

# The Gap Gazette

19th EDITION  
WINTER 2023



O'HARE'S GAP

# The gap gazette

## Welcome to 2023—It's Chilly in the Gap!

Welcome to the 2023 Winter Edition of The Gap Gazette! While we may try to publish this paper 4 times a year, sometimes we get so busy with school work that time just gets away from us. In these cold Irish January days, it's hard to believe July was our last issue. So much has happened since the summer months that it's time to catch up. The school has gained some students and lost some students. We've gained some teachers and lost some teachers. I suppose that's pretty typical for half a year.

While asking the students for articles or submissions to the paper, one of our newest students, Master Correus, shared a poem that was so inspiring, I told him it was "front page material". So without further ado, I present to you...a poem....by Master Corrués Nunez.



"Roses are Red, Violets and Blue, I like to eat pizza, but Miss Sarah only feeds us gruel!"

As Excellence of SCCBS, I would like to assure all readers that we most certainly do NOT serve gruel! Soup, yes! But it's a wonderful soup that Master Billy talks about later on in this edition.

As the snow falls and the ground temperature is well into the sub zeros no matter what unit of measurement you use, it amazes me that the miniature golf course is lush and green and ready for play. Rumor has it that it's a heated course.



And finally, the school recently released a new 2 minute promotional video that appears on both its website and on all the info boards that it advertises on the grid. This "epic adventure" style promo is designed to excite and engage the viewer in finding out more about SCCBS. Click the video below to launch it if you haven't seen it yet.



# O'Hare's Happenings

Community Information  
Real Estate and financial reports



by Willy  
Sandalwood

Happy New Year!

Previous articles were focused on increasing the awareness of O'Hare's Gap finances and the need to encourage visitors, and community members, to donate more towards the tier. I've going to put that concern aside to speak to you all about your role in the community.

Many of you are students at our fine St. Columba Catholic Boarding School. Many others are residents here at O'Hare's Gap. Have you ever considering taking on an additional role? You might be asking "what other roles are there?" Allow me to fill you in.

### GREETER:

This role is all about just hanging out on the sim, possibly at Malone's Pub. You would say hello to visitors. Offer to show people around. Recommend visitors visit the many offerings that we have. Point visitors to Grandpa Sandalwood and the tour carts. Greet folks as they come into the church for scheduled services. Be a bartender at Malone's Pub. Answer any questions that anyone might have. Get people to try out the food menu at Malone's, to kiss the Blarney Stone, help with rental questions. It's an easy role and adds too much to our Irish hospitality. You don't even have to ask permission to fulfill this role. Show up when you can for however long you can. I do suggest you get to know what we DO have

to offer here at O'Hare's Gap, a 1939 rural Ireland town.

### TEACHER:

See Sarah (Sarah Nikitin) about teaching at the school if you able to dedicate your teaching skills. The school always has a full and interesting curriculum from semester to semester.

### NUN/MONK:

See Reverend Mother Catherine (Vickitum) if you would like to get involved in St. Columba Abbey as a Nun or Monk. Anything from a mere holy presence to actually providing prayer leadership or other roles. While we don't pretend to be a replacement for actual religious life, we do try to provide a very small fraction of the experience in an ecumenical surrounding.

### EVENT PLANNER:

Hangar '39 is where we have most events such as concerts, dances, parties, SL Cheerleader practices, etc. Planning and coordinating these events take time and ingenuity to increase participation. Lining up DJ's, hosts, decorators, scheduling on the SL Events calendar as well as the town calendar, are a few of the focal points. Contact Willy if you have an interest.

### OTHER ROLES:

Use your imagination for any other roles that aren't listed above. Speak with Willy if you have something in mind. Administrative roles may be possible in the line of sim management for instance. I'm open to most any reasonable idea.

Contact me if you have interests or ideas along these lines.

# OHG—Out and About



by Tina  
Ludlow

Hi everyone

Just a quick note here. Are you bored and do not know what to do? Just want to relax and read a book? Well, on Saturday mornings at 9 am SLT, join us at Hunny's pub!. You do not even have to read. Just grab a cup of coffee or glass of OJ and sit back and listen. Mist is our reader and Duan Ravenclaw is our greeter for the reading of the adventure of Harry Potter! We have a awesome group of people that come and listen. You can close your eyes and listen to the many voices of Mist. It makes you feel like you have gone in time and are part of the stories. Put it on your calendar!!

