

Bluey's big adventure breaks the internet; China's super-fast train; the sharpest shooter in Super Netball; and iPads for parrots.

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm Bryce Corbett

It's Monday April 15th -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Bluey's big adventure breaks the internet; China's super-fast train; the sharpest shooter in Super Netball; and iPads for parrots.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Welcome back to Squiz Kids Today - hope you enjoyed your school holiday break as much as we did.

And what a weekend we just had in big news stories - from Bondi to Israel there was certainly a lot happening. Luckily - we also had Bluey to put it all in perspective, as everyone's favourite blue heeler treated the world her first ever 28 minute episode.

Now you might think you're too old for Bluey - but what you should know is that she is the most popular kids' show in the world right now - with her 150-odd episodes streamed last year for more than 20 billion minutes in the United States alone. That's billion with a 'b'.

She's seen in more than 60 countries - and yesterday morning, hundreds of thousands of Australians gathered around the TV screen to watch a special 28 minute episode called 'The Sign'.

In the weeks leading up to the ep, lots of people wondered what the sign referred to. Turns out, like so many things in Bluey's world, the sign meant a couple of things on a couple of different levels.

It was a 'For Sale' sign on the front of the Heeler's house in Brisbane as Bandit prepared to take a job in another city. But it was also about signs that aren't necessarily physical ones - which is to say not always words and pictures on posters - but lots of times things that happen in life, many of which are unexpected which might be taken as a sign. And how while we never really know what's around the corner, it's important to love the people around you and try not to worry too much.

Because, as Bluey's teacher says in the ep: "Everything will work out the way it's supposed to."

And for those worried that yesterday's episode meant the world-beating animated kid's series was drawing to a close - there was good news at the weekend - with the Brisbane-based producers of the show confirming would be back for another series. That means a whole new bunch of bum worms, games of keepy-uppy and tactical wees. Bring it on.

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 China - where a train that travels as fast as a plane has been unveiled.

The train is called a maglev train ... maglev is what's called a portemanteau - the blending of two words together. In this case: magnetic and levitating. Magnets you are probably familiar with. Levitating is a word that's used to describe something that hovers above the ground.

In the case of these flash new trains, the levitating is achieved by using enormous magnets .. as you know, opposite poles of magnets attract and make them stick together - whereas two of the same magnetic poles push away from each other - meaning the train sort of hovers above the track.

Once completed - which is still a few years away - these trains could travel up to 1000 kilometres per hour - which is faster than your average airplane.

CCC

Oh, and there goes the CCC, indicating that today's Classroom Companion worksheets are based on this story. Today's curriculum-aligned activities encourage students to become word detectives and investigate and discover the root words and the origins of words related to this cutting-edge technology. Teachers if you haven't used these worksheets before, today is a great day to start. And the best part? They're absolutely free. Check them out at our website, squizkids.com.au. And a big welcome to the hundreds of new teachers who signed up over the break. Good luck as you dive into Term 2!

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Are your parents always telling you to get off your screens? Well - you should listen to them - because parents know best. But you should also

point out to them that some scientists are beginning to think that ipads and other tablets might be good for parrots.

A group of researchers in the United States have been testing to see if simple ipad games are good for parrots that are kept as pets - to keep them entertained. And the results have been promising. But because birds don't have fingers and thumbs - they're using their beaks and tongues to touch the screen. Bird spit on the screen - not sure how I'd feel about that.

SPORT TIME

There was a HEAP of sport over the school holidays as the winter sports of AFL and NRL swung into action - and this weekend just gone it was the turn of Super Netball - as the women took to the court and showed how amazing they are.

None more so than the West Coast Fever's four time MVP Jhaniele Fowler. MVP stands for Most Valuable Player.

In the Fever's game against the Sunshine Coast Lightning on the weekend, the Jamaican goal shooter shot 65 one-pointer goals from 65 attempts .. helping her team to the highest victory ever in Super Netball history, with the Fever winning 82-62.

Imagine scoring every single time you shot at goal? Now that's impressive ...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Where in the world are hi-speed, magnetic trains being trialled?
2. How many one point goals did the West Coast Fever's goal shooter score in her team's victory over the Sunshine Coast Lightning?
3. What was the name of the special, 28 minute Bluey episode that hit the streaming services yesterday?

SHOUT OUTS

It's April 15th ... today is World Art Day ... a day right around the world to celebrate art and what an incredibly important role it plays in all our lives – whether you love drawing, painting, sculpting or creativity of any kind - this is your day - so celebrate it.

It's also a special day for the following Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Indigo from Hunters Hill, Charlotte from Mt Gravatt, Xavier from Gilberton, Samira and Ava from Newton, Diezal from Echuca, Cole from Earlston, Harley from Maitland, Oliver from Ringwood North, Amelie from Wollongong, Angus from Strathmere, Quinn from Mount Barker Summit, Jaiden from Sydney, Victoria from Broadbeach Waters, Harley from South Australia and Max from Queensland.

Belated shout outs go to... Sarah and Harley from Dee Why and Rufus from Dulwich Hill.

And a reminder to the Squiz Kids who celebrated a birthday over our recent break to check our Bumper Holiday Quiz Episodes for the week in which your birthday fell for your birthday shout out.

*QLD, VIC & WA back at school

Classroom shoutouts today go to... class 3 Green and Mrs Searle at All Saints Parish Primary School in Albany Creek, class 5A with Ms Davidson at Brisbane Adventist College, Room 4 with Miss Eiffler at Inglewood Primary School, class 5/6H with Mrs Harvison at Birkdale State School, class 6G with Ms O'Connor at Haileybury Rendall School in Darwin and lastly class 5B with Miss K at Moranbah East State School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. China
2. 65
3. The Sign

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or if you want a classroom shout out - drop us a line at squizkids@thesquiz.com.au or fill out the form on our website. Teachers: there's a form there too for you to fill out the birthdays of every kid in your class.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today - we'll be back tomorrow with an excellent Squiz The World - as we strap ourselves into the Super Fast Supersonic Squiz Kids Jetliner and pay a visit to Turkey ...

And remember: if you like what we do, tell your friends - or even better, chuck us a like or a five star review on Apple Podcasts or Spotify - it's really important to help us grow and continue to do what we do and be

able to make it available for free day after day. A small gesture from you that would be enormously appreciated by us.

In the meantime, get out there and have a most excellent day. Over and out.