

Project Mars has lift off; Bog snorkelling in Wales; Squiz-E meets the K-Pop Demon Hunters; and Tay Tay is getting married.

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 August 28 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Project Mars has lift off; Bog snorkelling in Wales; Squiz-E meets the K-Pop Demon Hunters; and Tay Tay is getting married.

THE LOWDOWN

Starships are meant to fly!! Hands up and touch the sky! ... ah yes, I'm in full Nikki Minaj mode this morning after a SpaceX rocket pulled off a remarkable feat yesterday, setting in place the next stepping stone as we march towards Mars.

Taken by itself, the fact that a SpaceX rocket lifted off, went into orbit around the Earth for a little bit, released a few satellites into the already very crowded airspace above our planet, and then burst back through our atmosphere to make a controlled landing in the ocean - might not sound all that noteworthy.

But here's the thing ... it was tenth test flight of the SpaceX rocket - with several of the other test flights failing pretty spectacularly. Because as we always say in this podcast: failure is a really important part of success.

And the fact that this test flight has worked means we are a step closer to building a permanent human base on the moon ... wow! AND it's also an important development in the quest to one day even send astronauts to Mars. Which is frankly wild ...

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 the United Kingdom — where our Welsh and English cousins have been displaying some totally weird behaviour.

First to Wales, where the World Bog Snorkelling Championships have just taken place. A bog is exactly what it sounds like ... a muddy, marshy, squelchy puddle of water. And this week - as with every year - brave souls show up wearing only goggles and flippers to see who can snorkel along a 110metre stretch of bog. No arms allowed, only kicking and flopping. I mean honestly, why?

And while we're in the UK - we should also mention the World Gravy Wrestling Championships which also took place this week. Now this is more like it! 1,500 litres of lovely warm gravy pumped into a wrestling ring for competitors to wrestle in. Most came in costumes - including Deadpool, Bumblebee and Minions - all left with gravy in parts of their body that gravy simply has no business being ...

And if you like the weird and the wonderful - you're going to love tomorrow's Squiz Kids Shortcut on the Guinness Book of World Records ... an annual compilation of the wacky things humans will do in the name of competition ... the Shortcut drops on this channel first thing in the morning ...

POP CULTURE CORNER

—

Break out the party poppers, prepare yourselves for months of wedding speculation - as the world yesterday woke to the exciting news that Taylor Swift and her football-playing beau Travis Kelce have announced their engagement.

Taking to Instagram to share the news with her 281 million followers, Taylor made the announcement with a series of beautiful photos of the couple surrounded by flowers, and the simple caption "Your English teacher and your gym teacher are getting married" - referring to her love of words and his love of sports.

Happy engagement Tay Tay and Travis ... just keep me posted on when you think the wedding will be, so I can clear the diary and keep an eye on the letterbox for an invite ...

NEWSHOUNDS

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Every Thursday Squiz-E the Newshound pops his snout into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet .. and today his snout is twitching on behalf of the K-Pop Demon Hunters ... after claims appeared on social media this week

that the music and singing and voices in the hugely popular animated film are all AI-generated.

Squiz-E took out his torch to shine a light on the truth, he pulled out his magnifying glass to examine the claims up close, and finally, whipped out his handcuffs - as the good Internet Detective Dog he is .. after doing some research and discovering the social media posts were examples of disinformation ... which is information that is made up by people who know it's untrue, but do it to trick us or cause confusion or damage someone's reputation.

As good Newshounds though - you lot to know always do as SquizE says: and that's to ... say it with me ... STOP. THINK and CHECK before believing everything we see online.

And a big whoop-de-woo while we're here ... as this week we've had over 5,000 teachers around Australia sign up to Newshounds - our free media literacy classroom resource for primary school kids ... if your teacher is yet among them - get them to set up a free account at squizkids.com.au

BOOK WEEK

Drum roll please (DRUM ROLL) because it's time to announce the winners of this year's Squiz Kids Book Week Costume Competition (KIDS CHEER).

And can I just say first of all that it was SO hard to judge the winners - because every single one of the costumes you guys dreamed up were SOO good.

But here are the winners of the Book Packs ...

- Magnus from Subiaco as Turbo Toilet from 'Captain Underpants'
- Elwyn from Kew as the Treehouse from '13-Storey Treehouse Series'
- Jordi from Coogee as Dogman from 'The Dogman' Series
- Aidan from Bonython as Wizz from "Do Not Open This Book,"
- Edith from Subiaco as Burp from "Fart and Burp are Superstinkers,"

A special prize also to Jay, Issy and Toby as the Porcupine from "I Need A Hug", the Queen of Hearts from 'Alice in Wonderland' and Giraffe from 'Giraffes Can't Dance' - a book pack is heading your way for your school in Walcha.

The winner of this year's Best Dressed Teacher Prize are the teachers at Livingstone Primary School, in Melbourne. Bravo teachers! And a book pack is making its way to you too.

And finally - highly Commended prizes of a Squiz Kids cap and a key ring go to:

Finn as George from "I Survived the Sinking of the Titanic"

Evie from Brisbane as Stickman, from "Stickman,"

Hugo from Randwick as the Pigeon from "Rock Pigeon,"

And Sadie from XXXX as Granny from "Gangster Granny."

We'll be in touch to get your prizes to you. And meanwhile: if you want to check out their excellent costumes - head on over to the Squiz Kids Instagram page.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. How many Instagram followers does Taylor Swift have? Is it a) 20m b) 200m or c) 281m?
2. What sort of teacher did Tay Tay liken herself too in her engagement Instagram post?
3. What brown liquid have wrestlers been flailing about in this week in England?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, August 28 ... tonight is AFL Awards Night .. where the All-Australian players will be named and the coaches will choose the season's MVP ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Tanner from Vermont, Luke from Chatswood, Levi from Tent Hill Lower, Marissa from Epping and Bayley listening over in Wareham, Massachusetts in the USA.

Classroom shout outs go to... class 5KG with Mrs Gallagher at Proserpine State School, class 5/6M with Mrs McDonald at Bundaberg West State School, class 2/3 Purple with

Mrs Ah Lam at Harrington Public School and class 2A with Miss Williams at Glen Waverley Primary School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. c) 281 million
2. English teacher
3. Gravy

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 end of week Kids v Adults Weekly News S'Quiz ...

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