

Protections for the lunar landscape; Paris' waiters race for glory; an Indian girl-group's on the scene; and a Lego hero hangs up his helmet

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

THE LOWDOWN

Have you ever stared up at the moon and wondered what's up there? Maybe you've spotted a man, a rabbit, or even a cosmic toad? Well, some smart folks from the Royal Society released a report earlier this week and they've spotted some very special sites that need our protection.

If you're a long-time listener, you'll know that the moon is pretty popular these days. With all the moon missions going on and more on the horizon, scientists are getting a tad worried because there are no rules in place to protect these sites.

You see, the moon isn't just a beautiful light in our sky; it's a treasure trove of deep pits to shield you from space rays, icy craters filled with water for future astronauts, tall ridges that soak up the sun for power, extremely rare and precious rocks and minerals and the quietest spot in our galaxy, the dark side of the moon—perfect for radiotelescopes to look back in time to the dawn of the Universe!

Now you might think, 'The moon's huge - why worry?' Well, the moon is becoming such a popular destination, the report's authors are calling for a 'global consensus' (which is a fancy word for an agreement) to protect these precious resources for all of the space explorers of tomorrow.

And while we're looking up, the Sun has had an explosive time this week, shooting out a ginormous blob of plasma, called a coronal mass ejection, into space. Sounds intense! The plasma is packed with electrically charged particles that dance around and create a magnetic field.

And here's the cool part: when these particles waltz into Earth's atmosphere they put on an amazing coloured light show in the sky, known as an aurora.

So, if you're in the Southern States and the sky clears up at night this week, take a look up and prepare to be amazed. And hey, if you snap a picture, don't forget to show us – sharing is caring, after all!

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 Paris, the capital city of France that will be hosting the Olympic Games later this year. But before the Olympic torch lights up, Paris has decided to warm up with a quirky race that's over a century old, called the Course des cafés.

Now, don't expect to see lightning-fast sprinters like Usaine Bolt or even football star Mbappé pounding the Parisian pavement in this race. Nope, this one's for the unsung heroes of Paris' famous cafes - the waiters and waitresses! They dash through the streets, covering two kilometers, with a tray carrying a croissant, an empty coffee cup, and a glass of water, all without spilling a drop or breaking into a run.

Over 200 participants, some even rocking bow ties, took on this challenge, with the quickest server crossing the finish line in just 13 minutes and 30 seconds. Their prize? Tickets to the Olympic Opening Ceremony and a posh night in a Paris hotel. How cool is that? Bravo!

POP CULTURE CORNER

After 20 years without a girl-group, Indian music is back on the map with its very own all-girl band, W.i.S.H., and they're aiming to make a big splash in the brand-new world of I-Pop.

Inspired by the stars of Japanese and Korean pop, four young Indian women, sisters Ri and Sim, Zo, and youngest member Suchi, are ready to show the world what they've got. W.i.S.H. stands for "World inka Stage Hai," which is a cool way of saying "the world is our stage" in a mix of English and Hindi.

Now, hold onto your headphones because I've stuck a link to their debut single, "Lazeez," in the episode notes. "Lazeez" means "delicious" or "tasty" in Urdu, and let me tell you, this song is just that! It's so catchy, you might even catch me busting out some Bollywood moves.

SQUIZ KIDS SALUTES

What has a big yellow head, claw shaped hands and stands seven feet tall? No, it's not a new superhero from the block town. It's South Australia's very own Alex McIntyre rocking his very own Lego (or should I say Lay-go) Mini Figure costume! Alex's super mum helped him craft this awesome getup back in 2013, but, after being injured during a dog attack while wearing his Batman Mini Figure costume, Alex has decided it's time to retire his brick-tastic outfit.

Over the years, Alex has brought smiles to the face of hundred of kids and adults. He talks openly about having autism, and says the suit allows him to take on a more outgoing personality and cope with crowds while bringing joy to others. And he's not just about the smiles; this guy marched 100 kilometres in his costume to raise funds for the Cancer Council. Alex is a true hero, showing everyone that believing in yourself is the real superpower. Hats off (or should we say helmets off) to you, Alex McIntyre! Squiz Kids salutes you.

Easter / School Holiday Programming

Hey there friends, this Thursday will be our last day of regular programming before we take a tiny vacation to match the Queensland school holidays. But never fear, we've got a treasure trove of fun ready for you, perfect for those long road trips or cozy afternoons when the rain pitter-patters outside. Starting this Friday, get ready for the first of our super cool Bumper Kids vs Adults S'Quizes! It's a fun way for everyone to play and discover who's smarter, kids or adults. And hold on, there's more! Each Tuesday, we'll surprise you with a Shortcut or Squiz the World episode right in your favorite podcasting app. Now, for our friends in the ACT, NSW, SA, or Tassie, your holiday adventures will start a bit later this year, but don't worry, you can listen too!

And to all the wonderful teachers out there, if you're part of the Squiz Kids Classroom crew, don't forget you can use our Classroom Companion Search to find super cool worksheets and podcast episodes that match whatever you're teaching. All these adventures and more are waiting for you at our Squiz Kids website, squizkids.com.au.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What is the name for the light show that is caused by charged particles from the sun crashing into the Earth's atmosphere?
2. What did the waitstaff have to carry on their trays during their race through Paris?
3. The first single from Indian girl-group W.i.S.H. is called 'Lazeez', this is an Urdu word that means what in English?

SHOUT OUTS

It's March 27 National Scribble Day, so grab your crayons and get scribbling. And, I'm sure it's just a coincidence, but famous tessellator M C Escher died on this day back in 1972. If you don't know who that is or what tessellations are, it's well worth checking out the link in the episode notes. You can thank me later.

It's also a very special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today...

Ravi from Cobbitty, Aubree from Mount Isa, Vivian from Forest Lake, Adam from Woongarra, Oscar from Blayney, Mason from Bundaberg, Saskia from Mosman, Sofia from Birkdale, Marcus and Melissa from NSW, Hunter from Ambrose, Oliver from Ormiston, Aden from St Peters, Hannah B from Rozelle, Sergio from Maroubra, Estelle from Appin Valley, Mia from Ecucha, Rejig from Manly and Isabel listening over in Bali, Indonesia.

Belated shout outs go to... Isabel from Wahroonga, Aria from Greystanes and Henley from Gulgong.

Classroom shoutouts today go to... class 5/6 Echidnas with Mrs Marsh at Turvey Park Public School, class 5B with Ms Brockenshire at Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School in East Brunswick, class 5T with Miss Turner at The Scots School in Albury, the year 6 class with Miss Georges at Marion Catholic Primary School in Horsley Park, class 6B with Miss Bronson at Rouse Hill Public School, Mrs Scmory's maths class at Poynter Primary School and class K/6 RP with Mrs Parekh and Mrs Reardon at Caringbah Public School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. An aurora
2. A croissant, and empty coffee cup and a full glass of water.
3. Delicious or tasty