

Middle East tensions explained; Golden loo still missing; South Africa wins the cricket; and Sonic takes on Mario.

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 Monday June 16 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Middle East tensions explained; Golden loo still missing; South Africa wins the cricket; and Sonic takes on Mario.

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

THE LOWDOWN

You might have seen or heard a lot over the weekend about missiles being fired between the countries of Israel and Iran. World leaders across the globe are watching developments with a rising sense of worry - and because it's important to know what's going on in the world around you: here's what's going down.

Both countries are in a part of the world known as the Middle East. A part of the world where there have long been tensions between the nations situated there.

Israel and Iran have not been friends for a very long time. And on Friday, Israel launched a military attack on Iran - in an attempt to stop it from developing a nuclear bomb. Iran has hit back over the weekend with missile attacks of its own - and now people in both countries are on high alert. As indeed are countries all over the world looking on with concern about how it will all end.

But the important thing to note is: there's nothing for you to worry about. It's all happening a long, long way away and - unfortunately, flare ups like these between countries happen.

At Squiz Kids we're big believers in giving you the facts plain and simple - not to scare you or make you feel anxious about things - but just so you know what's happening in the big, sometimes crazy and very often complicated world around you.

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 a castle in England - where two men have been jailed for stealing a golden dunny.

You might remember we've talked about this daring loo heist in the podcast before. About six years ago - a toilet made entirely of gold was stolen from Blenheim Palace near the English town of Oxford. Dunny robbers broke into the palace and made off with golden loo - later breaking it down and selling it off. The golden bits of toilet have never been found.

Police eventually caught up with the men and late last week, a judge sent them both to prison.

But why was a fully-functioning toilet made of gold in the first place? It was the work of an artist, who was wanting to make a statement about wealth and consumerism - which is a fancy word for people's obsession with money and buying things.

The dunny was made of around about \$5m worth of 18 karat gold ... that's one pricey crapper.

SPORT TIME

So - who's the best Test cricket team in the world? That would be South Africa - after they beat Australia at the weekend in London in the final of the World Test Championship.

Australia went into the championships as favourites - having won the last WTC two years ago against India. And early in the weekend, it looked as if Australia would defend their number one test team standing ... but South Africa had other ideas.

Clawing their way back into contention and hitting the final runs to victory just before lunch time on Saturday in London.

South African batsman Aidan Markram set the tone with a remarkable knock of 136 runs - helping his team to win by 5 wickets - meaning the WTC trophy, also known as the Mace - now goes to South Africa until the next championship final in two years' time

A special moment for South African captain Temba Bah-vooma too ... as the first Black African captain of the national team. Congratulations Proteas ... well-played.

POP CULTURE CORNER

Look out Mario! Sonic's coming for you ...

The gaming world was all a-twitter yesterday with news that the new Sonic Racing game, Crossworlds - just might be the kart racing game to give Mario Kart a run for its money.

Crossworlds was released for review at the weekend with gaming experts giving it the two thumbs up - with one reviewer waxing lyrical about its "Bright, shiny tracks with vast and impressive scopes. Gadgets and gear that fling you ahead of the pack, or let you unleash devastation on your opponents. Even magical portals that suddenly fling you to the Jurassic era, or to an active volcano."

Sounds pretty impressive to me. Sonic Crossworlds is out in September.

Meanwhile - at the movies - and Toothless and Hiccup are proving an irresistible draw, with the live action How To Train Your Dragon doing massive numbers in ticket sales over the weekend - with cinema experts predicting it will become the biggest movie of the coming school holidays .. Cannot wait to see that one ...

And if you're a fan of all things dragon - make sure you tune in to tomorrow's Squiz Kids Shortcut on Dragons ... in honour of Toothless, Christie and I dive into the history, myth and legend of dragons – how, when and why they've been a part of the popular imagination across cultures and generations. From Smaug to Zog, Harry Potter to Shrek - we've been fascinated by them for centuries. The pod drops first thing tomorrow.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. By how many wickets did South Africa beat Australia in the World Test Championship?

2. Approximately how many millions of dollars worth of 18 karat gold was used to create an artist's golden dunny?
3. What's the name of the new Sonic Racing game, due out in September?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday June 16 ... today is National Vegemite Day ... a day to celebrate the black paste sandwich spread that you either love or hate. Me? Only on a hot piece of sourdough toast with lashings of butter ... mmmm

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Matteus from Albury, Lily from Louth Park, Oliver from Byford, Fred from the Northern Beaches in Sydney, Warren from Bradbury, Aiden from Exeter and Darran listening over in Hong Kong.

Belated shoutouts go to ... Emiliana from Box Hill South, Emilio and Cecilia listening over in Minnesota, USA and Grace listening in Dubai, UAE.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... Class 2M and Mrs McAlister at Eastwood Heights Public School, class 6 Blue and Mrs Glover at Mount Carmel School in Yass, grade 5/6 with Miss Ullman at Heritage College Knox in Ferntree Gully, class 6C with Mrs Crowe at St Peter Julian Eymard School in Mooroolbark, class 6K at Canberra Girls Grammar Junior School and a happy birthday to their teacher Mrs Khan and class 5W at Holy Spirit Primary School in Kurri Kurri and happy birthday also to their teacher Mrs Korsman.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. 5 wickets
2. \$5 million
3. Crossworlds

Otherwise ... 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 our brand new Squiz Kids Shortcut on Dragons ...

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