

## **World's oldest astronaut; a finger war in Germany; Matildas star to miss the Olympics; and Bluey breaks the internet.**

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

I'm Christie Kijurina

It's Tuesday May 22 ...

In Squiz Kids Today ... World's oldest astronaut; a finger war in Germany; Matildas star to miss the Olympics; and Bluey breaks the internet.

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

### ***THE LOWDOWN***

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Do you ever get impatient when there's something you really want but can't have? Imagine how Ed Dwight felt! Who's Ed Dwight, I hear you ask?

Well, way back in 1961—63 years ago—Ed Dwight was a 28-year-old captain in the US Air Force. He was chosen by President John F. Kennedy as the first black man to attend the Aerospace Research Pilot School. Ed dreamed of becoming an astronaut, but when NASA picked their astronauts, Ed, sadly, wasn't chosen. He never got to go to space... until last Sunday!

On May 19, at 90 years and 253 days old, Ed Dwight finally made his dream come true with a ten-minute supersonic flight to the edge of space. This amazing event happened in West Texas, where Ed and five other crew members took off at 10:37 AM. They experienced a few minutes of weightlessness before returning to Earth. Talk about finally getting a lift in life!

*But wait, there's more! After retiring from the Air Force all those years ago, Ed became a world-famous sculptor. Some of his statues, depicting famous Black civil rights heroes, even went to space before he did. Plus, there's an asteroid named after him—talk about spacey!*

Ed thinks all politicians should take a trip to space to understand how we're all in this together on our little planet. He says it would help them see how silly racism is. They say good things come to those who wait,

and for Ed Dwight, a 90-year wait led to the most extraordinary journey of all.

## **SPIN THE GLOBE**

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Each day, we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops, and today we've landed in a beer tent, in Bernbeuren, Germany where a festival, celebrating the centuries-old sport of *fingerhakeln* is underway. Never heard of it?

Fingerhakeln is a form of finger wrestling, which might have started way back in the 14th century as a way to solve disputes between citizens and woodcutters—or maybe just to win free beer.

The competitors sit opposite each other at a table, each with a finger (usually the middle one) through a loop on either end of a strip of leather. When the referee yells “pull”, both competitors pull as hard as they can, until one pulls the other's finger over a line on their side of the table.

Sound fun? It is, but it can also be pretty dangerous. So, don't try it at home! These rounds, which generally last only a few seconds, can end in strained muscles, nosebleeds, and even dislocated fingers from all the stress and strain.

Best leave this to the professionals who train all year for the event. Hmm, I wonder what a finger gym looks like? Maybe it's full of tiny weights and itty-bitty treadmills!

## **SPORT TIME**

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From one centuries old sport to another, here's some news that might make you go "aww" and "hooray" all at once! Yesterday, it was announced that Aussie footballer Sam Kerr won't be joining the Australian Women's Soccer Team for the Olympics in Paris later this year. Bummer, right? You might remember that Sam injured her knee in January while training with her English club, Chelsea.

Even though her rehab is going well, Matildas' coach Tony Gustavsson said she sadly won't be ready to compete in September. But, there's

some good news too! Midfielders Katrina Gorry and Aivi Luik, who've been recovering from their own injuries, look like they'll be fit and ready to play in the Olympics. Hooray!

And if you can't wait until September to see some Matildas in action, you're in luck! This Friday at 7:30 PM at Marvel Stadium, you can catch Steph Catley, Caitlin Foord, and Kyra Cooney-Cross playing for their North London team, Arsenal, against the A-League All Stars. Plus, before that, at 4:30 PM, the Men's All-Star team will take on Newcastle United. Time to dig out your scarves and get ready to cheer!

## ***POP CULTURE CORNER***

Were you or your parents, or grandparents, one of the thousands of people who almost broke the internet at 2pm yesterday when tickets to the long-awaited Bluey's World in Brisbane went on sale? Fans of the beloved blue heeler rushed to grab their spots for this exciting event, causing a frenzy online.

If you've been living under a rock and don't know, Bluey World is an immersive experience where fans will be able to explore Bluey's life-size bedroom, kitchen, and backyard, complete with the shady Poinciana tree. From November 7 to April 27, visitors can dive into the world of Bluey, Bingo, Chilli, and Bandit, playing interactive games (I hope there's some magic xylophone) and discovering surprises around every corner. Just no ghost baskets please!

Even the Queensland Tourism Minister's excited, saying the event will bring over 200,000 visitors to Brisbane and inject \$18 million into the local economy.

That's a lot of people, I'd better have a tactical wee before I go.

## ***THE S'QUIZ***

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

1. How old, exactly, was Ed Dwight when he travelled to space at the weekend?
2. Which English team, will Steph Catley, Caitlin Foord, and Kyra Cooney-Cross be running out with against the A-League All Stars on Friday night in Melbourne?
3. What is the name of the tree that is a feature of Bluey's backyard?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

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It's May 22nd ... The day has finally arrived once again for National Simultaneous Storytime! Will you be one of the millions of Aussies or Kiwis listening today as your teacher or librarian read you Bowerbird Blues by Aura Parker? There's nothing better than a great picture book! Enjoy!

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

Gigi from Fitzroy North, Elaina from Brisbane, Corey from Frenchs Forest, Ariela from Kingsley, Lucca from Toorak, Amberley from Duncraig and Ajay from Melbourne,

Belated shout outs go to... Izaak from Gulgong, Hazel from Gladstone, Milena from Chinchilla and Jimboomba\* from Heathridge. *\*yes this is the name!*

Classroom shoutouts today go to... class N14 and Miss Williams at Eddystone Primary School, class 4R and Ms Robinson at Terrey Hills Public School, class 5B and Ms Gregg at Somerville House in South Brisbane, class 2SW with Mrs West at Tighes Hill Public School, class 5W with Mr Wells at Wirreanda Public School, class 6SB with Mrs Scullin and Mr Bell at Elanora Heights Public School, class 3/4R with Ms Russell at Nathalia Primary School and lastly a happy birthday to Mrs Brown at Pymble Ladies College in Sydney.

### **The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. 90 years, 253 days
2. Arsenal F.C.
3. Poinciana Tree

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](mailto: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 - Bryce will be back again tomorrow with Squiz Kids Today In the meantime, get out there and have a most excellent day. Over and out.