

## **National Science Week kicks off; Belgium's ferret rat-busters; 12 year old surf champ; and the World's Ugliest Dog.**

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 August 11 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... National Science Week kicks off; Belgium's ferret rat-busters; 12 year old surf champ; and the World's Ugliest Dog.

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

### ***THE LOWDOWN***

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And we kick off the week with some science news - and a mystery that's unfolding in space ..

Right now, as we speak, a Japanese rocket ship is making a bee-line for a huge dark piece of rock, shaped like a cigar, that is hurtling in orbit around the Sun.

It's called a 'dark comet' - and it's thought that it may contain ice crystals - frozen water from another planet - which might in turn provide scientists here on Earth with another theory on how water came to be down here on our very own planet.

When the Japanese space ship catches up with the dark comet - in 2031 - it's hoped it will be able to grab some rock samples from it with which scientists can conduct experiments.

And the reason that's important - this week above all others - is because this week is National Science Week ... a week where we focus on the important role science plays in everything from keeping us healthy to explaining the universe.

And to mark National Science Week - Squiz Kids has a week's worth of science programming for you to jump into.

Starting tomorrow with an excellent Shortcut on the Stuff Science Got Wrong - we look at how it was once thought the Earth was flat, or that the Sun orbited the Earth (and not the other way around) and how a long time ago, doctors thought the way to cure a disease was to put leeches on you so they could suck out infected blood.

Which is to say: the great thing about science is that it gets stuff wrong - but importantly, it updates itself when new evidence emerges. Because sometimes admitting you were wrong is the smartest thing you can do.

So- if you're keen to get your science on this week - hop into the Episode notes where you'll find links to all of our science-oriented podcasts ... like Women in Science and our Shortcut to Pi and the fibonacci sequence - the mathematical formula that appears everywhere in nature.

Because Squiz Kids are science loving kids - so get amongst it.

## ***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 Belgium - where a crack team of ferrets may be let loose to try to contain a very stinky rat problem.

City officials in Brussels - the capital city - are considering sending ferrets out into the city's drains and alleyways to combat a rising rat population.

Ferrets, you see, are a natural predator of the brown rat. And the idea is, the ferrets would chase the rats into traps set by Brussel's rat catcher - and hopefully - rat problem solved.

Think of them as the furry Pied Pipers of modern-day Brussels .. where a local newspaper reports the number of brown rats has doubled in the past 10 years.

And look - I know you're thinking about Emil the rat from Ratatouille - but trust me, not all rats are that pleasant.

I'm with Team Ferret on this one.

## ***SPORT TIME***

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The waves are several metres high, the barrels breaking over the reefs of one of the world's most notorious surf breaks in Tahiti would make most adults prefer to stay on the beach - but 12 year old Kelia Mehani Gallina has not let any of that stop her - this weekend becoming the youngest ever competitor in the World Surf League championships.

Competing against surfers twice her age, Kelia turned in a surfing masterclass on Friday - helped by the fact she was surfing a break she's been surfing with her dad since she was four years old.

The world famous Teahupo'o surf break in Tahiti attracts the best surfers in the world. Kelia happens to live on a beach opposite the waves - and used that local knowledge to show off her surfing skills.

Finally, she was beaten in her heat by Aussie surfer, Molly Picklum - who's on track to win her first ever world surfing title after a blistering performance in Tahiti.

Kelia - you little legend - Squiz Kids Salutes you.

## ***ANIMAL KINGDOM***

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Speaking of world beaters ... we couldn't let today's podcast finish without pausing to celebrate this year's winner of the World's Ugliest Dog competition ...

The annual competition took place in California over the weekend and - as with previous years - the entrants in this particular beauty contest were as odd-looking as they were adorable.

Third place went to Poppy - a 6 year old Chinese crested - whose shock of wild white hair commanded the judge's attention.

Second place went to Jinny Lu the pug - with a tongue that is permanently hanging out.

And first place - a trophy and a \$5,000 cheque - went to Petunia - a 2 yo hairless, English French bulldog. Who, I have to say, is not the ugliest pooch i've seen.

But hey - beauty, as they say, is in the eye of the beholder.

I've stuck a couple of links in today's episode notes if you want to judge for yourself ..

## **BOOK WEEK CALL OUT**

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Woo hoo! Book Week is just around the corner!

If you're all about reading, or just love a good dress-up, then this is your moment.

This year's theme is "Book an Adventure"—so whether you're dressing up as a brave explorer, a time-travelling detective, or your favourite book character, we want to see it!

Our annual Book Week Costume Competition is back. We've got awesome book packs up for grabs for the most creative, clever, or hilarious costumes.

Here's how to enter:

Get your parent or teacher to take a photo of your costume and post it to Instagram, tagging @squizkids or using the hashtag #squizkids or email your photo to [squizkids@thesquiz.com.au](mailto:squizkids@thesquiz.com.au) - and we'll share it on our socials.

Make sure to tell us your name, age, the city or town you're from and which character you are dressed as.

You can enter on your own, with your family, or as a whole class.

And teachers—there's a special prize just for you, too!

Entries are open now and close at the end of Book Week on Friday, August 22—so get those hot glue guns going (with parental supervision, of course).

## **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. What national week is being celebrated this week?
2. In which Belgian city are ferrets being considered to solve a rat problem?
3. How old was the youngest women's surfer ever to grace the World Surf League championship heats in Tahiti this weekend?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

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It's Monday, August 11 ... today is Thor's birthday ... well, not exactly .. it's the birthday of Aussie actor, Chris Hemsworth, who plays Thor in the Marvel movies ... it's also the birthday of kids' author Enid Blyton ... famous for her Secret Seven, Famous Five and Magical Faraway Tree series - check 'em out.

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

Oliver from Mooroolbark, Lyra from Richmond, Quinn from the Gold Coast, Marcus from North Sydney, Henry from Randwick, Neve from Bardonia, Rachel from Sydney, Fletcher from Yass, Claire from Fernvale, Mathew and Archie from Fitzgibbon, Jacob from Kyle Bay, Flynn from Abbotsford, Elijah from Eglinton, Ned from Warriewood, Tommi from Armstrong Creek and Neve from Spring Hill

Belated shoutouts go to...Maya from Adelaide and Dakota from Lismore.

Classroom shout outs go to... class 3 Navy with Miss Brimfield at Santa Sophia Catholic College in Gables, class 3/4M with Miss McFarlane at Mount Riverview Primary School, 4-6A Magpies with Mrs Murphy at Albury North Public School and happy birthday to Mrs Bosley for yesterday.

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

1. National Science Week
2. Brussels
3. 12 years old

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 with our special, National Science Week-themed Shortcut on the Science That Was Wrong ...

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