

Big wet watched from space; South Africa off to the polls; Here comes Garfield!; and Home Alone house hits the market.

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 30 ...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Big wet watched from space; South Africa off to the polls; Here comes Garfield!; and Home Alone house hits the market.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Whip out your wellies and crack out the brollies. It's going to be a wet weekend, as a 4000km band of cloud settles in over the entire country. Called a north-west cloud band -the massive weather system will dump rain everywhere from Kimberley in north of Western Australia, down to Tassie, with 80 percent of our big ol' country expected to cop a drenching.

Excellent for farmers, who love this sort of consistent rain to help grow their crops - and help break what's been a really dry autumn so far for many parts of the country - not so great for weekend sports playing - as anxious kids and parents all over the country nervously check their phones on Saturday morning to see whether footy, soccer, netball or cricket has been cancelled again.

The north-west cloud band is the first to arrive in Australia this year. And it comes as news arrives this week of a brand new cloud-surveying satellite taking to the skies above our heads - nicknamed the White Dragon.

The White Dragon satellite took off from Earth last week and is now in orbit 400 kilometres above our heads. Its job is to study clouds - and specifically, how different types of clouds help to cool the planet, and which ones tend to warm it up.

The satellite is called Earthcare - because the data it collects will help scientists better understand the impact clouds have on climate change. So very clever ...

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 South Africa - where the country today goes to the polls.

What does 'goes to the polls' mean? It means they are having an election - so the country's 27 million voters can decide who leads them. Kind of like your school captain elections - but on a much bigger scale. Why is this election so significant? Because it could see a change of government. For the past 30 years a party called the African National Congress has been in power. The ANC was led by a really important man in the history of South Africa - and indeed the world. A man called Nelson Mandela - and if you've never heard of him, let me give you the tip: he's worth researching.

POP CULTURE CORNER

Everyone's favourite lasagna-munching cat, Garfield, returns to the big screen today as the newest movie featuring the orange fuzz-ball hits cinemas. And this time, Guardians of the Galaxy and Jurassic Park actor, Chris Pratt provides the voice of Garfield. Rock on!

And speaking of cinemas: you've seen the movie Home Alone, right? When Kevin gets left at home by himself when his family go on a Christmas vacation, and he has to fight off robbers who are trying to break in? Well the house from the movie has gone on sale in the United States.

For a cool 6 million dollars, you could own the house .. which apparently has its own indoor basketball half court. Cool.

Six million bucks is a LOT of money - but what price can you put on a house where you can shoot hoops inside and presumably still sled down the inside stairs like Kevin did in Home Alone?

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his head into Squiz Kids HQ and reports back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet. And with no fewer than 64 elections taking place in countries all over the world this year - including in South Africa, as we heard in Spin The Globe - Squiz-E has been extra busy with a spike in disinformation. Now, if you've done Newshounds - our free media literacy program for primary school kids - you'd know that disinformation is information that is not true, but is nevertheless spread by people who want to cause trouble. It's especially common around the time of elections - where

people tell all sorts of lies and spread them on social media - to try to get their candidate elected.

Luckily, governments around the world are starting to do something called 'pre-bunking' - which is a fancy word for getting people used to the tricky methods used by fakers - to help them recognise fake information when they come across it.

It's like we learn in Session Three of Newshounds - and like Squiz E is telling us week after week. It's super important whenever we come across any information online - be it on YouTube or a news website or TikTok or Instagram - to Stop, Think and Check - before believing it to be true. Thanks Squiz-E - you've done it again!

Q+A Callout

Thanks to everyone who's sent in questions for our next Squiz Kids Q+A with the amazing Arisa Trew.

Arisa, as we've been mentioning all week, is one of Australia's most exciting up and coming sporting talents ...

As the world's number two female skateboarder at only 14 years old, she's currently hoping to make the Aussie Olympic team and skate for Australia in the upcoming Paris Olympics. How amazing would that be? But before any of that happens, she's kindly agreed to sit down and take the Squiz Kids hotseat and answer any questions you might have for her.

In 57 short days, the Olympics will be upon us. And, for the very first time in Olympic history, skateboarding will be an Olympic sport !

Did you know that she's the first female to do a 720 in competition?

That's two 360s! Which is frankly nuts. How does she juggle school and being a professional skateboarder? Who are her heroes and role models? And what would it mean for her to wear the green and gold in Paris?

So many questions ... but get cracking. You've only got until the end of today to get your questions in. Send 'em quicksticks to

squizkids@thesquiz.com.au

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What is the name of the important political figure in South Africa we talked about in Spin The Globe?

2. Name one of the two other film franchises that Garfield actor Chris Pratt has starred in.
3. The house from which popular kids movie has just gone on sale in the United States?

SHOUT OUTS

It's May 30th ... today is the International Day of The Potato ... I don't know about you, but i'm celebrating by eating a large fries ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... and because it's Reconciliation Week - we'll be using the traditional names of the towns from which our Shout Out-ees come from ... with a special shout out to all our First Nations listeners ...

Happy birthday to Nahuel from Cannon Hill (Turrbal and Jagera Country) , Emilia from Unanderra (Dharawal Country), Henry from Lorne (Gadubanud Country), Sonny from Cardiff South (Awabakal Country), Zane from Elanora (Kombumerri Country), Sienna from Kirrawee (Dharawal Country), Hudson from Dora Creek (Awabakal Country) , Ernest from Macquarie Park (Wallumedegal Country), Luka from Bayswater (Wurundjeri Country), Fenton from Runaway Bay (Juggera and Turrbal country) and also to his teacher, the awesome Ms Lesko - and to Alfie who's listening all the way across the ditch in Matakana, Aotearoa New Zealand.

Belated shout outs go to... Lilian from Ravenswood (not sure which state), May from Turramurra (Guringai Country) and Junta listening over in Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand.

Classroom shoutouts today go to... Ms Lazuk's class at Dakabin State High School, class 4V with Ms Volani at New Lambton South Public School in Newcastle, class 5/6L with Miss Lewis at Millfield Public School, room 419 with Miss Andrews at Langwarrin Park Primary School, class 3/4S and Mr Steggles at Northern Beaches Christian School, to all of the grade 6 students at Mont Albert Primary School and lastly class 4 Gold at Mount Carmel School in Yass a very happy birthday to Mrs Shepherd.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Nelson Mandela
2. Guardians of the Galaxy and Jurassic Park
3. Home Alone

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 our Kids v Adults Weekly News S'Quiz - where you get to test who's been paying the most attention to the week that just was...

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