

**Devil comet in Aussie skies; Olympics countdown begins;
Facebook fakers at it again; and Barbie's BBQ sauce.**

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 Thursday April 18

In Squiz Kids Today ...

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

THE LOWDOWN

If you like a little bit of star gazing - of staring up into the night's sky and being wowed by all the sparkling stars and planets - then this week is an excellent one for you with the appearance in the skies above us of a very special visitor.

It's called the Devil's Comet - because it looks like it has horns - and it only comes flying past us every 71 years.

A hunk of space rock, ice and dust measuring a whopping 17 kilometres in length will spend the next couple of weeks flying past planet Earth .. and in the meantime, as it streaks across the sky, way, way out in outer space, it will be burning bright - appearing as a blurry blob with a fuzzy white tail. The best time to look for it is just after sunset, and close to the western horizon .. of course, if you live in the country, where there is less light pollution than in the city - you'll have a better chance of seeing it. Experts reckon phone apps like Star Walk or Night's Sky will help you locate it.

And even though the name Devil's Comet sounds a bit menacing - there's nothing to worry about. The closest it will get to Earth as it swings by on its once-every-71 year fly by - is a staggering 231 million kilometres - which itself is one and half times further away than even the Sun is.

Happy comet hunting people!

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 Olympia - in Greece - where the Olympic flame has been lit and sent on its way to Paris for the upcoming Olympic Games.

Wait, what? Olympia? You mean there's a place actually called Olympia? Yes indeedy - and it's the ancient home of the Olympics - the place where the very first Olympic athletes took part in running races and wrestling and boxing and chariot racing 2,800 years ago. Obviously, the sports at the Olympics have changed heaps since then - this year there will even be breakdancing and skateboarding. But the Olympic traditions remain the same. Now that the flame is lit, there will be an Olympic torch relay held over the next 100 days - as people run with it through Europe and France and on into Paris for the Opening Ceremony on July 26. Let the games begin!

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

Hands up who loves a bit of barbecue sauce with their food? Is there anything yummiier than a big dollop of the brown stuff on a sausage on bread or a hamburger, or drizzled over hot chips? Well imagine if the brown stuff was pink. Yep - pink barbecue sauce. Because that's what's heading our way here in Australia as a special Barbie edition of barbecue sauce looks set to hit our shores. Just when you thought the Barbie and Ken effect had completely run its course - it's back - and invading a barbecue sauce bottle near you. It will be a limited edition run of pink barbecue sauce, in a pink bottle, of course - and the company that makes it promises it tastes just as good as the brown stuff. I think I'll be the judge of that ...

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Wednesday Squiz-E the Newshound pops his head into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet. And this week he's been super busy - with all the big news stories that have happened in Sydney this week. You've probably heard about the incident in the Bondi shopping centre last weekend, and maybe you saw news this week about trouble at a church in western Sydney. And while both stories are awful, the amount of misinformation and disinformation that popped up around them was off the charts. You see - unfortunately some people on social media use big, shocking news events like these to try to get people to think the way they do - and they don't mind telling lies on social media to sway people's opinions. Lots of incorrect information was shared on social media around the time of both events.

Lots of posts to social media telling lies which instead of calming people down, only served to make them more scared or angry or anxious. It's been an excellent week for us all to remember to always do as Squiz-E says, and that's to Stop, Think and Check before believing everything we see, read or hear on social media. Because pretty much anyone can say anything on social media without it needing to be true.

And teachers: if your class is not among the more than 2000 that have signed up to do Newshounds - our free, media literacy programme for primary school kids - get involved via 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. In which country is Olympia, ancient home of the Olympics?
2. How many years will it take for the Devil's Comet to return to our corner of the solar system?
3. What colour is the Barbie themed barbecue sauce?

SHOUT OUTS

It's April 18th ... today is International Jugglers' Day ... so if you think you're pretty handy at juggling, today is your day to shine ... it's also National High Five Day in the United States - so give someone some skin today ..

It's also a special day for the following Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today...

Jude and Samson from Cobbitty, Alveera from Oran Park, Eloise and Mitchell from Duncraig, Archie from Marrickville, Audrey from Canberra, Penelope from Dunkeld and Jason listening over in New Zealand.

Belated shout outs go to... Maxwell from Ormiston and Hayden from Bray Park.

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.

*only QLD, VIC & WA back at school

Classroom shoutouts today go to schools in Qld, Vic and WA who are the only ones back ... class 5/6MV with Ms Marranza and Miss Viacelli at St Mark's Catholic Primary School in Dingley and Classes 4AH and

4MA with Mrs Hibbert and Mrs Ahn at St Francis Xavier Primary School in Montmorency and a big thankyou to Mrs Hibbert who is helping us test the new Newshounds website which will be launched later this year..

If you're a school in Qld, Vic or WA and want to leap frog the Classroom Shoutout queue while the rest of the country is on holidays, then now's your chance .. for this week and next week only, send your Classroom Shoutout request to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au and we'll sneak it up the list ... Just don't tell the rest of the country ...

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Greece
2. 71
3. Pink