

A busy week for ballot boxes; Germany's finger fighting champs; A cricket kid hits big; and Pikachu's big problem.

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 1 -

In Squiz Kids Today ...A busy week for ballot boxes; Germany's finger fighting champs; A cricket kid hits big; and Pikachu's big problem.

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

THE LOWDOWN

If you've been anywhere near a TV, a billboard, or literally anywhere lately, you'll know Australia has a Federal Election coming up...but did you know, our friends in Canada have just wrapped theirs up?

Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal Party has won the election... again. That's their fourth win in a row. This time, they didn't win enough seats to rule alone, so they'll need help from other parties to make decisions and pass laws.

And just a little FYI—Canada's Liberal Party is more like Australia's Labor Party than our Liberal Party. Yep, politics can be weird like that.

Things got dramatic a few months back when U.S. President Donald Trump talked about annexing Canada—basically, trying to make it part of the United States, and introduced tariffs (those are taxes on products they sell to America). That didn't go down well with Canadian voters, and the Liberals surged ahead.

And get this: the leader of the Conservative Party, Pierre Poilievre, lost the seat he'd held for 20 years. Ouch.

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And now, it's our turn.

Australia's federal election is happening this Saturday. After months of ads, debates, and awkward baby cuddles, the big day is finally here.

Even though kids can't vote, lots of families will head out together to their local school or community centre to cast their vote.

And guess what? As of Tuesday, more 4 million grown-ups have already voted early—the biggest number of early voters ever in Australia!

If you're tagging along this weekend, keep your eyes peeled for something very special... the democracy sausage. And then, the only real debate is: onion or no onion?

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 Germany, where the Fingerhakeln Championships took place last weekend.

What on earth is that, I hear you ask?

Fingerhakeln—or finger wrestling—is a traditional sport in Germany and Austria. Over the weekend, around 180 competitors went head-to-head (or finger-to-finger!) for the title.

So how does it work? Two men sit on opposite sides of a table, hook their middle finger into a small leather loop, and when the referee gives the signal—they yank with all their might to pull the other across the table. The match lasts just seconds, and dislocated fingers are common.

All this while wearing traditional German outfits of short leather trousers and embroidered suspenders.

One official joked, “It looks worse than it really is... because there's blood.” Hmmm

You can check out the photos in today's episode notes...There's no blood. I promise.

SPORT TIME

When I was 14, I was just trying to pass PE without falling over, but at just 14 years of

age, Vaibhav Suryavanshi has smashed one of the fastest centuries ever in the IPL—that's the Indian Premier League, one of the world's biggest cricket comps.

Playing for the Rajasthan Royals, Vaibhav scored 100 runs off just 35 balls—the second-fastest century in the league's 18-year history. The pink-clad crowd in Jaipur cheered every boundary like it was the final of the World Cup.

Vaibhav's journey started on a cement pitch laid by his dad in the backyard of their farm in eastern India. At age seven, he was sent to a cricket academy three hours away. He was too small to run between wickets, but coaches saw his talent and local bowlers were brought in from nearby villages just to help him train because he kept wearing them out. His dad even fed them to keep them going, because, he said, "Vaibhav doesn't know when to stop batting!"

Now that's what you call commitment.

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 today, his nose is twitching because...

Well, because he's feeling bad for the world's most famous Pokémon, Pikachu, who's been caught up in a disinformation snowball.

Last month, a real video was shared online showing a protester in Turkey wearing an inflatable Pikachu costume—probably trying to grab attention.

But then? Things got weirder

AI-generated images of Pikachu running with riot police began popping up. One was even posted with the caption: "Pikachu amidst the ongoing protests in Turkey. This is real by the way." But it wasn't.

If you look closely, the clues are there: Pikachu's feet don't touch the ground, one helmet appears twice, and a police truck says "tolis" instead of "polis"—the Turkish word for police.

Other fake images from the Middle East showed Batman and The Joker in protest scenes, too. That's a long way from Gotham City!

Remember, Newshounds—always Stop, Think, and Check before you share anything you come across online.

Thanks Squiz-E, you've done it again.

PETITION:

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A quick message to the adults listening ... there's only five sleeps to go before the Federal Election - which means five sleeps to send a message to Canberra that you care about the amount of fake news, unsafe material and misinformation kids are being exposed to online. If you haven't already- jump on over to our website: squizkids.com.au to sign our petition and join the 11,000 others who have done so already - or if you're voting this week and you get button holed by a politician wanting your vote: tell them how important you think media literacy education is for our kids.

They deserve nothing less.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. How many times in a row has Canada's Liberal Party been elected?
2. Which IPL team does Vaibhav Suryavanshi play for?
3. Which two DC comic book characters have been used in AI DeepFake videos in the Middle East?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, May 1 ... World Password Day.. a great reminder to never share your passwords, not even with your bestie.... Your parents or carer are ok though. And, if your a big NRL Fan, The Women's State of Origin Series kicks off tonight!

Today is also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... Anabel from Oran Park, Ollie from Wahroonga and Aadhya from Kogarah.

A belated shoutout goes to... Oliver from Bundaberg.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... classes 6B and 6P with Ms Barker and Mrs Pedersen at Malanda State School, class 5 Honey with Miss Arabella at Banks Public School in St Clair, Diamond Class at Bullarah Public School and a happy belated birthday to their teacher Mrs Austin and lastly a shoutout to Elle and Soph who are travelling around Australia - currently in WA and homeschooling from their caravan which they have nicknamed "Maggie."

*Can we do a call out for classroom shoutout requests? Getting very low - but I can always go back to the start of the list. EB

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Four
2. Rajasthan Royals
3. Batman and The Joker

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 with the Kids vs Adults Weekly Quiz.

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