You've Got Mail!

Teen Zine Readers:
You've Got Mail!

Teen Zine - Edition #3
Hey everyone, it’s time for another edition of Birrong Girls’ High’s Teen Zine! We hope you all enjoy reading it as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

**Zine Team:** Isabella Pham, Hanan Rahmany, Eman Gourani, Rowena Leung, Kathleen Wynter & Christina Le.

**Supervisor:** Ms. Brown- English Faculty.

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Cover by: Kathleen Wynter

- Mail, and How to Get It - Isabella Pham
- Interesting Facts - Zine Team
- Paper Heart - Movie Review - Destiny Valencia
- Nightly Blessing of Spring - Helen Mac (8G)
- The Evolution of Communication - Kathleen Wynter
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- Zine Feedback Page - Various Students.
- Thank You Page.

Thank you for all of the wonderful feedback and comments in regards to our previous editions of Teen Zine! If you have something to say about this issue of the Zine, you can send an e-mail to Ms. Brown, who is conveniently located in the English staffroom.

Your opinions really *do* matter to us, and can help with the development and improvement of Teen Zine as a whole. So don’t be scared, and tell us how you feel about the Zine!
Dear Readers of the Teen-Zine,

I have been utterly inspired by a question asked by one of our reader which was, “I love mail, and how do I get more?” I was really excited when I got this question because I absolutely L-O-V-E getting mail. There’s nothing more exciting than getting a personal letter addressed to YOU. Ah, the buzz, the excitement! Completely motivated, I searched for how to get more mail. But I had to think of what types of mail you actually want? Everyone can get junk mail in the letter box and subscriptions to your favourite magazines actually cost money. So to get started I went around to find mail you could get basically for free.

**Penpal Sites**

Yup, I’m sure everyone has heard of them but do you know just how easy it is to set up? My personal recommendation is a site called Interpal.net. There are lot of penpal sites but I found quite a few of them cost money. So to all those interested, be careful and look around. These sites are for online penpals but if you are more interested in “snail mail”, these sites are a great start where you can get to know the person and then start a snail mail exchange. It’s up to you! *NOTE: Please be careful on these sites and use a Nickname or username. NEVER give out your Personal Details carelessly.

**Snail Mail**

If you want something more old school and retro, may I advise the Letter Writing Alliance? This comes back to my point on snail mail or the exchanging of letters. I really recommend this if you want to test out your penmanship with people all around the world. It’s an organisation dedicated to keeping the act of sending letters alive. The membership costs about $3. It also includes a lot of neat merchandise to boot! For those wanting merchandise and membership it costs around $12. For further information about the Letter Writers Alliance please go to the following site: [http://16sparrows.com/LWA/membership.html](http://16sparrows.com/LWA/membership.html).

Yours Sincerely,

Isabella Pham

Whether you’re interested in snail mail and receiving letters or just want to meet people from different countries feel free to look around! Who knows what you could find? Please reply to the Teen Zine about YOUR experiences with sending letters or Penpal sites.
Interesting Facts:

1) The most commonly used letter in the English alphabet is “E”

2) The average human heart beats 100,000 times a day.

3) Bullet proof vests, fire escapes, windscreen wipers and laser printers were all invented by women.

4) Guimp.com is the smallest website in the world.

5) Chocolate is poisonous for dogs because of the large amount of theobromine in cocoa beans.

6) You burn more calories while sleeping, than you do watching TV.

7) Your thumb is the same length as your nose.

8) Apples are better at waking you up in the morning than caffeine.

9) Walt Disney was afraid of mice, Johnny Depp is afraid of clowns, Orlando Bloom is scared of pigs and Nicole Kidman is scared of butterflies.
Remember those days when we used to run away from boys because they had cooties? The times we thought love was gross and disgusting? 22 year old actress, comedian, musician and artist Charlyne Yi (You might remember her from *Knocked up*) remembers and doesn’t think she could ever possibly fall in love. I guess she’s just one of the boys. She asks the magic question—Does True Love even really exist? So what does she do? Make a documentary! Travel around America, silver microphone in hand, asking people for their stories. Okay guys, this is **NOT** a love story—well at least Charlyne doesn’t think so, but that’s something that you have to figure out for yourself. She talks to romance novelists, scientists, divorcees, even old folks that have been together for 50 years listening to every one of their stories. You might know Michael Cera, the guy who is well known for his part in movies as the awkward teenager, or Scott Pilgrim. Well Charlyne meets him at a party through Nick, who is her friend and director. Michael’s very fascinated by Charlyne, and what happens from there is something that Charlyne never expected.

