

Chocolate shortage at Easter; Social media ban for u14s; Bluey's off to a wedding; and it's our 1,000th episode!

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

THE LOWDOWN

Now here's a story that will send shivers down the spine of every listener with an internet connection ... with news out of the United States that laws are being considered to ban anyone under the age of 14 from accessing social media.

Dum-dum-dum!!!

I know - dramatic, eh? So that's no TikTok or Insta or Facebook or Snapchat .. can you even imagine?

According to the governor of Florida, who is pushing for the new law, many of these social media platforms can sometimes be harmful to young, developing brains - incorporating algorithms and technology that aren't always in the best interest of kids.

It's a perfect excuse for us to drag Squiz-E the Newshound up to this end of the podcast this week (SQUIZ-E SOUND EFFECT)

And as per usual, Squiz-E says its a good reminder that kids always have to STOP, THINK and CHECK before believing everything they see, read or hear on the internet - especially on social media, where things called misinformation and disinformation are unfortunately everywhere.

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Speaking of news that will send shivers down your spine this week - the price of chocolate has gone up in the lead up to Easter.

Did you know that chocolate comes from the cacao tree - and therefore the world's chocolate supply is reliant on those trees growing healthily and happily in different countries of the world - including in the West African countries of the Ivory Coast and Ghana - and because they've had a rough season for cacao tree growing - it means there is less cacao seeds to go around, meaning less chocolate, meaning prices go up. It's economics and supply chains, innit?

But don't worry ... I reckon the Easter Bunny stockpiles his chocolate eggs months and months in advance - and you'll still be able to stuff your faces on Sunday ...

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 Canada ... where another shortage of sweet stuff is sending shivers down the world's spine.

What's with all these shortages?

This time, it's maple syrup - which Canada produces for pretty much the whole world.

Get this: there's a huge warehouse in Canada that has thousands of barrels of maple syrup stored in it which is sent around the world to show up on your supermarket shelf - and eventually all over your pancakes. But right now - the number of barrels in the warehouse is at it's lowest point in eight years - again due in part to a lacklustre harvest. Lacklustre is a fancy word meaning not very good.

Maple syrup, chocolate - what's next? A shortage of lollies? I don't think I'd cope.

POP CULTURE CORNER

The countdown is officially on for this year's big Bluey event - as this week the trailer dropped for the upcoming extra-long, special episode called 'The Sign'.

The 28 minute episode will feature a wedding - and everyone's favourite family of Blue Heelers kicking up their heels as only they know how. In the trailer, Bluey even describes it as 'the best day of my life'. I've stuck a link to it in today's episode notes.

And while the extra long episode won't air until Sunday April 14 .. you'll only have to wait until Sunday April 7 for another new regular length episode to drop - called 'Ghostbasket' which will see Bluey and her sister Bingo revisiting their roles as much-loved Grannies Janet and Rita. Brilliant.

HAPPY 1000th EPISODE

Four years ago and 1,000 episodes ago, I sat down with a microphone and a laptop and produced the first ever episode of the podcast you are listening to today.

I'm proud to say Squiz Kids is now listened to by over 160,000 kids and their families every day right around the country including in some 5,000 classrooms every day - and also overseas. And a shout out to all our listeners in other countries - because I know there are a heap of you.

Never in my wildest dreams did I think we'd still be here - four years later - and going from strength to strength. So this is a big thank you from all of us here at Squiz Kids to all of our loyal listeners - and here's to the next 1000 episodes. Now excuse me while I go and have a long lie down ...

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Easter / School Holiday Programming

On the subject of going and having a lie down – just a bit housekeeping to let you all know that we're following the Queensland school holidays this year, meaning this will be our last daily news podcast before a short break.

But don't panic! We're not about to send you off into the Easter School Holiday break without filling your ears with excellent content ..

Starting with the first of three Bumper School Holiday Kids v Adults S'Quizzes tomorrow ... ten questions for adults, ten questions for kids.

Tomorrow's will be a quiz about Easter traditions - and if you haven't listened to our Shortcut on Easter that dropped on Tuesday - wrap your ears around it first to give yourself an advantage.

Next Friday Christie will have a Bumper Quiz on Great Women in History, and the following Friday, I'll be back with a Bumper Quiz on Sea Creatures.

Each one is perfect for those long Easter road trips, or for hanging out at home.

Throughout the Easter holiday period we'll also have Shortcuts and Squiz The Worlds - because we know a lot of you will still be at school. Such is the dog's breakfast that is the Easter School Holiday schedule around the country this year.

To ensure you don't miss a thing, make sure you've subscribed to Squiz Kids in your favourite podcasting app and all the content will magically appear.

And a reminder that we have a heap of cool holiday quizzes in our back catalogue, as well as a bunch of super excellent Shortcuts on everything from the Marvel Cinematic Universe to Rollercoasters and Ice Cream.

Now, for our friends in the ACT, NSW, SA, or Tassie, it looks like your holiday adventures will start a bit later this year, but don't worry, we'll be right here when you get back - with the daily news pod returning on Monday April 14.

And finally: if you happen to have a birthday in the between now and April 14 - you'll find your birthday shout out in the Bumper Quiz that drops the week of your birthday. Because we don't want anyone missing out.

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 of the tree that produces chocolate?
2. In which country is most of the world's maple syrup produced?
3. What are the names of the two Grannies that Bluey and Bingo play?

SHOUT OUTS

It's March 28 ... today is the end of Lent ... yippee if you've been observing it ... and it's also Lady Gaga's birthday ... are those two things related? I'll let you be the judge.

It's also a very special day for Fred from Newtown - who is celebrating a birthday today.

Belated shout outs go to... Jacob from Yorketown, Divya from Holsworthy and Ben and Mephanthet from Echuca.

Classroom shoutouts today go to... class 4MA and Mrs Ahn at St Francis Xavier Primary School in Montmorency, class 5/6 Kangaroos with Mrs Houghton at South Wagga Public School, class 5T with Miss Wotton at Thomas Hassall Anglican College in Middleton Grange, class 6B with Mrs Taylor at St Luke's Anglican School in Bundaberg, year 3 with Mrs. Bowler at Salisbury Heights Primary School in Adelaide, class 4G with Mrs Watson at St Matthew's Catholic School in Mudgee, Room 11 with Mr Gonnella at Hilton Primary School, class 7C with Miss Inward at Bathurst High School and classes 3-6 with Ms Peters at Otford Public School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Cacao
2. Canada
3. Janet and Rita