Watch the notices for our Valentine dance coming up soon in February. Bring your date or come alone. You can always borrow Willy for that special dance, but do not wear open toes. LOL He really has tow left feet! See ya there!







by Sarah Sandalwood Horten

# SCCBS Admin News

## St. C School News and Information

A new term began after our long and relaxing summer break.



Father Kyle has lead an outstanding religion class that has been both engaging and informative. Madam Pickery ended up spending a lot of time in her knitting club so we brought in Mr. Eagle to teach philosophy instead. Madam Brown ran off with Leroy Jenkins back to Baltimore and was not able to teach her class. School-ology was a new class I had designed to teach all things school related...rules, protocols, choir, more rules, and finally, rules.

School-ology also introduced a new program called "Degrees of St. C". Think of this like earning badges in scouts or climbing the corporate ladder for achieving goals. All students start at Level 1 and must complete certain tasks to become a Level 2 student. Then there are more tasks to become a Level 3, a Level 4 and finally a Prefect, which is the highest honor a student can earn. Looking at a student's tag will immediately tell you where they are on their "Degrees" journey. They can visit this [LINK](#) any time to see where they are and what they still need to complete.

Student	B	M	3	3	R	3	J	3
Oakleigh Faith	X		X					
Alexander Temple Altardya	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Annalee	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cameron Altardya	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dorlota Canucci	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hannah Blumwood Uthrwurdly	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jamie Rowley	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lila Swansong	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lily Mistrood Doyle	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lisa Reneae Auster	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pauline Auster	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Heidi Danube	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Silas Paelus	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Corneae Nunez	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Louise Chamberall	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Amaranta Sayuri	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Billy Auster	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hinnie Auster	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

There is a great pride when a student moves up in levels because it shows their commitment and hard work. HOWEVER, if a student receives 5 ticks within one month, they come DOWN a level and have to achieve those goals all over again. SCCBS is not for the faint of heart!

If it was easy, we'd have thousands of students enrolled and would put all those public schools out of business.



Halloween did not disappoint this year as an interesting array of characters attended our dance.



Yet another creepy doll of Miss Lila's ended up in the dorm, but Miss Oakleigh wasn't having any part of it...a box over the doll's head made it basically non-existent.



Yet the frightening things I've seen at Miss Oakleigh's bed makes me wonder why the doll bothered her!



Another Christmas season of our latest choir show "Unspeakable Joy" was enjoyed at several locations around the grid. And I'm proud to say that Miss Heidi did "NOT" fall off the stage this year.



As always, Miss Lila did a beautiful job decorating the school for the holiday season. But let's be honest...she decorates beautifully for EVERY season!



Miss Lisa presents "Hail Mary" in order to achieve one of her goals of "Degrees of St. C"



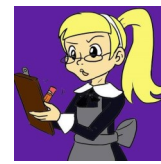
Father Kyle moves to O'Hare's Gap and invites students over to visit. It seems cake was involved...lucky I missed that day!



The inspection line continues to grow as more students enter our wonderful school. God bless the students and staff that all contribute their own special gifts and talents to make SCCBS the amazing place it is. I said it before and I will say it again...."there is NO place like it anywhere on the grid!"

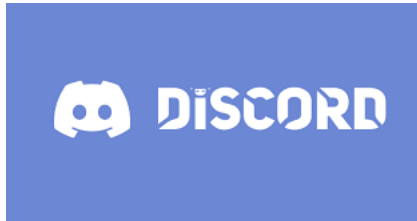
# SCCBS Admin News

St. C School News and Information



by Sarah Sandalwood Horten

## WE'RE ON DISCORD! ARE YOU!?



Throughout our school's history, we have always used our Facebook group to share stories, photos and announcements. But in the past year, we left Facebook and moved over to Discord. If you are unaware, Discord is a platform that was created for gamers, groups,

enthusiasts and communities to share photos, stories, videos and so much more...all for free!

