

A doughnut emergency; seven years in the saddle; a Blue Ghost on the Moon; and virtual dessert.

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 Wednesday, March 5

In Squiz Kids Today ... A doughnut emergency; seven years in the saddle; a Blue Ghost on the Moon; and virtual dessert.

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

THE LOWDOWN

History was made over the weekend as a private company successfully landed a spacecraft on the Moon without crashing or toppling over. The Blue Ghost lander, built by US company Firefly Aerospace, touched down successfully near an ancient volcanic formation on the Moon's northeastern side, landing within 100 metres of its target.

Three thousand, six hundred kilometres away, mission control, back in Texas erupted in cheers when the spacecraft sent back its first image—showing a rugged, crater-filled landscape. I've stuck a link to pictures (including a lunar sunrise) in the episode notes.

The lander, roughly the size of a hippopotamus, took off in January aboard a SpaceX rocket carrying a drill, a vacuum and other equipment for NASA, and has spent weeks travelling a 4.5 million-kilometre trajectory to the Moon. Over the next 14 days, it will run experiments on lunar soil, radiation, and even test whether global satellite navigation—like the GPS we use on Earth—could work on the Moon.

And, it won't be alone for long because another craft, 4-metre tall Athena, is due to touch down on the moon tomorrow... It's getting busy up there!

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Speaking of history-making events, South East Queenslanders have been busy battenning down the hatches as Tropical Cyclone Alfred swirls closer. The Category 2 system was expected to make a dramatic U-turn overnight, with meteorologists predicting it could cross the Queensland coast near Brisbane tomorrow night or early Friday morning. If that happens, it would be the first cyclone to hit the region in around 50 years!

Strong winds, heavy rain, and possible flooding are on the radar, so stay safe, Queenslanders! And mums and dads, remember, *If it's flooded, forget it!*

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... Oklahoma, USA, where one toddler has had an emergency—of the doughnut variety!

A little boy named Bennett picked up an old mobile phone and discovered that while it couldn't text, scroll, or play games—it *could* still dial the emergency services number in the USA, 911. And so, with an urgent mission in mind, he dialed up emergency services to request... doughnuts!

The adorable exchange went like this: when the dispatcher asked if it was really an emergency, Bennett confirmed—"Emergency doughnuts." And when asked if he'd share? A very firm "No, I'm not."

Luckily, the police saw the funny side. The next day, officers turned up at Bennett's house with a big box of doughnuts, making his dream come true.

It's a sweet reminder that some old phones can still call emergency services triple zero in Australia—so maybe keep them out of reach unless there's a *real* doughnut-level crisis!

And if you want to hear the super cute 911 call first-hand, I've popped a link in the episode notes!

BIGGEST, FURTHEST, LONGEST

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Most people considering a 30,000-kilometre journey would hop on a plane or jump in a car right? But not Australian Ben Hann and Canadian Olivia Cazes. They're doing it on horseback—and it could take seven years!

The pair's goal is to travel the entire Pan-American Highway, the world's longest road, traversing 14 countries and stretching from all the way from Argentina at the bottom of South America up to Alaska at the top left of North America.

The adventurers set off on February 2, with five horses carrying all their supplies, from food to bedding to tools for replacing horseshoes. Right now, they're covering 10 to 15 kilometres a day, but as they and the horses adjust to life on the road, they hope to hit 50 kilometres a day. No support crew, no backup—just them and their horses.

Luckily, they say the locals have been incredibly welcoming, proving that kindness knows no borders.

WEIRD SCIENCE

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Imagine tasting cake, lemonade, or fish soup—without actually eating them! Scientists at Ohio State University in the USA have created an artificial tongue that could one day bring taste to your virtual reality experience. Woah!

The system, called e-Taste, works by detecting the chemical makeup of a food and then recreating its flavour in a person's mouth using tiny pumps that squirt taste-filled gels under your tongue. So far, it can mimic salty, sweet, sour, bitter, and umami—the five basic tastes.

And it's going well. Testers were able to correctly identify foods like coffee, fried eggs, and cake over 80% of the time. But there's still a challenge - because taste isn't just about chemicals. Smell, colour, and texture also play a big role.

Still, if they can get this thing to perfectly recreate lemon meringue pie—sign me up!

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 spooky name of the lander that successfully touched down on the Moon this week?
2. We learned in Spin The Globe today that the Emergency Services number in the USA is 911. What is it in Australia?
3. How many continents does the Pan-American Highway pass through?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, March 5 ... Ash Wednesday for Christians around the world. Today marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of reflection and preparation leading up to Easter. So, if you see someone walking around with a cross smudged in ashes on their forehead today... that's what it's all about.

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

Billie from Patterson Lakes and Kobe from Brisbane.

Belated shoutouts go to... Alyssa from Frenchs Forest, Neviah, Jordan, Kotari and Lukah all from Ashmont, Millie, Lizzie and Audrey all from Indooroopilly and Nana (Nar-na) listening over in Tokyo, Japan.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... class 4 Blue with Mr de Burca and class 4G with Mr Hayes at McCauley Catholic Primary School in Rose Bay, the Year 4 Literacy Classes and their teachers at Pymble Ladies' College in Sydney, class 6 Blue at Our Lady of Fatima Primary School, Caringbah and 5KE with Miss Ellis at John Henry Primary School in Pakenham.

It's so nice to have you all listening.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Blue Ghost
2. Zero, zero, zero
3. Two... South and North America

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or, if you're after 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.