



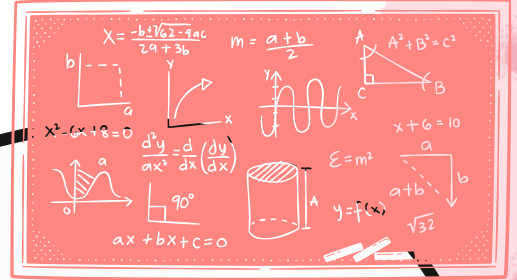
Communi-tea



YEAR 7 STUDENT'S TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

This year over 100 students began their journey at Mount Alvernia, making the jump from year 6 to year 7. A number of anonymous year 7 students were asked about their transition in an interview and these are some of the most common responses given

Did you have any concerns before moving to Mount Alvernia College?



"I felt mixture of nervousness and excitement. But I was also worried about things like friendship groups, classes, and getting lost."

"I was mostly worried about finding my way around the school, and potentially losing the friends I made during the seven years of primary school."

How do you feel after the transition?

"Now I mostly feel settled in, but I'm still worried about classes and the workload."

"I feel pretty good, because I don't get lost as much."

"I love it, as I feel like I've really gotten to know my teachers, and fellow students."



NEW TEACHERS AT MT A

There was a large number of new teaching and support staff that joined the Mount Alvernia Community this year. All the students know what it is like to be a new at this college, whether they joined in year 7 or in another year... but what they don't know is what it is like to be a new teacher at this school.



Introducing...

Mr. Breingan, Dean of Administration



Why did you decide to come to Mount Alvernia?

I came to Mount Alvernia College because it was time for a change. I had been at my previous school for 9 years, and when my daughter finished year 12 there, I decided that it was the right time for the move. When I saw the job advertisement to come work at this school as the Dean of Administration, I decided to apply as it was exactly the kind of job that I have experience in... and here I am today.

What do you find differs most at Mount Alvernia, compared to your previous school?

The most obvious difference, is that this is an all-girls school and I came from a co-ed school.

What is your favorite thing about Mount Alvernia?

The sense of community here. Everyone I've met is so welcoming and friendly. From the staff, to the students, as well as the parents. I also appreciate that we have a cafe (La Cucina) that serves good coffee here too.

How long did it take for you to feel fully settled in?

Not long at all really, probably on my first day here in the holidays I felt welcomed, and it didn't take long for me to feel settled into my role.

THE BURNING QUESTION FROM THE YEAR 7 STUDENTS

IS....

WHAT IS CULTURAL FESTIVAL?

This is the burning question from the year 7's for the issue, as a number of our new students have heard vague references to Mount Alvernian Cultural Festival. Despite asking around a number of them had fairly hazy ideas about what the day really involved and what happens ... so sit back and enjoy Cultural Festival explained in less than 10 minutes.

I know that I can speak for most of the student body when I say that the Cultural Festival is the highlight of the year. But what is it, you may ask... Culture Fest celebrates the cultural diversity of our school community, house spirit, and the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi.

The morning usually kicks off with a special feast day mass, organised by the Little Flower Church, along with the extensive planning of the Liturgy committee, Mr Rogusz and a multitude of other staff members. Throughout the rest of the day there are many activities and competitions to get involved in, such as the cake decorating comp, retro costume parade, face painting, floral crown creation and the chocolate toss. Not to mention the plethora of performances throughout the day, like the Rock Band on the Ruins and the showcase concert. During the day there is usually a number of food trucks and other food and beverage vendors on campus, where you can purchase a wide array of items too. It is very clear to see that everyone gets into the school spirit in a variety of ways, especially the teachers. They really pull out all the stops with some amazing costumes in their house colours, or other costumes in line with the theme. When they aren't busy ensuring that the day is running smoothly, the teachers and other staff members wander around, spending time with students by participating in many activities, and even participating in the costume parade.