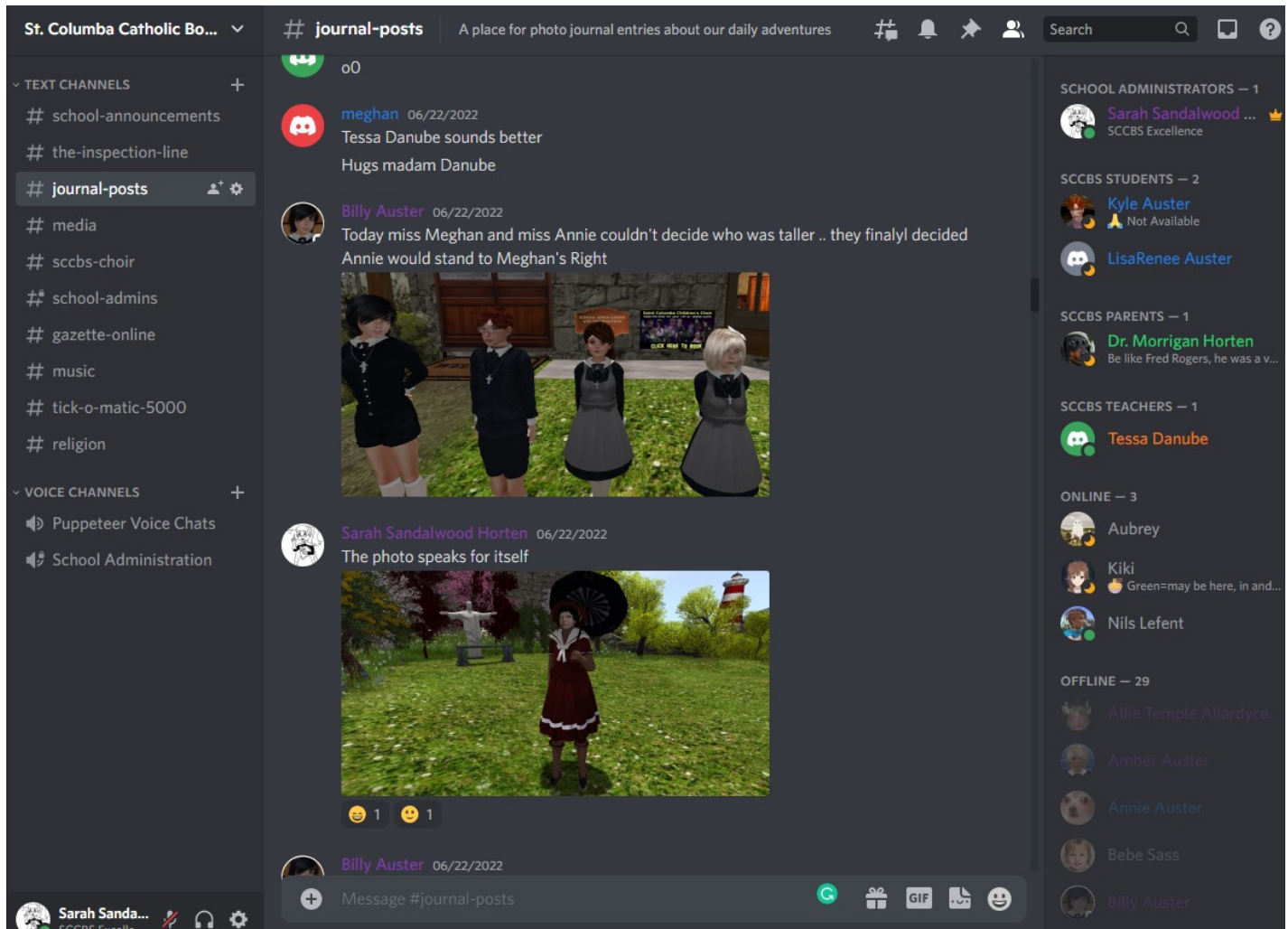
This web based service works on any internet browser or via the smartphone app and allows users to chat in real time, upload files of all kinds, speak privately with one another, use voice if desired and even do full video chats.

The SCCBS Server (groups are called "servers") is divided into different "channels" like School Announcements, The Inspection Line, Journal Posts....etc.

We use the journal channel to post photos of our daily adventures and other funny comments that staff and students might otherwise have

missed that day. To get a free Discord account, simply go to

[www.discord.com](http://www.discord.com) and set one up. And because we keep our server private, you must ask Miss Sarah for an "invite code" to join the SCCBS Discord Server. We do not want the general public hopping into our server and grieving or causing issues. When we are not in school, the fun carries over into Discord where the adventures never end! Hope to see you there!







