

Monday, February 5, 2024

New rules to stay safe online; New Zealand's spag bol pie; Canada's 100-year-old swim champ; and \$2 million whale poo.

That's what's making news, kid's style...

THE LOWDOWN

The internet ... it's part of our daily lives. Whether we're researching homework using Google, online gaming with friends, scrolling through TikTok, watching Disney+ or listening to Squiz Kids - most of us are on the internet for a good part of every day.

Which is why tomorrow is a really important day.

It's called Safer Internet Day. And around the world kids just like you are being reminded that while the internet is an amazing tool - an incredible digital playground for us to enjoy and be entertained and informed - there are also unfortunately dangers lurking in its darker corners.

Which is why something called the ESafety Commission - which is a government agency created to protect us when we're online - will be super busy tomorrow promoting the two key themes of this year's Safer Internet Day.

Number 1: **Connect** to the internet safely by keeping apps and devices secure and reviewing your privacy settings regularly.

Number 2: **Reflect** on how your actions online may affect others or your safety. Which is to say: online as in life, be kind and be respectful.

I've stuck a link in today's episode notes to the ESafety Commission's website, with a bunch of excellent resources for teachers, parents and kids who want to find out more.

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(BELL RING) Ah yes - there it is ... the school bell to indicate that all Aussie kids are now back at school, after NSW finally went back last week. Well, everyone except Tasmania that is - who are still on holidays until Thursday - whaaaaa? I know right ... let's all move there, already. And yeah, look, I know: going back to school can be rough. Or starting out at school can be an adjustment - but just to give you a snapshot of how you're not alone: the NSW Dept of Education last week reported that 477,000 kids went back to school in NSW alone last week ... that's almost half a million of you. And 63,618 started kindergarten - or prep, as it's called in other states. That's a whole lot of oversized uniforms and lost lunch boxes and parents crying at the gate. Yes - of course parents cry! What do you think we are? Monsters? Don't answer that ...

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops - and today we've landed across the ditch .. in New Zealand ... where a spaghetti bolognese and cheese pie is causing waves.

You know how very occasionally, like on a road trip, you might stop at a service station and pick up a pie?

Well our Kiwi cousins are all in a flap since the introduction of a new pie containing spaghetti bolognese and cheese. Yep - spaghetti pasta, mince meat and cheese all contained in a flaky pie crust ... sounds perfectly delicious to me. Especially if it had a big dollop of tomato sauce on top.

But social media is divided on the delicacy - with many people commenting that it's just not right to stuff a pie full of so many exotic ingredients. What will they think of next? Chicken curry pies? Pies with peas? Steak, onion and tomato pies? Oh wait ...

Of course: there's lots more to the country of New Zealand than oddly-flavoured pies. And that's why tomorrow's edition of Squiz The World - where we take the kids of Australia on a virtual excursion to another country - is on our friendly neighbour, New Zealand - also known as Aotearoa in native Māori ... because this week marks the anniversary of the Treaty of Waitangi - an important agreement between New Zealand's white settlers and its native people, the Māori.

Tune in to Squiz Kids tomorrow as Christie straps us all into the Super Fast Supersonic Squiz Kids jet liner to find out a bit about the history, culture, food, people and language of New Zealand. There's even a pair of jandals, some togs and a chilly bin ...

ANIMAL KINGDOM

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How much do you reckon a pile of whale poo would be worth? Well, one group of economists - who are people that study money for a living - reckon it's \$2 million. And that's because as we learn more about how humpback whales live and the important role they play in ecosystems in which they're present - like the east coast of Australia and Antarctica - the more it's become obvious they are the farmers of the ocean.

How, I hear you ask? Because their poo is then feasted on by phytoplankton - teeny tiny creatures in the sea - and phytoplankton are an important food source for a slightly bigger creature called krill - and

krill, in turn, are a super important food source for everything from fish to penguins to whales themselves. And over its lifetime, each humpback produces enough to create \$2 million of benefit to the environment and economy - they're literally pooping out cash. Sort of. I've stuck a link in today's episode notes to video of scientists collecting whale poo for research. Imagine if that was your job ... euuugh.

(CCC)

A-ha ... there's the Classroom Companion Clarion - letting us know that the classroom worksheets Christie has prepared today are tied to this news item. What's the Classroom Companion? Every Monday, Squiz Kids' resident primary school teacher, Christie creates three excellent literacy activity sheets - each one differentiated to suit different abilities, and all of them curriculum aligned ... and today's worksheet is on ... Recalling, summarising and evaluative language. Teachers: sign up to Squiz Kids Classroom if you haven't already via our website.

SQUIZ KIDS SALUTES

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And today's Squiz Kids Salutes goes to Canada's own Betty Brussel - who has just broken not one, but three swimming world records ... at the age of 99.

Last weekend the nonagenarian - which is a fancy word for someone in their 90s - broke the world record in her age group for the 400-metre freestyle- swimming it in 12 minutes and 50 seconds - beating the previous record-holder by nearly four minutes. Then she went on to set a new record for the 50-metre breaststroke AND and the 50-metre backstroke. (CHEER)

And get this: Betty only started swimming in her early 70s ...

So - to late bloomers everywhere: let this be a lesson to you. You might not be kicking all the goals now, but it's never too late in life to be a champion. And everyone blossoms at a different time in life. Just ask Betty.

THE S'QUIZ

This is the part of the podcast where you get to test how well you've been listening ...

1. What unusual ingredients have shown up in a pie in New Zealand?
2. How old is Canada's record-breaking senior swimmer?

3. How much have economists estimated a whale's life and poop is worth?

SHOUT OUTS

It's February 5th ... the Grammy Awards are on in Los Angeles this afternoon .. where all the biggest pop stars and country stars and hip hop artists and rappers and musicians come together to celebrate another awesome year in music.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Kyan from Brisbane, Ishan from Turrumurra, Milly from Heidelberg West, Ava from Mt Isa, Myra from Cheltenham, Daanish from Croydon and Jovan from Tempe.

Happy belated birthday to... Aaron, Michael, James, Andrew, Shaun and Edward all from Castle Hill, Lucas from Wantirna, Felix from Ringwood North, Elizabeth from Forest Lake, George from Ulverstone, Ava and Zali from Yass and Billie and Saxon from Woongarra.

And it's a welcome back for 2024 to classroom shoutouts - and today's go to... class 5A and Mr Guy from Mansfield State School, class 5B ad Miss Elsmore from St Christopher's Catholic Primary School in Holsworthy, class 6C and Mrs Clark at Wellington Point State School, class 4/5 Mangrove with Ms McIntosh at Asquith Public School and class 5H with Mrs Hay at Flinders Public School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Spaghetti bolognese + cheese
2. 99
3. \$2 million