The Battle of the Houses is a major event towards the conclusion of the day, and is an ultimate display of house spirit, and even the teachers get involved. The air was thick with tension, competition, excitement, and suspense, when the winning house of the battle was announced. Watch out next year Greccio, the other houses are coming back with a renewed hunger for victory! In all, the day was a total success, thanks to everyone who contributed.

CULTURAL FESTIVAL PICS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS



MOUNT ALVERNIA 2024 SWIMMING CARNIVAL!

"Interhouse activity is a wonderful way for students to engage with each other in the most positive thing of all, sport" Ms. Lucina.

When it's hot and sticky, why shouldn't we have a swimming carnival! As we reached the end of the month, and therefore the end of summer... Mount Alvernia hosted another swimming carnival. Held at the Centenary Pool, the swimming carnival has been a part of Mount Alvernia's history since 1978, when the college was competing, and winning the Interschool Swimming Carnival. Preparation for this day started in term 4 of 2023 with the booking of the venue, buses, and first aid kits by the wonderful sports office staff. The swimming carnival is not only a break from the routine school day but also a chance to gain house points, break out of your comfort zone, and make a last splash for the end of summer.



But before the swimming carnivals starts, there are the Monday races. On February 10th, as the sky drizzled down droplets of rain, participating students were jumping into the pool for the relay races. Each swimmer striving to gain enough points to get their house a winning head start, whilst being motivated by the cheers and chants of their friends and houses. Finally, the afternoon was over and the results from their hard work were in, with Perugia in the lead and Greccio tailing last. Was this a prediction of the winning order for the carnival or would the tide change?

Yet change can only come with participation. It takes bravery to get involved, especially in activities that are outside of your comfort zone, pushing you past your limit. "Students might feel vulnerable putting themselves out there, in a lane, in a pool, but Mount Alvernia, and our carnivals are safe spaces" Ms. Licina, the head of Greccio house, states. Speaking with passion, "I put myself in vulnerable situations regularly. To get out of my comfort zone into my growth zone." But what happens when you take that step, to be daring and fearless, and what do you gain? Ms. Lucina answered this as well, "it is my hope that the effort it takes to put yourself out there, is rewarded by the claps and the cheer of your house, making that willingness to be vulnerable worthwhile".

So when, the awaited day came around, the Friday fatigue was nowhere to be seen as the school was a parade of bright colours and excitement. We flowed to the stadium settling down to watch the year 7 run to their first -Mount A- 50 meters races. Cheering and yelling like banshees for our houses, hoping our spirit and determination will be enough to push our house to the final winning three. Watching the graduating year strut in their costumes. Damaging our vocal cords in the house cheer and racing to the canteen before all the best food is bought out. Followed by the novelty events like raft and marathon races, and water polo. Not to mention, the way the students were ecstatic when they won the teacher versus student race especially with the sports teachers participating. And our energy was endless all throughout the day. Ultimately, the day reached its close, and everyone waited at the edge of their seats, as Ms. Ferguson announced the winning house for the 2024 swimming carnival, which was... Perugia!!

Sluggishly, we piled onto the bus home, the adrenaline having worn off and exhaustion setting in. And when we reached school students were lying on their bags, hats, and friends as they waited for the 3:00pm bell to ring. Satisfied as another carnival as passed in success.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE TOP RECCOMENDED BOOK OF THE ISSUE IS...



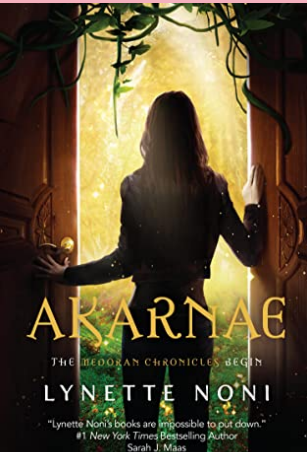
Ghost Bird is the haunting tale of native Australian twins Laney and Stacey Thomson and the events that follow the mysterious disappearance of laid-back twin, Laney. The story follows Stacey, who, ever since her sister went missing, experienced vivid nightmares that seem to mirror what her sister is experiencing in real time. Stacey, together with cousins Rhi and Bobby, and a family rival, Sam Miller, go on the hunt for anything that could reveal what happened to her twin.