By  
**Schlomo  
Israel  
Lipshitz,**

## Second Life Advice

As a Jewish rabbi, I believe that living a fulfilling second life is all about finding joy and meaning in the present moment and making the most of the opportunities that come your way. Here are a few tips to help you get started:

**Set goals and make a plan:** In Judaism, we are taught to strive for self-improvement and growth. Think about what you want to achieve in your second life and make a plan to achieve those goals. This could be anything from learning a new skill to volunteering in your community. Having a clear direction will help you stay focused and motivated.

**Stay active and healthy:** Taking care of your physical health is important for living a happy and fulfilling life. Make sure to eat a healthy diet, get regular exercise, and get enough sleep. In Judaism, taking care of our bodies is seen as a way to honor and respect the gifts that God has given us.

**Connect with others:** Building and maintaining strong relationships with friends and family is an integral part of Jewish life. Make an effort to stay in touch with the people who matter to you and nurture those relationships. In Judaism, community and connection to others is highly valued.

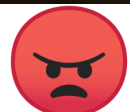
**Find purpose and meaning:** Whether it's through work, hobbies, or volunteerism, finding purpose and meaning in your life can bring a sense of fulfillment and joy. Take the time to explore your passions and interests and find ways to incorporate them into your life. In Judaism, we believe that everyone has a unique purpose and mission in this world, and it is our responsibility to fulfill that purpose to the best of our abilities.

**Practice gratitude:** Focusing on the things you are grateful for can help you feel more positive and fulfilled. Take time each day to reflect on the things you are thankful for and make an effort to appreciate the good things in your life. In Judaism, gratitude is seen as an important virtue and we are taught to always express gratitude to God and to others.

By following these tips and incorporating Jewish teachings into your life, you can live your best second life and find joy and fulfillment in every day.



A Playstation....in the boy's dorm. A PLAYSTATION.....IN....THE BOY'S.....DORM!!!





by  
Billy J  
Auster

## The Saint Columba Triangle: A STARTLING UPDATE!

In March 2017's Gazette issue ([linked here](#)) I wrote an article how the Columba Triangle was terrorizing everyone in O'Hares Gap. How it took control of anyone in its path, without warning. And in some cases (especially young boys) -- take them away forever. This has stricken fear into all of the boys of Saint Columba as time goes by. Not that there were ever many boys, mind you. Master Allie was one of few that survived, and he refused to even have a bed in the boys' dorm.

Well, we have some news. Although we've lost three boys in 2022 (Master Silas, Master Jack, and Master Kyle who ate mushrooms), we had an amazing event happen the other day: One of the original "lost boys" from the 2017 article suddenly was dropped back at Saint Columba!! Imagine! After 6 years of being lost in the triangle!!! It was Master Tyler, as plain as day, standing right in front of me! Don't remember him? In truth, I didn't even recognize him at first! None of us were used to seeing a triangle-taken boy. We try to forget all about them to make it easier on ourselves.

Well, further news! In recent months we've also had an influx of new boys. And, surprisingly, the triangle has (so far) let them stay! We hope this is a continuing trend and that someday there are eventually more boys than girls at Saint Columba, and, the boys are awarded the proverbial "icing on the cake": **A larger dorm room.**



Master Louis



Master Allie



Master Cameron



Master Billy

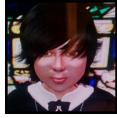


Master Correus



Master Tyler  
Returns?

*Editors Note: Since the publication of this article, the boys have lost Master Louis who is enjoying a much better life as Miss Louise in the girl's dorm.*