My favourite was a part where they were at Las Vegas, at the little white chapel, talking to the “priest” who was dressed as Elvis. Did you know, that at least 3000 happy couples get married at the little white chapel on average a month!

This is not your average indie film, it won the Sundance Film Festival Award in 2009 and even made it to the American box office.

So if you’re the usual “cheese stick”, or even if you think love is gross, I think everyone will love something about Paper Heart.
Nightly Blessing of Spring

By Helen Mac, 8G.

In the silence of the night,
I wandered curiously into the flock of cherry blossom trees,
Watching the faint clouds crawl over the moon.

I hear the wind whispering into my ears,
I am standing in a lake of shadows.
Suddenly I felt a missile of wind shoot past me,
Above me, there was a burst of cherry blossom petals.

They fluttered into the air like pink butterflies,
I stood under its floral rain,
Then I realised... that was the greeting of Spring.
Communication. We use and do it every day, and it’s a huge part of our lives. Without communication the world would not have been able to develop, and relationships will crash and fall; after all, the key to a good relationship is communication! But what exactly does it mean? Well, dictionary.com defines communication as:

“The imparting or interchange of thoughts, opinions, or information by speech, writing, or signs.”

Communication basically means to share thoughts/opinions or information through speaking, text or signs (such as road signs and toilet signs). Communication has evolved dramatically over the years and has been practiced by the ancient Egyptians to the ordinary civilians in today’s society.

**Ancient Communication:**

**Fires, Smokes and Drums:** In Prehistoric times, communication was often done in the form of smoke signals, fire making and in the banging of a drum. Smoke signals were used to communicate over long distances, and are one of the oldest means of communication. They were used by the Ancient Chinese, the American Indians, the Indigenous Australians and many other ancient societies.

**Cave Paintings:** To communicate with others, ancient humans would often paint symbols and drawings onto the walls of caves. These drawings often portrayed a story and had strong, symbolic meaning behind them. The oldest known cave that had been painted by ancient beings is the Chauvet Cave in France, painted at around 30,000 BC!

**‘Old’ Communication:**

**Pigeon Post:** Pigeon post was a method of communication, particularly used in the 5th Century. Pigeons were trained and taught to find their way home from almost any destination. The owner of the pigeon would attach a message to the leg of their pigeon and the bird would fly to the destination where the recipient of the message was. Pigeons are still used as a means of communication in remote areas of the world today.

**Letters:** Letters were extremely popular in society. Letters were (and still are) sent through a postal system, to the recipient’s address. Although letters have decreased in popularity due to the Internet, they are still often used for financial, personal and commercial purposes.

**Modern Communication:**

**The Internet:** The Internet is a system that links users to each other through their computers. Electronic Mail (Email) is an online version of the post. Video Chatting is popular as it is easy and involves both the audio and visual aspects of communication. More commonly used, however, are social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

**Telephones:** Invented in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell, the telephone was an invention that has changed the concept of communication drastically. The telephone is often used these days, but its more evolved version is used more often; the mobile phone.

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By Kathleen Wynter
Photo Gallery

Fatima Fares, Year 11
Photo Gallery

Angelina Ung, Year 10
Does My Head Look Big in This? - Randa Abdel-Fattah

Does my head look big in this? by Randa Abdel-Fattah is a book about Amal Mohamed Nasrullah Abdel-Hakim, a 16 year old Palestinian-Australian trying to adjust to the life of a hijab-wearing girl. From boys, to friends, to family, this book gives you an insight into life as a Muslim teenager, and how she handles it.

I found this book really interesting because of how similar it is to any teenager’s life, including my own. Amal has a life no different to any Muslim girl, especially those who have taken the plunge to wear a hijab. I am sure this book would relate to all types of teenage girls, whether it be a Muslim girl thinking about wearing a hijab and how they should handle it, or even a girl who just wants to know how Muslim girls feel about this transition from a girl to a woman. This book is captivating in the sense of being so insightful and very good at first-person descriptions. It’s as if Abdel-Fattah has gone through a similar experience, if not the exact experience. This is the kind of book which gives a different point of view of life, especially in terms of religion. I really liked it.

- Aveen Yaseen, Year 10.

Gossip Girl—Cecily von Ziegesar

I enjoyed reading the novel as it showed the dramatic side of friendships. It talks about how ‘S is back from boarding school, and if we aren’t careful, she is going to win over our teachers, wear that dress we couldn’t fit into, steal our boyfriends’ hearts, and basically ruin our lives in a major way.’ I’ll be watching closely...

