

TayTay joins Team Kamala; China's air-conned kids; Seagrass for seahorses; and the return of the Polynesian tree snail.

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, September 12...

In Squiz Kids Today... TayTay joins Team Kamala; China's air-conned kids; Seagrass for seahorses; and the return of the Polynesian tree snail.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Do you have school captain elections at your school? Do the kids running for school captain stand up at assembly and give a speech outlining what they will do if elected?

Well that's what happened in the United States yesterday, but on a much bigger and more important level.

It was the day that the two candidates running to become President of the United States - Kamala Harris and Donald Trump - pitched themselves to the American people in the first and only Presidential Debate of the US election campaign.

Both candidates used the opportunity to tell Americans why they think they are the best person to lead the country. Donald Trump has been President before, this is Kamala Harris' first shot at the top job.

Now you might think: I don't live in America - why is it important to me who runs that country? Because the US is what's called a 'super power' - one of a handful of countries in the world that have power and influence around the world, far beyond their borders.

For many, it was the first time they got to see Kamala Harris speak - and yesterday, most commentators were saying she won the debate, outsmarting, out-arguing and out-manoeuvring the former President Trump.

Taylor Swift certainly thought so. After remaining quiet on the topic of the upcoming election for months, Tay Tay posted to Instagram immediately following the debate that she would be voting for Kamala Harris.

Whether the Swifties do the same - and in sufficient numbers - to help sway the election in Harris' favour - well, we won't know that until Tuesday November 5.

Watch this space ...

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 China .. where school authorities have rejected calls for air-con in classrooms, saying extreme heat helps to make kids tough and work harder.

It's been an especially hot summer in China - with some teachers resorting to putting buckets of ice water in classrooms to try to cool them down. And while parents have been calling for the instalment of air conditioners, to help kids concentrate on their studies, some education authorities have responded by saying the heat is good for building kids' resilience.

What do you think? Do you work harder when it's hotter? Do modern conveniences like air conditioning help us to work better - or have they just made us softer? And how many kids around the world - and indeed Australia - go to school each day without the comfort of air conditioning?

Personally, I can't think straight when the mercury climbs over 35 ... though my kids would say I can't think straight pretty much any time at all ..

ANIMAL KINGDOM

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And it's a special conservation edition of Animal Kingdom today with good news from close to home and also far away.

Starting with the home news: and as we speak, divers are in the waters of Sydney Harbour planting grass in the seabed in an effort to lure sea horses back to the harbour.

The sea bed used to be filled with meadows of sea-grass, which provided a habitat for hundreds of different species. But pollution has gradually killed them off - which is why a big underwater gardening effort is underway.

Meanwhile, scientists in Scotland are preparing to return to the wilds of French Polynesia thousands of native snails after a breeding program to save them from extinction.

Partula snails - or Polynesian tree snails - were about to disappear off the face of the planet before a zoo in Scotland stepped in to collect the last remaining snails and breed them. Now their numbers are back in the tens of thousands - and a new batch is about to be released on the tropical islands of Tahiti and Moorea.

Which reminds me of a joke ... what do you call a snail who travels over seas? A snailor (DAD JOKE ALARM) Yeah ok, that was an especially bad dad joke.

Newshounds

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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 he's fresh from the US Presidential debate in America, where his nose is twitching over claims being made by Donald Trump and his running mate, JD Vance about people are eating pets.

The man who wants to become president again repeatedly mentioned in his debate performance yesterday that people's pets were being stolen from their backyards by hungry immigrants. Even though journalists were sent to investigate the claims and could find no evidence for them, even though the local police said they had never received any such reports - Trump nevertheless repeated the claims.

Claims which appear to have first been made in a Facebook post - without any evidence to back them up.

Silly Donald. He should do as Squiz-E the Newshound advises: and that's to Stop, Think and Check before believing everything he sees, reads or hears online. Because otherwise, we can accidentally spread rumours that aren't true. That's called misinformation - which we talk about a lot in Newshounds - our free media literacy program for primary school kids - now being completed by over 3,000 classrooms around the country.

And a reminder to any teachers doing the Newshounds program this term or wanting to keep any documents from the current Newshounds site to download them before Monday, September 23 because after that they'll no longer be available - because we're relaunching an updated version of Newshounds for the start of term 4.

If you have any questions or concerns about this feel free to send us a message at squizkids@thesquiz.com.au and we'll get right back to you.

AD STING

Mid-roll: Bounce (EB updated 12th Sept)

Do you have a kids' birthday party coming up? Or are you looking for an activity these holidays where you can leave all the planning to someone else? Then get yourself to your nearest BOUNCE venue - the indoor action adventure playground where kids parties are hassle free. Let the kids jump, climb and fly at BOUNCE with adventure challenges including the ninja course, cliff jump, dodgeball and the big bag... and the best bit? BOUNCE's parties are run by a dedicated host, meaning you can leave the supervising to someone else. Fun, safe, adrenaline-inducing physical activity... and not a screen in sight. Find your nearest BOUNCE and view their party options and packages by visiting bouncinc.com.au. And for Squiz Kids there is 10% during these school holidays, just use the code SQUIZKIDS10 when you book online, NICE! T&C's in the episode notes.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROMO:

(sound of seagulls on beach) Don't forget team: starting next week, we're in school holiday mode for a fortnight - meaning Bumper School Holiday Quizzes will drop on Mondays plus, every Tuesday to Friday, The Squiz Kids Daily Brain Teaser ... Christie will pose a riddle in this podcast feed at 7am, then post a clue to our socials around midday, then drop the answer in this podcast feed at 2.30 pm - so you can listen before you finish school for the day or just to keep your brain cogs turning if you're on holiday. And for those of you celebrating a birthday during our two week break in normal programming .. we'll be doing each week's SHOUT OUTS in the Bumper Quiz on the Monday of the week in which your birthday falls. Subscribe to Squiz Kids in your favourite podcast app to make sure you don't miss a thing.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which pop star threw her considerable weight behind US Presidential candidate Kamala Harris yesterday?
2. What is being planted in the Sydney Harbour seabed to lure seahorses back?
3. In which country are parents calling for air-con at school for their kids?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, Sept 12 ... today is R U Ok? Day - which is the perfect day to check in on your friends and family with a simple question to see how they are doing. Make sure you ask someone you love today, R U Ok?

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... Molly from Yass, Harrison from Pitt Town, Hunter from Grasmere, Lucy from Adelaide, Will from Bacchus Marsh and Ruby from Atwell.

Today's classroom shoutouts go to... Ms Seymours class at Poynter Primary School, class 2 with Mrs Couzens at Snowy Valleys School in Tumut, class 4R with Mrs Ledema at Redlands College, classes 3/4 with Ms Otto and 1/2 with Mr Haintz at Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School in Zuccoli, room 33 with Mrs Grieve at Salisbury Heights Primary School and lastly the students with Hannah and Mel at Bold Park Community School in Perth.

And a very special belated shoutout to Squiz Kids resident teacher extraordinaire Christie - who celebrated a birthday yesterday and forgot to give herself a shout out!

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Taylor Swift
2. Sea grass
3. China

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 the Kids v Adults Weekly News S'Quiz.

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