

Recognising Palestine: what it means; Santa's cycling helpers; Meteorite buzzes Melbourne; and yee-haa it's rodeo 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 August 13 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Recognising Palestine: what it means; Santa's cycling helpers; Meteorite buzzes Melbourne; and yee-haa it's rodeo time.

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

THE LOWDOWN

You've probably heard a lot this week about a place called Palestine .. and specifically, the decision by our Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to recognise it as a state.

And there's a better than average chance you've wondered to yourself ... ummm ... what does that mean and why is it important?

Palestine, as we have talked about on the podcast before, is a region in the Middle East - made up of two places, called the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The people who live there are called Palestinians. But Palestine is not a country.

You see- seventy-seven years ago, in 1948, the country of Israel was created as a safe homeland for Jewish people after World War II, in which they suffered horrifically.

But at the time, the land was also home to Palestinians - and ever since, there has been tension, violence and wars over who controls what and who owns what and who can build homes where.

Many world leaders believe the best chance for peace in the region is via what's called a two-state solution ... which is to say, one country called Israel and one country called Palestine - living separately, but side by side. And in the past couple of weeks, countries

like France, the United Kingdom and Canada have all indicated they will recognise Palestine as a state ... and this week, Australia followed suit.

The hope is that, one day, children in both Israel and Palestine can grow up side by side, in peace and safety.

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, in a little town called St Nikolaus, where Santa's helpers are swapping sleighs for bicycles.

Right now, three postal workers are on a very special mission. They're riding their bikes nearly 3,000 kilometres, through Germany, Denmark, and Sweden, all the way to Santa's official home in Finland.

Why? Well, in some European countries, including Germany, it's Saint Nicholas who delivers presents on December 6, not December 25. But, in the little German town of St Nikolaus, the post office doesn't just get letters to Saint Nick, it also gets thousands of letters addressed to Santa Claus. And, to make sure Santa gets his mail, these postal elves are making the delivery in person.

It's a magical mix of Christmas spirit, kindness, and serious pedal power. And, it reminds me, with just 134 days til Christmas, I should get my wish list in soon, too.

SPACED OUT

What is going on in the skies above our heads?

First this week we had the news that folks in Victoria were swooped on Sunday night by a meteorite which lit up the night's sky and even created a sonic boom as it screeched through the Earth's atmosphere.

Social media lit up with photos and videos of the meteorite which was spotted everywhere from Ballarat to Bendigo and down in Melbourne. The space rock is believed to have been about the size of a watermelon. And scientists are now scrambling to try to find where it landed - because finding a rock from outer space down here on Earth is really exciting.

Which explains why scientists in the US are doing cartwheels after a meteorite fell to Earth there a couple of months ago - and crashed through a man's roof. The rock was

recovered - the man was not hurt - and yesterday scientists confirmed the meteorite was older than the Earth itself .. a piece of rock which is more than 4 and a half billion years ago ... that's billion with a b - and that's the sound of my brain exploding ...

SPORT TIME

Can I get a yee-haa and a ride 'em cowboy? And that's because right now in a place called Mt Isa, in the outback of Queensland, more than 700 cowboys and cowgirls - and thousands of enthusiastic spectators - have gathered for the Mt Isa Rodeo ..

We're talking steer wrestling and bull riding and team roping and something called barrel riding ... and there's even a competition for Young Rodeo contestants - where teenagers compete to see who can stay on the back of a bucking bull or bucking horse.

All with a safety helmet on of course ...

I think I'll just watch from the comfort of my living room, if you don't mind?

BOOK WEEK CALL OUT

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 - 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

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

1. In what country is the township of St Nikolaus?
2. How many billions years old was the meteorite that landed on a man's roof in the US?
3. In which Queensland outback town is a big rodeo taking place?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, August 13 ... it's International Left Handers Day !! At last! A day just for me and my goofy-handed brothers and sisters! Lefties of the world unite!

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

Laura from Oatley, Frank from Westleigh, Malia from Pymble and Imogen from Old Guildford.

A belated shoutout goes to... Jacob from Kyle Bay

Classroom shout outs go to... class 5/6C with Miss Lukong at Maitland Lutheran School, class 5/6T with Mr Meeson at Belmont Primary School, class 5M with Miss Jenkins at MacKillop Catholic College in Mount Peter and class 4Y with Mr Peng and class 1 Orange with Mrs Roberts and Mrs Terriceni both at Citipointe Christian College in Carindale.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Germany
2. 4.5 billion
3. Mt Isa

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.