by  
Billy J  
Auster

# It's All Fun and Games....

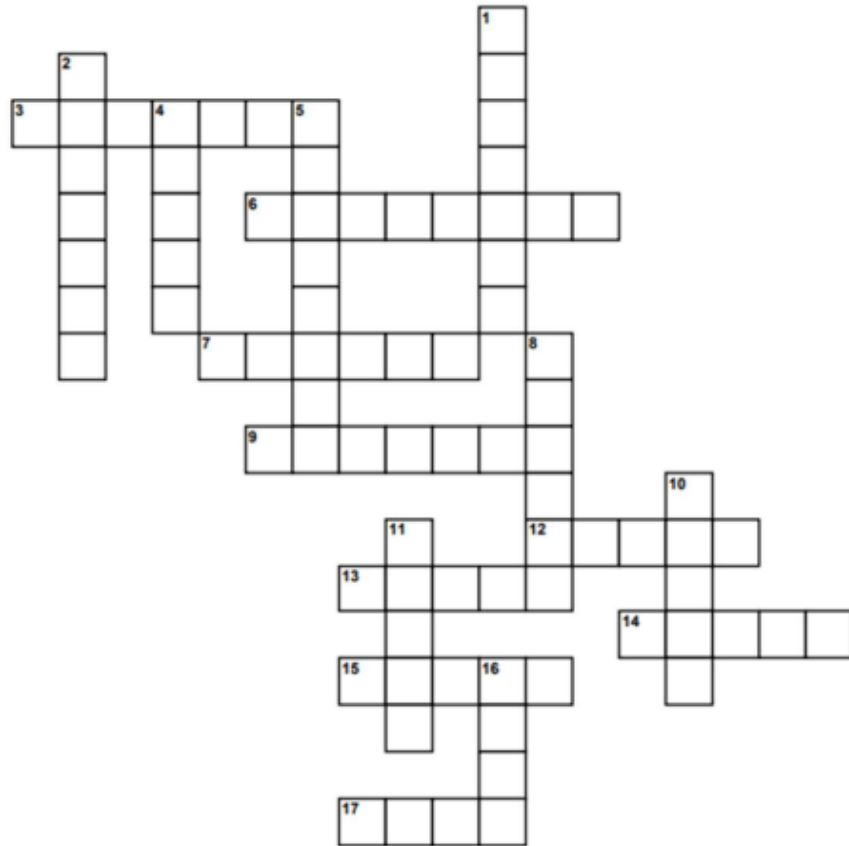
## It's All Fun and Games....

### Saint Columba Student Scramble and Crossword!

Directions: Unscramble all the names of the students of Saint Columba along the left. Then, the tricky part: Try and fit them all neatly into the crossword puzzle!

Only the most elite students will be up for this challenge!

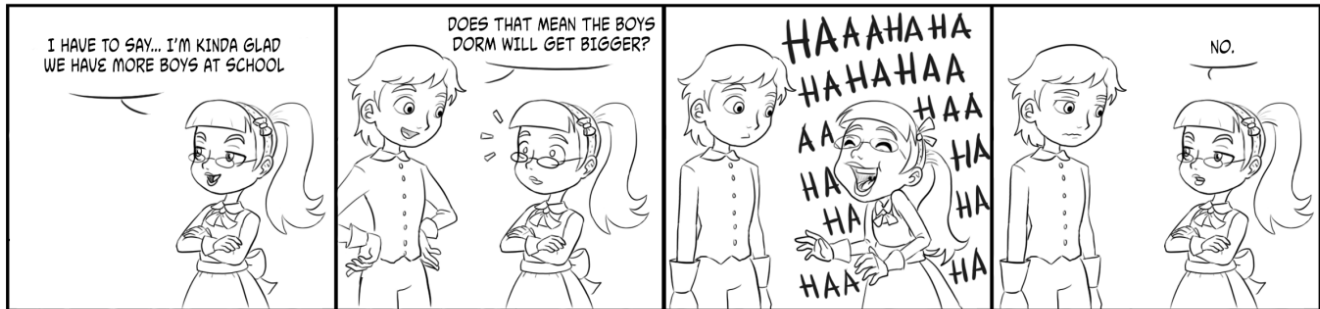
- LIAL
- EKHIOLGA
- NAINE
- RSHAA
- NEEKNA
- LIENUAP
- SALI
- RSORCEU
- EILAL
- SOILU
- YILL
- ONMEARC
- ROTLDOA
- NHAHAN
- IEAJM
- LYIBL
- ATAAMNAR



## ST. COLUMBA'S ADVENTURES

### IN Better luck next time

FT. Sarah Sandalwood & Billy Auster



#### Brandelyn—A poem by Billy Auster



#### Brandelyn the cat

We always know where's she's at  
With her gigantic pitter-pats  
Always blocking the welcome mat.  
She's not trying to be a brat  
When she hasn't checked where she's sat  
-That anyone underneath is now flat  
Or under paw, a student's gone splat.