The tale was engaging and felt realistic, since I hadn't explored an Aboriginal Australian perspective before in a book. I personally really enjoyed the heartfelt scenes with Sam Miller and his aunt, Mad May, that were sprinkled throughout the more desperate moments. It was an incredibly gripping narrative that kept me wondering if Stacey would get caught, or if she would find her sister before it was too late. However, there were moments when the story felt like it was going nowhere, such as interrogating Laney's boyfriend and the "school project". I would definitely recommend it to young-adult or even an adult audience, due to it's somewhat thriller themes and supernatural 'antagonist'. A very strong 7/10 from me!

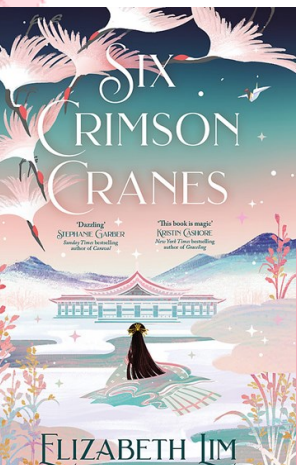
BY: AMALI NIELSEN

BOOK REVIEWS

FANTASY EDITION



With just one step, sixteen-year-old Alexandra Jennings' world changes--literally. Dreading her first day at a new school, Alex is stunned when she walks through a doorway and finds herself stranded in Medora, a fantasy world full of impossibilities. Desperate to return home, she learns that only a man named Professor Marselle can help her... but he's missing. While waiting for him to reappear, Alex attends Akarnae Academy, Medora's boarding school for teenagers with extraordinary gifts. She soon starts to enjoy her bizarre new world and the friends who embrace her as one of their own, but strange things are happening at Akarnae, and Alex can't ignore her fear that something unexpected... something sinister... is looming. An unwilling pawn in a deadly game, Alex's shoulders bear the crushing weight of an entire race's survival. Only she can save the Medorans, but what if doing so prevents her from ever returning home? Will Alex risk her entire world--and maybe even her life--to save Medora?



Shiori'anma, the only princess of Kiata, has a secret. Forbidden magic runs in her veins. And on the morning of her betrothal ceremony, Shiori loses control. At first, her mistake seems like a stroke of luck, forestalling the wedding she never wanted, but it also catches the attention of Raikama, her stepmother. A sorceress in her own right, Raikama banishes the young princess, turning her brothers into cranes, and warning Shiori that she must speak of it to no one: for with every word that escapes her lips, one of her brothers will die. Penniless, voiceless, and alone, Shiori searches for her brothers, and uncovers a dark conspiracy to seize the throne. Only Shiori can set the kingdom to rights, but to do so she must place her trust in a paper bird, a mercurial dragon, and the very boy she fought so hard not to marry. And she must embrace the magic she's been taught all her life to contain - no matter what it costs.

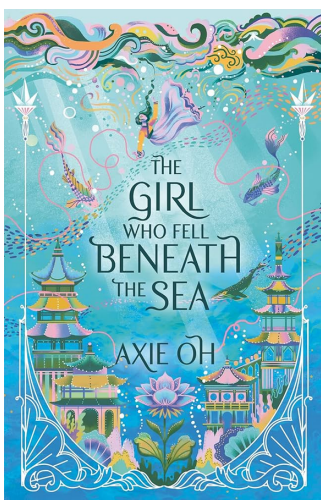
BOOK REVIEWS

FANTASY EDITION



Selly has salt water in her veins. So when her father leaves her high and dry in the port of Kirkpool, she has no intention of riding out the winter at home while he sails off to adventure. But any plans to follow him are dashed when a handsome stranger with tell-tale magician's marks on his arm commandeers her ship. He is Prince Leander of Alinor and he needs to cross the Crescent Sea without detection so he can complete a ritual on the sacred Isles of the Gods. Selly has no desire to escort a spoiled prince anywhere, and no time for his entitled demands or his good looks. But what starts as a leisure cruise will lead to acts of treason and sheer terror on the high seas, bringing two countries to the brink of war, two strangers closer than they ever thought possible and stirring two dangerous gods from centuries of slumber...

