatchers".

The movie was about huge vegetables, falling from the sky, and settling in hidden places. When they were fully grown, they looked like giant cucumbers or something like that.

That of course, was not so scary. The scary bit was, that those vegetables took living human bodies, and slowly changed in the bodies they took. And in the end they took their mind, leaving the human bodies empty. Aim was, to take over the world, disposing of all humans and replacing them.

When I saw that movie, I couldn't help thinking about St. Columba. And I asked myself: isnt there something similar going on at our beloved school? At first, there was a sister Temple. I quiet person, god fearing - so we thought - and treating everyone nicely. BUT THEN IT HAPPENED!!!

Sister Temple changed into madam Victoria Temple. Was she, like the vegetable from the movie, taken over by madam Victoria? Or was something even more severe going on? Lets face it, the moment sister Temple changed into madam Victoria Temple, the school WAS invaded by Temples of all sorts. To name a few:

Cory Temple Firebird Short - was he at one time perhaps just Cory Firebird and was then snatched by the Temples?

Alexander Temple (aka master Allie) - is he really a Temple? or snatched?

Astrid Temple-Sky - again, was that Astrid Lavigne, and snatched?

Joni Rynnea Temple - snatched for sure, by miss Astrid Temple.

LittleSven Baughman-Temple - For sure, she's been snatched.

Lourdes Temple - her name was princess Lourdes, so... snatched.

Pais Temple - snatched.

Sean Short Temple - More than likely the source of all the snatching. Together with miss Victoria Shirley Temple the two original Temples.

Sebby Temple Short Babii - a wise man in his original form. But now... indeed. Snatched by the Temples.

And to complete this story: Even Billy Auster, yes... master Billy!!!! was a Temple for a short time. Luckily for him though, he managed to escape.

Master Addy could title his next movie: "the invasion of the Temples". It would be a best seller, i'm sure.

Miss other Gap Gazettes?

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Good of the Village



O'Hare's Christmas Party

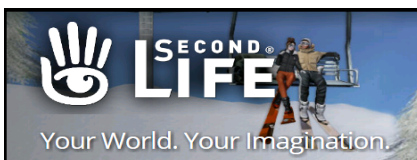


Master Billy rakes leaves before the first snowfall.



Miss Sarah consoles Miss Annie after a black widow spider is found in her bed!

The Gap Gazette is published quarterly
for the residents and community of
Ohare's Gap and St. Columba Catholic
Boarding School in Second Life



Father Eissmann gives blessing on the passing of Hammy, the school's hamster.