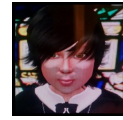
#### A Rebuttal—Submitted by Madam Victoria Temple

I hate felines  
I hate cats  
They're nasty, malicious little prats  
They always land on their feet  
They may look fluffy, cute and sweet  
But they've needles for teeth and razors for claws  
That they conceal inside their paws.  
I hate their mewl, I hate their wail.  
The cocky way they flick their tail.  
The way they hiss, and arch their back  
Before launching into a vicious attack  
I hate their purr, I hate their fur  
The sight of them makes me go grrrr!  
They make me sick, they get my goat  
I want to grab them by the throat  
To bite and tear and rip and rend  
I hate them to the bitter end  
There's no rational reason I'm a cat hater  
Other than I'm a dog it's just in my nature

WOOF!







by  
Billy J  
Auster

## In Search Of: Secrets Behind an Enigma:

Saint Columba Soup. It's no secret that Saint Columba School serves one square meal per day. And 99.99% of the time that meal is a hearty bowl of delicious soup. What many may not know is that the recipe was brought to the school long before the school came to O'Hares Gap and long before the school was called Saint Columba. In fact it was brought to the school long ago by Lucie Rose, our founder, who invented the recipe and the details of that recipe have remained secret forever. Perhaps kept in a bottle in a safe somewhere. In fact, our soup is SO shrouded in mystery, not even Miss Sarah knows it, nor is she quite sure who is making it every evening – yet there it is, waiting for us every day after class, without fail, hot and ready to eat. It's rumored that although Miss Lucie has left the school years ago, she still sends servants to make it in the wee hours, and have it ready for us every day. Perhaps this is evidence that she still cherishes the school from afar.

I did a bit of investigation on the grounds around the school. Specifically, the gardens, where crops strangely continue to grow through the winter. Certainly this is Irish magic at work -- keeping everything healthy and growing, with ice and snow all around? And aren't some of these ingredients in our soup? Let's take a look:



Sometimes I feel like there's corn in our soup. What **ARE** those occasional fresh little crispy bursts and pops of flavor?



Maybe the secret ingredient is **FRUIT!** No one would ever suspect it!



I thought this **might** be garlic and a key to solving this case, but I couldn't be sure. Why was there only 1?



The cows didn't much appreciate me investigating their undersides. Is our soup cream based? or broth based? Or is it a mixture of both!? Not sure anyone can say for sure!



Fresh Irish ground water from the well. This has **GOT** to be used in our soup, somehow, doesn't it?



by  
Naomi-  
Catharine  
Auster

## The Art of Art

A painting, probably also by Johannes Vermeer known as *A Young Woman Seated at the Virginals*, belongs to a private collection shows also a young woman seated at a virginal. This painting and *Lady Seated at a Virginal* are quite separate works and are each known by alternate names and confusion between those two pieces may exist.

The picture shows a woman facing left and playing a virginal. In the left foreground is a viola da gamba holding a bow between its strings. A landscape is painted on the inside lid of the virginal, and the paint-



However their provenances before the 19th century differ, and Vermeer sometimes varied a theme in otherwise unrelated paintings. In the 19th century, both paintings were owned by the art critic Théophile Thoré, whose writings led to a resurgence of interest in Vermeer starting in 1866. The painting entered the National Gallery with the Salting Bequest in 1910.

The painting is one of several works by Vermeer featuring keyboard instruments, including *The Music Lesson*, *The Concert*, and *Lady Standing at a Virginal*. Scholars believe these may all be based on the same instrument, built by Johannes Ruckers.



## Clergy Corner



by  
Father Kyle  
Auster

### The Mass Has No Audience

The Mass is a type of prayer that is dialogical. Call and response. That form of prayer is called "liturgy", from the Greek, meaning "a work of the people." The Mass is a kind of liturgy.

People often trivialize language. They use one word when actually they mean another. Plus different areas of a given country have different words that refer to the same thing. This is certainly true on the 'common-sense' level of language. When I first went to Appalachia in 1990 and heard what I knew as a shopping 'cart' referred to as a 'buggy', I was taken aback. The person was referring to the same thing I was, but with a word I had never heard used in that context. As we move up from the 'common-sense' level of language to a more technical sense of language, our words begin to take on a more specific meaning. The more technical the matter, the more specific the meaning. This grows to the point to which, in whatever profession you specialize in and work in, your work has its own 'technical language', its own 'jargon'.

In the technical realm of language, there are no synonyms per se; every word is nuanced with its own kind of meaning. Thus writers or speakers often have to define a word that might have one kind of meaning in one context, but would be intended differently in

this particular context, be it common-sense or technical.

