

**Oscar Piastri's sprint to history; Gaza crisis rallies the world; First Nations first in Canberra; and it's meteor shower time.**

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 Wednesday July 30 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Oscar Piastri's sprint to history; Gaza crisis rallies the world; First Nations first in Canberra; and it's meteor shower time.

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

***THE LOWDOWN***

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With his win in the Belgian Grand Prix at the weekend just gone, Melbourne-born Formula 1 driver, Oscar Piastri has equalled the record of some of the greatest Aussie racers in history - and is on track to achieve something no Aussie has done for 45 years.

And that is: win a Formula 1 Drivers' Championship.

And why is that? Well - it comes down to maths - as so many things in life do - and a thing you might have heard your teachers and parents talking about called probability.

Probability - like its name suggests - is the science of how likely, or probable, something is to happen - based on numbers.

With his win at the weekend in the Belgian Grand Prix, Oscar has now won five races in this year's Formula 1 season.

In the history of Formula 1, 26 different drivers have won at least five races in a season.

And in 69 percent of those instances, the driver has gone on to win the overall drivers championship - given to the driver who has the most points, generally from winning the most races.

So, even though there are 12 more races to go in the 2025 season, the kid from Melbourne is on track to take out the winner's trophy at the end of the year.

Which means he'll want to have his Grandad on hand. Because his Grandad was in the crowd of his race at the weekend in Belgium - the first time he'd been able to travel to see his grandson race in another country. Because we all know how special it is when your Grandad comes to watch you play your favourite sport.

## ***SPIN THE GLOBE***

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Each day, we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops .. and today we've landed in Gaza - a strip of land on the Mediterranean Sea, wedged between Egypt and Israel - where the eyes of the world are this week.

The two million people that call this place home are caught in the middle of a conflict between the country of Israel and an organisation called Hamas - who are bitter enemies.

The war between those two has caused untold suffering for the Palestinian people who live in Gaza - who rely on food being shipped in to them. In the past couple of weeks, that food has not been getting through - which, as you can imagine, is enormously worrying and extremely distressing for the mums and dads who live there and just want to put food on the table for their kids.

As you will have seen and heard on the news this week - countries of the world and aid agencies are working frantically to get food into Gaza to stave off the hunger - while the scramble continues to find a lasting peace in the region.

## ***SPACED OUT***

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Set your alarm clocks people and prepare to find yourselves a quiet place far from the bright lights of a big city as the annual Aquariids meteor shower takes place in the skies above our heads this week.

This is a meteor shower that takes place every year at this time, as our planet passes through a cloud of dust and rock particles left behind by a comet, called Halley's Comet.

Also known as a 'dirty outer space snowball' - comets are objects made of ice, dust and rock that orbit the Sun. Sometimes the path that the Earth takes in space crosses over with the debris left behind by comets - and hey presto! A free light show in the night skies!

And because the Moon is currently in a waning cycle - meaning it's hardly visible to the naked eye - it means it's a good time to catch shooting stars.

The only catch? To get a really good view: you need to be in someplace dark - like, away from city lights. And you need to be star gazing between the hours of midnight and 4am. In the middle of winter ... but then, hey! Often the best things in life is the stuff we have to work hardest for ..

## **SQUIZ KIDS SALUTES**

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And we round out today's news items with a Squiz Kid Salute to Northern Territory MP, Marion Scrymgour - who this week became the first Aboriginal person to chair the House of Representatives Chamber in our Federal Parliament in Canberra.

If you've ever seen video of our Federal polities, in a big room in Canberra full of greenish leather chairs - that's the House of Representatives ... full of people from all over Australia representing you and I - and making sure our voices are heard in the place where decisions are made about how our country is run.

And presiding over proceedings, in the big chair in the middle, is The Speaker - whose job it is to make sure everyone in Parliament behaves themselves and business gets done.

It's an important role in our democracy - and on Monday, Marion, from the Tiwi Islands, became the first First Nations politician to sit in the chair.

Afterwards she said Aboriginal people deserve to be in every chair, at every table - adding that she was one of 11 kids from a working class family in Darwin. ...

"Change happens,' Marion said: "It can be slow and it can be painful, but Aboriginal people are strong, we deserve to take our place in this country."

And don't forget: if you are keen to understand why our country is run from Canberra, and how our system of government works - check out our excellent four part podcast series, The Sensational World of Civics ... available now on the Squiz Kids podcast channel or via our website: [squizkids.com.au](http://squizkids.com.au)

## **MID-ROLL - BIG THREAT PROMO**

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A quick message now to the adults listening ... last year I was awarded a Churchill Fellowship - for the work we do here at Squiz Kids around media literacy - and specifically our program Newshounds, which teaches kids to think critically about the flood of information they're exposed to online every day.

I set off on my Churchill Fellowship in January - meeting up with some of the world's leading authorities on kids and media literacy - and those travels have now been made into a podcast series.

It's called The Big Threat - and it drops today on the Squiz's News Club channel.

Search for it wherever you get your podcasts.

## **THE S'QUIZ**

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

1. Which Australian city did Formula 1 racing champ Oscar Piastri grow up in?
2. What sort of a shower will be lighting up the night skies over Australia this week?
3. From which State or Territory does Federal MP Marion Scrymgeour call home?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

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It's Wednesday July 30 ... today is International Friendship Day ... celebrating the importance of friendship – so be sure to make sure your friends know how much you mean to them today ...

Today is also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today...

Tristan from Cannon Hill, Mosawir from North Parramatta, Lotus from Willoughby and Curtis from Casterton.

Belated shoutouts go to... Paxatoni from Lake Macquarie and Charley from Mount Riverview.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 4T with Mrs Stolz at St Peter's Lutheran College in Springfield, class 5S and Mr Shackcloth at Westside Christian College in Goodna, class 5/6T with Mr Meeson at Belmont Primary School and class 508 with Mr Emerson at Langwarrin Park Primary School.

### **The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. Melbourne
2. Meteor shower
3. Northern Territory

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](mailto: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.