

Kamala's big week; Ice-blocks for all in England; Mexico's' fake sea monster; and the world's oldest pole vaulter.

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, August 22 ...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Kamala's big week; Ice-blocks for all in England; Mexico's' fake sea monster; and the world's oldest pole vaulter.

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

THE LOWDOWN

You've probably heard the name Kamala Harris in the news these past few days. Well, expect to hear her name a whole lot more today as the US Vice President takes to the stage in front of a stadium full of supporters to be officially named as a candidate for the US Presidency.

Around lunch time today, the VP is expected to be confirmed as the Democratic candidate for the Presidency - taking on Donald Trump, the Republican candidate.

Democrat and Republican are simply the names of the two major political parties in the United States. And as we've discussed before on this podcast - it's a big deal for us here in Australia because the United States is such a big and influential country - who is voted in as President at the election in early November will impact our lives here - despite being many thousands of kilometres away.

Yesterday, the big meeting of Democrat supporters, called the Democratic National Convention, featured the first black man to become US President, Barack Obama - and his wife, Michelle - who were given a rock star reception. Which is to say the crowd went wild.

Expect equally wild scenes this afternoon when Kamala accepts the nomination along with her Vice Presidential running mate, a bloke called Tim Walz.

And then settle in for the spectacle as Harris and Trump race for the White House - which is the name of the official residence of the US President in the US capital, Washington DC. It's going to be a doozy ...

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 the United Kingdom - where a push is on to make eating ice blocks at school compulsory.

How good would that be? Education experts there want to see ice-block eating included in school lessons the same way reading, writing and maths are taught.

So why are they pushing for all British kids to eat ice blocks at school? Because they believe that giving kids ice-blocks is a great way to teach them the science of temperature - how liquids turn to solids and then back to liquids again.

exposure to simple science lessons.

Other real life experiences that these experts want kids exposed to include planting vegetables - to learn the basics of biology - and making bread, to understand some of the basics of chemistry.

Bread, veggies and ice blocks? Sounds like a school for the scrumptious ... where do i sign up?

SPORT TIME

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With the Paralympics only a week away - we're getting ourselves ready here at Squiz Kids HQ for a daily parade of astonishing sporting achievements ... which is why the news of a 68-year old pole vaulter caught our eye this morning.

Ingemar Stenmark from Sweden is no stranger to sporting greatness. In his day, he was one of the best alpine skiers in the world - alpine skiing is all of those crazy downhill skiing events that you see at the Winter Olympics.

Not content to rest on his laurels, the 68-year old Stenmark has decided to take up pole vaulting. As you do. And after setting up a flimsy cross-bar in his backyard and practicing using what appear to be long sticks of wood - see the video I've linked to in today's episode notes - Stenmark has just swept the pole vaulting pool at the world masters' athletics championships in Gothenburg - in his home country of Sweden - vaulting over a bar set at 3 metres. Because you're never too old to be awesome ..

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his snout into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the Internet - and this week, his eyes are wide and nostrils are flaring after stumbling on a photo of a sea monster from the depths of the oceans that has apparently washed up on a beach in Mexico.

Social media was full of photos of this enormous, bloated creature last week - with one person posting about it and then many thousands of others liking and sharing the image.

Except that it's a fake. No such sea creature exists. And what's more, nothing of the kind has recently washed up on a Mexican beach. Fact checking organisations - who are like the Internet's Detectives - managed to do a reverse Google Image search to reveal the photo is a fake. But that didn't stop thousands of people being tricked into thinking it's real.

It's an excellent reminder to always do as Squiz-E the Newshound tells us: and that's to Stop, Think and Check before believing everything we see on social media. Because unfortunately, there are people on social media every day who are trying to trick us.

And another reminder that if your classroom is not among the 2,600 around the country who have signed up to do Newshounds - Squiz Kids' very own, totally FREE media literacy program for primary school kids - teaching you how to recognise fake news when you come across it - then get your teacher to head to squizkids.com.au quicksticks and sign up. And remember ... when we come back next term - a new look Newshounds will be unveiled. Updated, streamlined, totally renovated and easier to use ... We're just a little bit excited ... (HOWL) .. and Squiz-E is too ..

BOOK WEEK PROMO

Woo Hoo! It's Book Week!

And that means getting dressed up as a character from your favourite book. Or whacking on a black cloak and a black wig and saying you're Harry Potter. We get it ..

Whether your Book Week costume is all sorts of awesome or all sorts of ordinary - we want to celebrate your efforts this week.

Share a photo of your outfit on your parent's Instagram - tag @squizkids or #squizkids - and we'll reshare them on our socials. And a shout out to all of the incredible costumes that have been sent in already... you guys are so clever!

We've got Allen + Unwin book packs up for grabs for the best and best attempts at Book Week costumes.

You can enter on your own, with your family, or even as a whole class. And teachers—there's a special prize for you too!

So don't just sit there - get involved!

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What's the name of the man who was America's first black president?
2. In which country did fake social media posts claim a mystery sea creature washed up?
3. How old is the champion Swedish alpine skier who's just transferred to pole vaulting?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, Aug 22 ... birthday of pop superstar, Dua Lipa ..

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... Keanan from Oran Park, Stella from Rochdale, Ashdyn from Bradbury, Harvey from West Albury, Andy

from Fannie Bay, Isabelle from Butler, Layla from Merredin, Maddison from Langwarrin, Jeremy from Thurgoona and Finn from Hurstville

A belated shoutout goes to... Alyssa from Harrington.

Today's classroom shoutouts go to... class 3M with Ms Ferguson at St Martin's Catholic Primary School, class 5 Green with Mrs O'Brien at Assisi Catholic College in Upper Coomera, class 3R with Miss Ross at John Palmer Public School in The Ponds, class 5/6M with Miss Scullin at West Port Public School in Port Macquarie, class 3/4H with Mrs Hill at Beelbangera Public School, class 1S with Mrs Swanson at Arden Anglican School and class 1A with Mr Aizawa at UA High School in Japan.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Barack Obama
2. Mexico
3. 68

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.