**The Ascended**

Austin Gilmore

**Principal Harris**

**To: STAFF**

**SUBJECT: The Ascended**

Starting after Spring Break, Prairie Elementary will rent out our gymnasium on Sundays to The Ascended, the displaced congregation whose facility was destroyed in the Mill Park shopping center fire last month.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Principal Harris

**Principal Harris**

**To: STAFF**

**SUBJECT: Smell**

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Spring Break!

Many of you have emailed me regarding a particular smell in your classrooms. Trust me, we are aware of the smell. It is the incense The Ascended used during their first service yesterday. They apologized and promised they would stop using it going forward.

Principal Harris

**Coach Reeves**

**To: Principal Harris**

**SUBJECT: Fields**

Can you speak to the maintenance crew that re-chalked my soccer field over the weekend? The lines are all over the place, like some child got a hold of the streamliner and just started running around all willy-nilly like. It is now unusable.

**Cafeteria**

**To: Principal Harris**

**SUBJECT: Ruined Food**

Principal Harris-

I’ve seen some truly heinous things in my years working in an elementary school cafeteria, but I’ve never seen anything like this. All the food for today’s lunch is completely spoiled. Actually, that doesn’t do it justice. Everything is burnt to a crisp, yet still frozen solid. Truly baffling.

**Vice Principal Meyers**

**To: STAFF**

**SUBJECT: Moving Forward**

There are a lot of contradictory stories going around, so let me clear of a few things:

• Principal Harris was put on Administrative Leave yesterday afternoon for the remainder of the school year. I will serve as interim Principal moving forward.

• There has not been an unexpected uptick in student illnesses. Statistically, there is always a slight surge of absences the week after Spring Break. This year's numbers are relatively the same as last year.

Everything is fine.

**Ms. Burchart**

**To: Vice Principal Meyers**

**SUBJECT: Incident**

My classes keep staring out our classroom windows towards the soccer field, as if they are stuck in some sort of trance.

I am concerned.

**Ms. Wimsett
To: Vice Principal Meyers**

**SUBJECT: Incident**

Please don’t lump this in with all the other conspiratorial stories going around, okay? My fourth hour was practicing “*I Heard It Through The Grapevine*” for the Spring Concert when, out of nowhere, they started singing a different song in a different language.

A language I had never heard before. It happened. I heard it. I am not making this up.

**Ms. Tierney
To: Vice Principal Meyers**

**SUBJECT: Incident**

Did Mrs. Burchart say her students kept staring out at the soccer field during class? Because my students are doing the exact same thing! And they’re humming something. A song. One I’ve never heard before.

**Ms. Hess**

**To: Vice Principal Meyers**

**SUBJECT: Rug**

During Nap Time this morning one of my kiddos kept saying, “Mr. Hess, the rug is bleeding. The rug is bleeding.” I thought she was talking in her sleep until other kids started screaming the same thing.

Deep red stains were seeping through the rug from the floor below. I rolled back the rug while the kids were at lunch and, Vice Principal Meyers, there’s a… a pentagram… or something like one, painted perfectly to the size of the rug as if it was never intended to be found.

And the students were right, it is blood.

**Vice Principal Meyers**

**To: PARENTS**

**SUBJECT: School Cancelation**

To All Parents-

Campus has lost power and we have no choice but to cancel school for the rest of the day. I understand this complicates everyone’s day, but your children will need to be picked up immediately.

The entire student body will be on the soccer field behind the school. Rest assured, our teachers will not leave until every student has been picked up.

**Superintendent Paulson**

**To: Detective Trevor Olsen**

**RE: Questions Regarding Disappearance**

See below for my answers for this round of questioning:

• You have full access to my phone and email accounts. I did not at any point approve the rental of Prairie Elementary’s gymnasium to The Ascended or any outside party. That would be strictly against our policy.

• I was unaware that Principal Harris or Vice Principal Meyers were high-ranking parishioners of The Ascended. But up until the disappearance, I had never heard of The Ascended.

• I was not on campus the day of the disappearance, so I can’t explain why Vice Principal Meyers claimed there was a power outage.

• Again, I have no idea where all the children went. Do you suspect me of something? Am I some sort of suspect in the kidnapping of over three hundred children?

• You seem to be ignoring all the emails from parents I’ve been forwarding, perhaps assuming they are from the parents of the disappeared. They are not. They are from the parents of the students who weren’t at school that day. Of the thirty-three absent students, I’ve heard literally the same story from every parent that has emailed me.

Below is the latest, maybe focus on this instead of repeatedly asking me the same useless questions over and over again.

>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> FORWARD <<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<

**Debra Vaugh**

**To: Superintendent Paulson**

**RE: Ascended**

I kept my son Dillon home the day of the disappearance after he found a bloody pentagram in his locker. When he told me about what he found I went straight to Principal Harris’ office, but she was nowhere to be found.

Not knowing what to do, I kept him home the next day. He spent that entire day staring out his bedroom window in the direction of Prairie Elementary. As the day went on, he began to claw at the glass like a trapped animal, humming a song I’d never heard before.

Since the news broke of the mass disappearance he’s been sobbing in his bed, saying the same thing over and over again.

“They ascended. They ascended. They ascended without me.”