

Panda diplomacy in Adelaide; Mars' snowy mountains; Elephants have names; and the fake Tassie Tiger.

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 June 13 ...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Panda diplomacy in Adelaide; Mars' snowy mountains; Elephants have names; and the fake Tassie Tiger.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Ok Adelaide - time to get the place ship shape. Tidy your rooms, Squiz Kids in the South Australian capital, make sure the playground and streets are free of litter and give yourselves a spit and a polish - there's a special guest coming to town. And he's making a bee-line for your pandas.

The fate of Adelaide Zoo's resident panda pair, Wang Wang and Fu Ni, is expected to be decided this weekend when the second most powerful man in China arrives there on a special visit.

Wang Wang and Fu Ni have been living at Adelaide Zoo for the last fifteen years - on loan from the Chinese government and as part of a program known as 'panda diplomacy'.

That's a fancy term for a program which sees China lend out its pandas to different countries as a sign of friendship.

Why is the visit of China's Premier, Li Qiang such a big deal? Because it's the first visit to Australia by a high-ranking Chinese leader in seven years - and a sign that the friendship between our country and China is going well.

And why is that a thing? Because China is our largest trading partner. Which is to say, China buys more stuff we make than any other country in the world.

And when we sell stuff, it's generally good for us. And there are 1.4 billion Chinese people - that's billion with a b - so that's lots of people who might be interested in stuff we make and sell.

If, as expected, Premier Li visits Adelaide Zoo on Saturday morning and announces the pandas are staying there, it will be considered a good sign - and not just for visitors to the zoo who want a dose of maximum panda cuteness.

Of course: our own Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has some serious things to raise with Premier Li - subjects on which we disagree. But everyone agrees

if the panda pair get to stay with us another five years, that's got to be a good thing.

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 Kenya - on the African savannah - where two herds of elephants have been calling each other by name.

Hang on a minute ... what? Elephants call each other by name? That's the findings from a scientific study which recorded the noises elephants make when in each other's company and used artificial intelligence to decipher them - discovering that elephants have names for one another, and that they respond when another elephant calls them by their elephant name.

And get this ... as to prove that elephants are more like humans than we thought, one of the most common forms of communication was adult elephants shouting out the names of their children ... sound familiar, anyone?

SPACED OUT

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Ok space lovers – prepared to have your mind blown just a little bit. New research has found that there are volcanoes on Mars which are three times taller than Mt Everest and have craters that are up to 100 times wider than any down here on Earth ... and that's not even the most amazing bit.

But new photos from the red planet have revealed that frost has been observed forming at the base of these craters, and around their rims. So why is that a big deal? Because as you know, ice is water that is frozen. And if there's water on Mars - then the chances of humans one day being able to live there increase dramatically.

Imagine skiing on the ice down a Martian volcano three times the height of Mt Everest? Now that would be a thing ...

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 his fake news radar has been on high alert this week after a series of Facebook posts and YouTube videos appeared claiming to show photos of a Tasmanian Tiger in the wild.

Tassie Tigers have been extinct for 87 years. Extinct means they no longer exist as a species. But every now and then someone in Tasmania reckons they've spotted one. And hey - maybe there are one or two still out there. But the photos that surfaced on YouTube and Facebook are fakes - experts in all things Tassie Tiger have looked at them and conclude that the fakers most likely used a dummy dog, and took the photos at night and purposefully made them fuzzy - and put them up on YouTube to try to trick people into believing they were real.

And that's the thing, as we discuss in our free media literacy program for primary school kids - Newshounds ... how its really important whenever we're online to Stop, Think and Check whenever we come across a piece of information or video or photo that we think might be fake.

Thanks Squiz-E! You've done it again!

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 were herds of elephants studied to discover they call each other by name?
2. How many times taller than Mt Everest is a newly discovered Martian volcano?
3. What are the names of the two pandas at Adelaide Zoo?

SHOUT OUTS

It's June 13 ... birthday of Aussie surf legend, Mick Fanning, Aussie country singing legend Slim Dusty and NRL player, Semi Radrada.

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

Annabel from Herberton, Ethan from Colabee, Hailey from Brisbane, Christian from Bonnyrigg and Scarlett from Terrey Hills.

Classroom shoutouts today go to... the Kindergarten class with Mrs Butler and the year 3 class with Ms Binotto & Ms Errichiello at St Paul's of the Cross Catholic School in Dulwich Hill, class 3B with Mrs Baker at Kruger State School in Ipswich, class 1/20 with Mrs O'Toole at St Bernard State School in Mount Tamborine,

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Kenya

2. Three times taller
3. Wang Wang and Fu Ni

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