

A Princess bares her soul; Hindu festival of Holi begins; Formula One takes over Melbourne; and the half-million dollar space meal.

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

THE LOWDOWN

The big news over the weekend was the announcement by Princess Catherine, from the British Royal Family, that she is undergoing treatment for cancer - putting an end to weeks of speculation about why she had not been seen in public.

Cancer is an illness that affects many millions of people around the world. Maybe someone in your family has had or currently has cancer. If it's found early - it can often be treated - because medicine and doctors and treatments are so advanced these days.

Speaking about her cancer - the Princess said she had wanted to take time to find the right words to explain to her children, Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis - who's only six years old - exactly what was happening inside her body and reassure them that she was going to be ok.

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The other big news over the weekend came out of Tasmania - where an election took place to see who the people wanted to run the state government.

In the end, it was super close, with the Liberal Party's Jeremy Rockcliff just managing to pip his Labor Party opponent to the post. Having far less trouble attracting supporters was Tassie's new AFL team, the Tasmania Devils. Since launching in the middle of last week, the Devils have signed up more than 165,000 members. Which, considering Tassie's population is just over 500,000 - that's a pretty solid effort. Go the Devils!

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 in India - where today marks the start of the most colourful holy day in the world.

It's called 'Holi' - H-O-L-I - it marks the end of the northern hemisphere winter and the start of spring - and people celebrate it by throwing brightly coloured powders and water bombs at one another.

You might have seen photos of it - or maybe you're one of the almost 700,000 Hindus in Australia who celebrate it. There are generally parties and parades and people in the street hurling pink, blue and yellow powders at one another, or squirting one another with water pistols - as well as feasting on delicious treats.

A perfect excuse to get seriously messy.

SPORT TIME

A record crowd, a comeback kid, an engine explosion and a fourth-placing Aussie - yesterday's Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix pretty much had it all.

More than 400,000 streamed through the gates of Melbourne's Albert Park over the weekend to watch the fastest cars on Earth race against one another. In the end, Ferrari's Carlos Sainz took the chequered flag - which is F1 speak for win - despite only just recovering from surgery to have his appendix removed. What a comeback!

It was a good day for the Italian car-maker Ferrari - whose other driver Charles Le Clerc came in second.

And while it wasn't a great day at the office for Red Bull's Max Verstappen - whose engine caught fire early in the race - it was a great day on the track for Australia's Oscar Piastri, who finished fourth in front of a home town crowd.

Get your motors running people!

SPACED OUT

And so it's off into space we go - where tourists are being asked to pay half a million dollars for a meal.

So hang on a minute? There are tourists in outer space? Not yet: but as more and more companies invest in rockets and space craft, more and more people with piles of cash are lining up to have the once in a lifetime experience of travelling into space.

In this case, it's a space balloon - called Space Perspective. And for a cool half a mil, you too could float gently up into space - just beyond the Earth's atmosphere - and hover there in orbit for a few hours while one of the world's best chefs prepares a special meal to mark the occasion as you watch the sun rise over the curvature of the Earth. I've stuck a link to a video in today's episode notes.

Sounds like a meal that could only be described as 'out of this world' ... (DAD JOKE ALARM) ... and yes, that's one of my worst dad jokes yet. Must be getting to the end of the term ...

(BREAK)

Speaking of getting towards the end of term - a bit of mid-podcast housekeeping to let you know we're following the Queensland school holidays this term - and will be breaking for a fortnight from this coming Friday ... Good Friday. But don't worry, we've got a whole bunch of Bumper School Holiday Quizzes and Shortcuts and Squiz The World programming lined up to keep you entertained. Just make sure you've subscribed to Squiz Kids in your favourite podcasting app and you won't miss a thing.

Q+A CALLOUT

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Who looks after the money in your house? Who decides what it gets spent on? Imagine being in charge of how the Australian government spends all of the money it has? Because that's what a man called Jim Chalmers does .. he's the country's Treasurer .. and he's agreed to take the Squiz Kids Hot Seat and answer any questions you might have for him.

Like what does a Treasurer actually do? Is there any actual treasure involved? And do you need a map to find it? And if so, does that make him a pirate? So many questions.

We've got a couple of Squiz Kids water bottles to give away for the best questions - plus a pile of Squiz Kids stickers to give away for the best set of classroom questions.

So - don't just sit there - send in the question or questions you'd like to ask Australia's Treasurer - we'll pick the best ten and put them to him.

Send your questions to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au. And thank you to those classrooms who have already sent in questions - with a shout out to Ms Phelan's class from Rochedale State School ... what a smart bunch you are !

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((Have you ever wondered who pays the bills for Australia? Who decides how to spend the money that the government collects? And what it should be spent on? How much should be spent on roads or hospitals, schools or sports? It's all decided by a person called The Treasurer - a politician in Canberra, who, after the Prime Minister, is probably the most important person in our government.

At the moment, that job is held by a man called Jim Chalmers from sunny Queensland - and we're delighted to report that he's agreed to take the Squiz Kids Q+A hotseat and answer any questions you might have for him.

Like: how did he get his job? Why did he want to become a politician and work in CAnberra? What exactly is the Federal Budget and why is it important? What do his three kids - Jack, Annabelle and Leo think about his job? What was he like as a kid? Why is his mum so important in his life? Who was his favourite teacher? What would he have done for a job if he didn't become a politician? Why is he such a fan of hip hop music and who's his favourite artist? And *why does his daughter Annabelle paints his toes with glitter nail polish before he goes to Canberra to help run the country?*

Send your questions to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au And we'll pick the best ten to put to the Treasurer. Teachers: send through questions your class might have .. just don't dilly dally! The man has a budget to prepare and school holidays are looming - so time is of the essence ..))

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which Aussie state held an election over the weekend?
2. How much will a fancy meal in space cost some lucky space tourists?
3. Which Formula One team won yesterday's Australian Formula One Grand Prix?

SHOUT OUTS

It's March 25 A birthday for Cold Heart and Dua Lipa singer, Elton John .. who just also happens to be one of the most successful musicians in modern times ...

It's also a very special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Max from Cobbitty, Harry from Roseville, Hunter from Rathmines, Mahikaa from Mount Waverley, Maximilian from Dover Heights, Caleb from Mount Riverview, Sailor from North Kellyville, Benjamin from Picton, Vincent from Forest Lake, Leo from Castle Hill, Harriet and Beatrice from Ballarat, Jaxon from Wilton, Harry from Prahran, Smithi from Nightcliff, Isla from Freshwater, John from Wagga Wagga, Phoenix from Cecil Park and Ollie from North Avoca.

Belated shout outs go to... Zabi from Brisbane, Indy from Gulgong, Will from Brighton, James from Horsley Park, Oscar from Canberra, Asher and Owen from Gladstone, Aaliyah and Ava from Yarrawonga, Jaida from Dubbo and Sebastian listening over in Singapore.

Classroom shoutouts today go to... Mrs Coles' class at Redeemer Lutheran School in Nuriootpa, class 9/10 Polding with Mrs Power and Suzanne at Mater Dei Primary School in Camden, class 6A with Miss Pearson, Cam and Nicole at Echuca Primary School, class 5/6HD with Mrs Hibbert & Mrs De Lore at Cardiff South Public School, years 5 and 6 with Ms Hetherington at Lisieux Catholic Primary School in Torquay and class 6S with Mr Simpson at The Hutchins School in Sandy Bay. And lastly today a special shout out to class 6D at St Brendan's Catholic Primary in Mackay and a very happy birthday to their teacher Miss Dyne.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Tasmania
2. Half a million dollars
3. Ferrari