- Sabrina Talgi, Year 10

Heist Society — Ally Carter

Kat Bishop wants to leave her family business, but that’s not easy if you have a family that are a gang of exclusive world class thieves. A mobster accuses Kat’s dad of stealing his priceless art collection, and Kat knows there’s only one thing to do; steal the paintings back.

In only two weeks a teenage crew will plan a trip to Europe to steal the paintings back with her dad’s life on the line. But we wonder; can she pull the heist off?

- Leteisha Venuto, Year 10
Book Reviews

Snarl for the Camera– James Gray
I have read one of the most adventurous books ever called “Snarl For The Camera”. It is really exciting. This book is about a man who goes on different adventures around the world. He holds animals like snakes and many more.

This book is all about exploring in different places, learning new things and having adventures all around the world. To sum up I really like this book and I think that you should read it too.

THANK YOU FOR READING, and remember to read “Snarl for the Camera”.
- Edeline Huynh 7G

SAY CHEESE And DIE!
- R.L. Stine
I read this book called “Say cheese and Die” and I think it is a very good book because it is a scary story about scary things like ghosts, monsters and also weird stuff that happens in the story. All those reasons make the whole story interesting. I also like the front cover because the author makes the front cover look really interesting and that’s how I started reading Goosebumps books.

I read a lot of Goosebumps book but I think that “Say Cheese and Die” is the scariest Goosebumps book I have ever read because it is a horror book and I like scary books like this one. When I read this book it actually gave me Goosebumps. These are all the reasons why I like this book.

- Kim-Anne Baker 7G

Special A; Volume 7
- Maki Minami
There is this girl named Hikari she goes to a high school called Hakusenkan High School. The school divides each grade level into groups A through F, according to the student’s test scores. Group A includes only the top seven students in each class. The top seven students are put into groups called Special A, known as S.A.

Hikari Hanazono has been consumed with the desire to beat her school rival, Kei Takishima at anything. He always comes out on top no matter what he does. S.A is a very funny comic book. Whenever I think about the funny bits I always laugh and when I finish one of the volumes I always want to read the next volume. When I start to read S.A. I never stop reading, no matter what.

- Kim Tien Chau 7G
So that's all folks; you've just finished reading the 3rd Edition of Teen Zine. However, we'd like to thank those who have sent us some feedback on the Zine, as you'll be a big help to our future editions! Keep that feedback coming, especially constructive criticism. Don't be afraid to voice your opinion. To do so, please reply to Ms Brown at natalie.brown32@det.nsw.edu.au.

Here is some of your previous feedback.

_________________________________________________________________

Wow, this magazine has always been in my inbox and I hadn't bothered to read it, but.... It's actually really interesting! I can really see the effort put in, and it engaged me, which is actually quite hard to do. I especially liked the stories, I didn't know my fellow students were so creative! I'm definitely going to read the future Teen Zine Magazines....Great work!

- Zahraa Alcheikh Year 9

Hey I just skimmed through the Teen Zine magazine and I don't know why but I think writing things about peoples' lives. e.g. true stories and giving advice to teenagers from Birrong Girls with problems would be good. You could have an anonymous writer to write back to them

- Samiha Elkheir Year 11

This is great!
I love all the great stuff in this issue, it's even better than the last one.
I'd also like to point out how professional the photos look. Great photography! Keep 'em coming, Zine team. :) 

- Leila Alameddine Year 10

Hi, I've read it..
I think there needs to be a lot more interesting things in there. The photos were really great, as was the story about the girl and her beast fiancé, however, the rest wasn't too great. The other stories had way too much writing, which made me want to just skip past it, and there were too many poems. I don't think its really a magazine if it only has pictures, poems and stories..?? :)

- Hiba Idris Year 10

Remember that Teen Zine is based on YOUR submissions, so if you want to see something in the Zine, send it in!
A big thank you to Dalal Gourani who inspired this issue. Also thanks to all the students who submitted their pieces to the Zine. We love showing off the creativity of Birrong Girls’ High! Also, a thank you to those who have sent feedback to us.

But most of all, thank YOU for reading the third edition of Teen Zine Magazine. We hope you enjoyed looking through the Zine, and remember, if there’s anything you’d like to know, ask or say about the Zine, we’re always happy to receive any emails with your questions.

Keep reading!
- The Zine Team & Ms. Brown.