

Volcano erupts, 12,000 evacuated; Zebras on the run in Seattle; big weekend of AFL derbies; and the fake Scottish railway.

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 May 2

In Squiz Kids Today ... Volcano erupts, 12,000 evacuated; Zebras on the run in Seattle; big weekend of AFL derbies; and the fake Scottish railway.

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

THE LOWDOWN

It's a rumbly ol' place this planet of ours ... if you've ever done science at school, you might have seen one of those diagrams of planet Earth showing how, beneath the surface and at the planet's very centre is a staggeringly hot inner core - from which, occasionally, molten rock and lava and gases spew up onto the surface via volcanoes.

Which is what happened in Indonesia two days ago - where a famous volcano there erupted spectacularly, forcing the evacuation of some 12,000 locals.

Video from the eruption shows lava shooting up into the sky, and - curiously - lightning strikes inside the crater of the volcano. It looks like something from the final scene of Avengers: End Game - and yes, I've stuck a link to video of it in today's episode notes.

The eruption was so huge there were concerns that a tsunami may be triggered by volcanic rock crashing into the ocean around the volcano. Can you even imagine that?

Happily, there were no reports of either a tsunami or any injuries - as luckily, scientists had been watching the volcano carefully in the weeks before it's eruption and were able to predict it.

I've stuck a link in today's episode notes to a diagram showing a cross section of planet Earth - as well as a link to one of the most popular Squiz Kids Shortcuts we've ever made - on Volcanoes and Earthquakes - explaining how and why they happen. Don't mention it ...

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 Seattle, on the west coast of the United States - where four zebras escaped the trailer they were travelling in and started running all over a small town.

Locals couldn't believe their eyes when the zebras came trotting down the main street of the small town of North Bend - past a cafe filled with people having lunch - and on into people's backyards.

A couple of rodeo experts swung into action to help round up the escapees, who included a baby zebra distressed to be separated from its mum.

I just hope they had the good sense when they were crossing the road to use the zebra crossing (DAD JOKE ALARM) ... oops, I knew that would set off the dad joke alarm ...

SPORT TIME

If you're a lover of sport, you've probably heard the expression 'local derby' used by commentators before.

It's a phrase used to describe a sporting contest in which both teams come from the same city or part of a city. And that's exactly what's happening in the AFL this weekend with no fewer than four local derbies leaving fans salivating in anticipation.

First up will be South Australia's local derby, when Port Adelaide takes on Adelaide. Then tomorrow night, it will be Victoria's turn with long-time rivals - and Melbourne neighbours - Carlton and Collingwood going head to head. Before Saturday's local derby in NSW sees the two Sydney teams, the Swans and the Giants tackle one another. Rounding it all out on Sunday with a Queensland local derby when the Brisbane Lions take on the Gold Coast Suns ... because there's nothing like a bit of neighbourly competition ... may the best teams win.

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday, Squiz-E the Newshound pops into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet ... and this week, his nose is twitching after stumbling upon an incredible Facebook post showing a photo of a train on a track clinging to a cliff face.

It's an incredible photo - and I've stuck a link to it in today's episode notes.

The caption on the post suggested it was a new train line in Scotland - and the photo looked so real that more than 49,000 people shared it with

their own Facebook friends - meaning many hundreds of thousands of people would have seen it.

Except that it was a fake. No such train line exists. And fact checkers soon established that the photo had been created by AI - or artificial intelligence. But not until after almost 50,000 people thought it was real. And there's a good chance someone you know - maybe one of the adults in your life - was among the people who fell for the fake. Which is why you need to tell them do as Squiz-E always says: and that's to Stop, Think and Check before believing everything you see online.

And also why more than 2,000 classrooms around the country have signed up to do Newashounds - our free media literacy course for primary school kids. Which we're excited to say is undergoing improvements - and a new, more streamlined version will be rolled out soon ..

Check it all out at squizkids.com.au

CHALMERS Q+A (from end of pod)

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A little bit of housekeeping - now that you're all back in the classroom. Remember when I asked you to send in questions for a Squiz Kids Q+A with Treasurer Jim Chalmers? Well loads of you did - and we're excited to say that the podcast will be dropping next Tuesday - as the Treasurer prepares to deliver the Federal Budget. What's his favourite music? Why are his toenails painted? And is it nerve wracking making decisions on how to spend the country's money? All will be revealed. Keep your ears peeled for the special Q+A in this channel next Tuesday.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In which nearby country has a volcano erupted this week?
2. How many zebras escaped from the trailer in which they were being transported?
3. Name one of the four local derby AFL matches we talked about in today's podcast .. (Adelaide/Port Adelaide; Collingwood/Carlton; Swans/Giants; Lions/Suns)

SHOUT OUTS

It's May 2nd ... whip out your wands and throw on your invisibility cloaks, friends, for today is International Harry Potter Day ... a special

day to celebrate the wonderful, magical world of Hogwarts created by author JK Rowling ...

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

Samar from Geebung, Henry from Willunga, Jake from Gulgong and Aaron and Isabelle from Vermont South.

A belated shout out goes to... Hugh from Northmead

Classroom shoutouts today go to... class 3F with Ms Fulton at Epping West Public School, class 6 Red with Mr Lawler at Mater Dei Primary Catholic Primary School in Wagga Wagga, class Sea 3 with Ms Gandaputra at Chatswood Public School, class 2/3 Yellow with Miss Caroso at Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary in Greystanes, class 5/6S with Mr Sidoni at Wollongong West Public, class 3/4D with Ms Dahl at Shoal Bay Public School and lastly to homeschoolers Jethro & Zoë, from the Bungadoo region near Bundaberg.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Indonesia
2. Four
3. Adelaide/Port Adelaide; Collingwood/Carlton; Swans/Giants; Lions/Suns