

Monday, February 12

## **Tay Tay vs Trump; a guide-penguin saves the day; snow-show goes ahead; and an Eiffel Tower triumphs.**

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

### **THE LOWDOWN**

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The eyes of the world will be trained on Las Vegas in the United States this morning as the 58th Super Bowl is played between the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers.

I'm talking about gridiron of course, or NFL as it's known in America. The Super Bowl is the big end-of-season grand final.

You might remember last year's Super Bowl was overshadowed by the showstopping half-time performance put on by Rhianna and about eleventy-hundred back-up dancers.

This year, it will be R+B artist Usher bringing the half-time entertainment - ably assisted by Post Malone.

But as big as those stars are - and as big as the Super Bowl is - all eyes will be up in the stands - where the world's biggest pop star, Taylor Swift is expected to be in the crowd, cheering on her boyfriend, Kansas City Chief tight end, Travis Kelce. Tight end is a position on the team - not a reference to his bum. In case you were wondering.

And one person who will be watching especially carefully is another guy you may remember, called Donald Trump.

He's trying to become President of the United States again when elections are held later this year. And his supporters are worried that the only person in America who could stand in his way is Taylor Swift - especially if she chose to support the current president - and Trump's rival - Joe Biden.

Because if Taylor told her Swifties to vote against Trump - she's so popular and influential - it could be impossible for him to Shake It Off. See what I did there?

And of course: once she's done with the Super Bowl and upsetting Donald Trump, Tay Tay will be heading our way. Only four sleeps to go before her Melbourne concert ... aagghh!

### **SPIN THE GLOBE**

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Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops, and today we've landed in Lake Geneva (no, not the one in Switzerland), but its namesake in Wisconsin, USA, where the US National Snow Sculpting Championship was held last week. Teams of

snow sculptors from all across the country, came together to show off their chilly chiselling.

But there was just one little problem, Lake Geneva has been experiencing unseasonably warm weather this year. Where the temperature would usually dip well below freezing, last week, it soared to a balmy 4 to 10 degrees celsius causing all sorts of headaches for the sculptors, who found themselves swapping woolly hats for T-shirt, and wrestling with snow that had all the firmness of a slushy at a summer school fete.

But not to be deterred the teams got to work with their shovels, spatulas, hand saws and yes, even cheese graters, to craft icy masterpieces that would make Frosty the Snowman green with envy

And taking out the top prize this year was a winking robot titled "Trust Me" crafted to spark conversation about the role of AI technology in our everyday lives. Of course there's link to videos of the sculptures in your episode notes. I just can't get that giant snow cone out of my mind.

## ***ANIMAL KINGDOM***

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Have you ever had a best friend who's there for you whenever you need them? That's the sort of friendship that Penguin and Squid have. They are two, three-year-old African penguins who've lived all their entire lives at the UK's largest bird park - Birdworld. And Penguin has taken Squid under his wing, quite literally. You see, Squid developed a condition called cataracts when she was only six-weeks-old, making her vision like that of a sailor trying to navigate on a foggy day. Everything looks very cloudy.

But keepers needn't have worried, Penguin, who had just recovered from his own illness was there standing by, like a feathery lighthouse. Imagine playing "Follow the Leader" every day, and you've got Penguin and Squid's daily routine. During mealtime madness, when all the penguins rush for their fishy feast, Penguin makes sure Squid gets her share. I've stuck a video of these two in your episode notes.

This unusual partnership isn't just cute; it's a heartwarming reminder of the power of friendship and the amazing empathy animals can have. Adorable!

[CCC] Ohho and there goes the Classroom Companion Clarion, indicating that today's differentiated curriculum aligned classroom worksheets are based on this story! We're using conjunctions to turn

clauses into compound or complex sentences. Check them out at [squizkids.com.au](http://squizkids.com.au) . Have fun kids!

## ***BELIEVE IT OR NOT***

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Imagine coming across a 40 metre dragon at the shops! Don't start running just yet, this is no ordinary dragon. Assembled by two local artists and 60 dedicated volunteers in a Hong Kong shopping mall, this balloon behemoth has just soared into the Guinness World Records. Constructed from 38,000 balloons they've created a 41.8-metre-long dragon in celebration of Lunar New Year that happened over the weekend. It's a breathtaking sight and there's a link to video of the record-breaking dragon in your episode notes.

And speaking of building big things, a Frenchman has been awarded the Guinness World Record for building the world's tallest structure from matchsticks, after first having his efforts rejected. The model Eiffel Tower is an impressive 7.19 metres tall, contains a whopping 706,900 matchsticks and took a monumental 4,200 hours to build.

So why was it rejected? Well, Guinness are very strict with their rules, and the builder, Monsieur Plaud, had unbeknownst to him, not used the right type of matchsticks. But, after complaining of his "great disappointment" and a review of his case by the folks at Guinness he was awarded the record after all.

It's a timely reminder to make sure you read all rules and instructions kids! I could probably learn something from that too.

## ***THE S'QUIZ***

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

1. What did the snow sculpture that won first prize at the US National Snow Sculpting Championships depict?
2. Name the two penguin pals that I told you about in *Animal Kingdom* today.
3. How many balloons did the Hong Kong artists use to create their dragon sculpture?

## ***SHOUT OUTS***

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It's February 12 .... On this day back in 1851, flecks of gold were discovered in a waterhole outside Bathurst, NSW, sparking Australia's

first Gold Rush. Within a year, more than half a million people, including 370,000 immigrants were working in and around the Australian Gold Fields. Want to find out more? We've got a Shortcut coming in the next few weeks on the Australian Gold Rush. You're welcome grade 5 teachers.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Henry and Charlie from Earlston, Ivy from Cannon Hill, Lewis from Clovelly, Declyn from Turramurra, Andy from Lalor Park, Willow from Eastwood, Georgia from Brisbane, Emma and Aaron from Bli Bli, Mati from Wheelers Hill, Luke from Townsville and Jasper from Croydon.

Happy belated birthday to... Morgan from Googong, Ali from Sydney, Christian from Adelaide and Abby and Lachlan from Yass.

Classroom shoutouts today go to... class 4H and Mr Hauser from Nightcliff Primary School in Darwin, class 4T and Miss Tickner from Marulan Public School, classes 6 Gold and 6 Blue with Miss Rayner and Mrs Glover at Mt Carmel School in Yass, class 6T with Miss Teitzel at Jimboomba State School and class 5/6T with Ms Champion at Drummoyne Public School.

### **The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. A Winking Robot
2. Penguin and Squid
3. 38,000