

PM declares war on social media; Aussie scientist on Greenland trek; Mustering cattle with a drone; and the alligator that came to school.

Hello Squiz Kids listeners -

Just jumping into your ears at the top of this week's podcast to ask a small favour.

We're in renovation mode at Squiz Kids - overhauling our website, improving the Newshounds experience - and we want to hear from you on how we could improve the podcast too.

To that end: I'd really appreciate it if you could fill out the Squiz Kids Survey - I've stuck a link in the episode notes - or you can access it via the website, squizkids.com.au.

A few minutes of your time will mean the world to us here at Squiz Kids - and make it easier for us to keep on doing what we do. Thanks in advance ...

INTRO

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 May 20 ...

In Squiz Kids Today ... PM declares war on social media; Aussie scientist on Greenland trek; Mustering cattle with a drone; and the alligator that came to school.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has declared war on social media, yesterday saying parents all over the country are worried sick about what their kids have access to online.

The PM was speaking about plans to launch of a new trial requiring kids to prove they are old enough to access social media platforms and other inappropriate content online.

The technology, called 'age verification' will aim to keep kids off social media until their brains are well-enough developed to properly understand the things they might see on there.

We talked a lot about this last week - after the South Australian premier said his state was exploring banning under 14 year olds from social media. And we talk a lot about this every week in Newshounds - our free media literacy program for primary school kids - teaching them to Stop. Think and Check whenever they are online.

The Minister in the federal government who is responsible for rolling out the trial - and addressing concerns of parents and teachers everywhere - is Michelle Rowland - who came to see Newshounds in action in a classroom in her electorate - and agreed educating kids about online harm was an important part of the solution.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister told reporters that how kids are being impacted by inappropriate content they come across online is the number one topic of conversation among parents as they stand on the sidelines of football, netball and school sports right around the country.

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 Greenland ... which is cool, because we almost never land there. And by the way: fun fact: despite being called Greenland, 80 percent of the country is ice ... so - you know - not all that green, as it turns out.

Why are we there? Because an Aussie scientist from the Sunshine Coast in Queensland is part of a team of explorers on a 560km trek to the top of the Greenland ice cap, gathering important information as they go about something called snow density.

Why are they testing to see how dense - or thick -the snow is? Because satellite images - which means photos taken from space - have been suggesting the enormous sheet of ice that covers Greenland has been shrinking - so the scientists - being curious Georges that they are and wanting to make sure their data is as accurate as possible - have strapped on skis and spend freezing nights in flimsy tents and are pulling great big sleds behind them full of their food and shelter - just so they can get accurate data. Squiz Kids Salutes you all ...

CCC CLARION

There goes the Classroom Companion Clarion!
Every Monday, our resident Primary School teacher Christie creates

some fantastic, differentiated, literacy-based Classroom Worksheets linked to a story from the podcast. This week, the worksheets are all about this story.

Grab your stopwatches and see how long you can speak on some thought-provoking questions based on the story. Then, improve your writing by exploring synonyms and antonyms, focusing on words with both positive and negative meanings. It's going to be a blast!

Visit squizkids.com.au to access these worksheets. And teachers: thanks to our new searchable database, if you're ever in need of a podcast on a specific topic or a worksheet for a particular literacy area, simply search the Classroom Companions database, there are hundreds there just waiting for you.

WEIRD SCIENCE

—

If you're one of our thousands of listeners who lives in the country - be it on a farm or in a rural town - you'd probably be familiar with mustering .. when farmers who run cattle or other livestock on their farms move them from one place to another.

For a really long time, it used to be done on horseback - with jackaroos and jillaroos mustering the animals. Then some farms traded horses for motorbikes - and even helicopters - as a way to get the animals to move in a herd.

Now more and more farms are going hi-tech and using drones - with the latest technology allowing drones controlled by someone sitting thousands of kilometres away to fly a squadron of drones which - amazingly - herds of cattle respond to.

There are even docking stations for the drones out on the farms - that the drones go back to automatically when they need to recharge. Just incredible.

Maybe there's hope of me becoming a jackaroo yet ...

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

You've heard of the tiger that came to tea? The hippo on the rooftop? But what about the alligator that came to school?

Because that's what faced a bunch of school kids in the US state of Florida last week when an absolutely HUGE alligator came up out of the swamp and started strolling along the same road that kids use to go to school.

I've stuck a link in today's episode notes of a photo of the alligator .. it's a whopper.

The massive reptile was captured by wildlife officers - which took some doing, a bit of a wrestle, and a whole lot of gaffer tape - before it was relocated ... a long, long way away from the school ...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What high tech device are farmers in outback Australia using to muster cattle?
2. In which US state has an alligator strolled past a school?
3. Which country is an Aussie scientist trekking across to gather snow data?

SHOUT OUTS

It's May 20th ... today is National Walk Safely To School Day - so make sure you stop at the kerb, look to the left and right when crossing streets today ... and every day for that matter ..

It's also a special day for the following Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... James from Prospect, Sofia from Middle Harbour, Indy from Sydney, Bailey from Dubbo, Tracey from Duncraig, Theodore from Inglewood, Blessing from Ipswich, Violet from Perth, Gabriela from Warrnambool, Mielah and Sammy from Cannon Hill, Conner and Lachlan from Leura, Emily from Rapid Bay, Annabel from Balwyn, Miya from Yankalila and Ollie from Coreen.

Belated shout outs go to... Ollie from The Gold Coast, Ethan from Franklin, Harriet from Essendon and Shanae from Dakabin.

Classroom shoutouts today go to... class 5T with Mrs Tennant and Mrs Kooper at Cherrybrook Public School, class 6A with Ms Ashlee at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School in Tarneit, class 6 Freeman with Mrs Dabinett at Parramatta East Public School, class 6C at South Ripley Primary School, class 6C with Ms Nearhos at Kelvin Grove State College, Room 22 with Ms Martin and Mrs Queiros at Wattle Grove Primary School, class 5/6 with Gillian at Yarraville West Primary School. And lastly this week, a huge shoutout the year 5 /6 class at Rapid Bay Primary School in South Australia and especially to Billy and Kole, who, with the help of their Principal, Jen, last week rescued a tiny kitten that had been dumped in a bin. After receiving lots of love from the staff and students the kitten was checked by a vet and has been adopted by one

of the staff who named it Bowser Lollipop. The boys had some great advice "If people have a kitten they don't want they should take them to a vet for the

RSPCA instead." Well said, Billy and Kole ...

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Drones
2. Florida
3. Greenland

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.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today - we'll be back again tomorrow with **STW Japan
In the meantime, get out there and have a most excellent day. Over and out.