

**Tears and cheers in Israel and Gaza; two fearless felines; baseball goes Bananas;
and Royal Conkers to the rescue.**

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today ... your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm Christie Kijurina

It's Wednesday, October 15 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Tears and cheers in Israel and Gaza; two fearless felines; baseball goes Bananas; and Royal Conkers to the rescue.

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

THE LOWDOWN

What's the sound of a whole country exhaling?

In Israel and Gaza on Monday night our time, families hugged loved ones they weren't sure they'd ever see again, after the final 20 living Israeli hostages and almost 2,000 Palestinian prisoners were freed as part of a new ceasefire deal. A ceasefire means the fighting pauses so people can move safely, aid can reach those who need it, and leaders can keep talking instead of shooting. It doesn't fix everything — but it gives people a moment to breathe, and to hope.

The ceasefire comes after more than 2 years of conflict between the country of Israel and the militant Palestinian organisation, Hamas.

The released hostages were taken to hospitals in Israel, while buses carrying freed Palestinian prisoners rolled into Gaza and the West Bank, where crowds cheered, waved flags, and reunited with family. But as the celebrations continued, many others were still searching through rubble, mourning loved ones, or trying to find food and shelter.

US President Donald Trump, who helped broker the deal, flew into Israel and declared, "the war is over." - His words. It's a bold statement — and one everyone's hoping might

come true. But for now, it's more of a wish than a promise. The ceasefire brings a precious pause, and maybe, a chance to end the conflict permanently.

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... England — where the World Conker Championships have crowned a brand-new King and Queen Conker-er

So, what on earth is a conker? It's a shiny brown nut — actually the seed of a horse chestnut tree — and for generations, kids in Britain have played a game called Conkers. You thread a shoelace through your conker, take turns swinging it at your opponent's, and the first one to smash wins. Think of it like handball meets marbles, but with flying nuts instead of balls or marbles.

This year's tournament almost didn't happen because a hot, dry summer meant there weren't enough conkers — until a royal rescue arrived from Windsor Castle. Organisers say a mystery helper sent over a batch of perfect, shiny chestnuts ... and like to imagine King Charles himself picked them.

Over 200 “Conquerors” battled it out in fancy dress, with Margaret Blake and Matt Cross crowned this year's champions. Long live the King — and Queen — of Conkers!

ANIMAL KINGDOM

My two black cats love nothing better than curling up in the sun... but it turns out there are others that like clocking up the kilometres.

First up today is Ray Ray, a fearless feline from the US town of Kittanning (true) ... who hitched a 160-kilometre ride on the roof of his family's van. His humans had packed up for a weekend away — but forgot to pack the cat! They only realised Ray Ray was along for the ride when they stopped for petrol and spotted him clinging to the luggage rack. His whiskers had been flapping in the wind at 110 kilometres an hour. Don't worry, though, he was totally fine and spent the rest of the trip safely inside a cat backpack, sightseeing his way around New York City.

Meanwhile, back in Australia, another adventurous moggy named Mango has become a bit of an outback legend. Living on a cattle station near Stonehenge in Queensland,

Mango rides shotgun on his owner's motorbike during musters, joins the working dogs, and has even helped lift the community's spirits after big floods earlier in the year.

Links to pics of both cats are in the episode notes.

Two cats, two wild rides! Honestly, I can't even get mine to hop in the car without a lot of angry meowing.

SPORT TIME

—

What's yellow, has 30 million social media followers, and choreographed dance routines?

Banana Ball!

Never heard of it? That, my friends, is about to change.

Banana Ball is a wild, high-energy version of baseball invented by a US team called the Savannah Bananas... on a mission to make the sport more a-peel-ing. [Mum Joke Buzzer] And I had been trying so hard not to set off the Mum Joke Buzzer today!

Instead of long, slow innings, there's a two-hour time limit, no bunting, no walking to first base, and if a fan in the crowd catches a foul ball — the batter is out! Players even bust out dance moves between plays.

The Bananas tour across America, playing to sold-out crowds with fireworks, music, and plenty of monkey business. They even played the Aussie Drop Bears a few years back. And if they ever swing our way again — I'm bringing the smoothies!

Q+A CALL OUT

—

Let's kick this school term off with a Squiz Kids Q+A with a difference.

Our next guest in the Q+A hotseat is a man called Milton Dick ... he's what is called the House Speaker in Federal Parliament in Canberra ..

He's the bloke you see on the TV news at night - sitting in the big chair in the middle of all those shouty politicians during Question Time - doing his best to make sure everyone plays nicely.

But here's the thing .. he's finding it harder and harder to get our politicians to play by the rules.

He's all for disagreement - but only if it's done in a respectful way.

And this is where he needs your help.

He's looking for new things to say to our Federal politicians to keep them in line. And he reckons there's no one better than Aussie kids to help him out.

Send in your suggestions of what Milton should say to our politicians when things get heated in the House of Reps. He'll choose the best ones and read them out in an upcoming session of Federal Parliament - and read out your name too!

It might be something your parents say to stop you fighting with your siblings, or something your teacher says to turn the classroom from chaos to calm ...

Send your suggestions via email to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In Spin the Globe today, which shiny brown seed do players use in the World Conkers Championships?
2. What's the name of the outback cat who rides a motorbike with his owner?
3. What Aussie team once played a game against the Savannah Bananas?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, October 15 ... World Students' Day... There's a day for Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Teachers and even dogs and cats.... Finally, a day for YOU! Happy World Students' Day people! I hope it comes with cake!!

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

Zoe and Tilly from Vermont South, Lana from Ivanhoe, Eliza from West Albury, Meredith from Keperra, Lucy from Ulverstone, Mackenzie from Naremburn and Ruby from Kurri Kurri.

And because lots of you had birthdays over the school holidays, and we don't want anyone to miss out— we'll be catching up on all the belated shoutouts this week including...

Finn from Clayfield, Thomas from Albany Creek, Aiya (pron i-ya) from Woodcroft, Maruva (pron Mar-oo-va) from Forest Lake, Skyla from Indooroopilly, Billie from Heathcote, Bryce from Wagga Wagga, Anayra from Glen Waverley, Cormac from Canning Vale, Clarissa from Devonport, Quill from Eden Hill, Anna from Karrinyup, David from Springvale, Gursirat (pron Goo-sear-rit) from Oran Park, Jesse from Adelaide, Margaret from Canberra, Zander from Eglington, Chloe from Springvale, Lorenz from Exeter, Frankie from Newtown, Josie from Arana Hills, Charlie from Strathkellar and Sam listening over in Tauranga, New Zealand,

Classroom shoutouts will resume next week.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Horse chestnuts — known as conkers.
2. Mango
3. The Aussie Drop Bears

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.