For generations, deadly storms have ravaged Mina's homeland. Her people believe the Sea God, once their protector, now curse them with death and despair. To appease him, each year a maiden is thrown into the sea, in the hopes that one day the 'true bride' will be chosen and end the suffering.



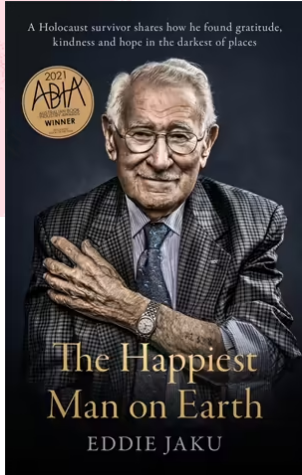
Many believe Shim Cheong - Mina's brother's beloved - to be the legendary true bride. But on the night Cheong is sacrificed, Mina's brother follows her, even knowing that to interfere is a death sentence. To save her brother, Mina throws herself into the water in Cheong's stead.

Swept away to the Spirit Realm, a magical city of lesser gods and mythical beasts, Mina finds the Sea God, trapped in an enchanted sleep. With the help of a mysterious young man and a motley crew of demons, gods and spirits, Mina sets out to wake him and bring an end to the storms once and for all.

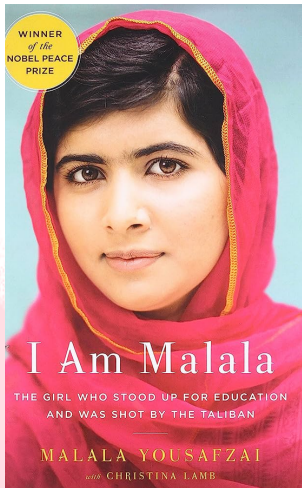
But she doesn't have much time: a human cannot live long in the land of the spirits. And there are those who would do anything to keep the Sea God from waking . . .

BOOK REVIEWS

LIFE STORIES AND HISTORY EDITION

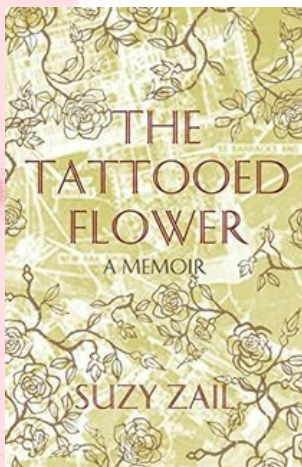


Eddie Jaku always considered himself a German first, a Jew second. He was proud of his country. But all of that changed on 9 November 1938, when he was beaten, arrested and taken to a concentration camp. Over the next seven years, Eddie faced unimaginable horrors every day, first in Buchenwald, then in Auschwitz, then on the Nazi death march. He lost family, friends, his country. Because he survived, Eddie made the vow to smile every day. He pays tribute to those who were lost by telling his story, sharing his wisdom and living his best possible life. He now believes he is the 'happiest man on earth'



When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, one girl spoke out. Malala Yousafzai refused to be silenced and fought for her right to an education. On Tuesday, October 9, 2012, when she was fifteen, she almost paid the ultimate price. She was shot in the head at point-blank range while riding the bus home from school, and few expected her to survive.

Instead, Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she became a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.



In 1942 eleven year old Emil Braun cheated death when he escaped the clutches of the Nazis. Many years later, after making a new life for himself in Australia, Emil and his daughter Suzy face the greatest trial of all...

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