An 'assembly' is simply a group of people who have come together, gathered in one place. There is no active sense of purpose in the word—the word itself is passive, not implying any action on the part of the people assembled. This is not true of the word 'audience'. This word is less passive; it means 'those who hear something'. So an audience is a group of people gathered to hear something. Therefore, at a concert there are performers (those who perform a function) and an audience (those who hear that action performed). Whereas the word 'congregation' has, still, a less passive meaning: it means those who have come together to become a unit.

Liturgy—the Mass—has no 'audience'. We do listen at liturgy—actively and critically, but that is not our defining purpose with our presence. At liturgy, everyone has a role to play, to perform, and that role is different for different people. At liturgy, no one is passive, we are all doers. The priest presides, the lector proclaims the Word, the Communion ministers distribute Holy Communion, the cantor leads the singing, etc. But the congregation is also integral to the worship—it is the congregation who performs the prayer of the people. It is they (you) who bring your gifts, talents, and needs to bear in the one eternal act of sacrifice we call "The Mass".

How important is this? It is so important that a priest under normal circumstances cannot celebrate Mass without a congregation present. The picture is not complete. This is the emphasis of Vatican II. We no longer go to 'hear Mass'. The priest no longer 'says Mass'. Mass is celebrated, it is offered, it is shared, it is performed. It is active—and all who come to this great feast are do-ers, act-ors, performers. This is both our right and our obligation on according to our baptism in Christ [cf. Vatican II]. "Be doers of the word and not hearers only." [James 1:22]





# O'HARE'S GAP



## TOTAL DRAMA ISLAND

### "Rumor Has It...."



#### O'HARE'S GAP THE GAP GAZETTE

Wilde and Toyah Sims

Published by St. Columba Catholic Boarding School

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Naomi-Catharine Auster  
Victoria Temple

Visit us on the web! [www.sccbs-sl.org](http://www.sccbs-sl.org)

*When you're here, you're family!*

#### THE GOOD AND THE BAD

St. Columba School is well known in the life we live. Not in the least, because all the children who attend are well behaved, sweet children. Well educated, well mannered, good catholic children.

With one - no two - exceptions. Miss Sarah is very proud of her school, but she's in constant agony because of two students: miss Heidi, and lately also miss Oakleigh. I'm ashamed to say, miss Heidi is my little sister, and believe me, our mother has her hands full correcting that little rascal. She was hoping a strict catholic school would benefit my sister Heidi.

Now, Heidi is responsible for at least one girl leaving the school: little miss Meghan. When that girl came to school, she was an innocent young flower, unspoiled, untouched and sweet as candy. Then Heidi got her hands on her: "trust me kiddo, with me you will be alright", was the way she tempted the little girl to her corner. And little Meghan? She fell for it. And did what Heidi told her to do.

Of course, things went bad for little Meghan, and she started to take over Heidi manners. Much to miss Sarah's sadness. And when little miss Meghan's mother, who is a teacher at St. Columba, got wind of it. She, after several talks with Meghan, withdrew the girl from school.

Now, you would think my sister would correct her manners, seeing what can happen when she interferes with schoolgirls. But far is that from the truth: after a while, another little girl, miss Oakleigh, came to school. And what do you think: first thing Heidi said: "trust me kiddo, with me you will be alright". Exactly. The same words again. And what was

worse: the same manners. And this time with more success. Miss Oakleigh, without any parents, was warned by miss Sarah often enough, but they were warnings without success. Miss Oakleigh was falling for Heidi's advances quickly enough, and soon she became as bad as my dear sister. Perhaps even more.

Of course, this couldn't continue without consequences. And soon enough both of them were demoted to novice. Perhaps the most severe punishment you can get. Of course deserved too.

All I can say: those two need to go to confession and get absolution very quick.

#### LOVE BOAT

The latest gossip: after Billy and me we have a second pair in the love boat: master Allie and miss Annie. May they find the same happiness Billy and me found.



Rumor is, that Billy's mum, madam Bun, and mister Schlomo are an item, but that's not verified. They do suit though.

Your gossip queen: Anneke Danube

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## Good of the Village



Miss Oakleigh enjoys some stringy cheese pizza which is RARE event at SCCBS



Master Allie tries to think of the perfect words to say to Miss Annie.



Master Billy piles up his plate for a feast at Father Kyle's

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



Miss Sarah tries not to look too "COO\*" while going swimming with her schoolmates.