

Zombies march in Mexico City; Scooter Bandits Steal Royal Bling; a rare deal between leaders; and a holiday from hospital.

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 22-

In Squiz Kids Today ... Zombies march in Mexico City; Scooter Bandits Steal Royal Bling; a rare deal between leaders; and a holiday from hospital.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Have you ever wondered what world leaders talk about when they meet up? Well, Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese sat down with US President Donald Trump earlier this week for their first official meeting.

And what was on the agenda? First up, the pair have signed a deal worth billions of dollars. It's all about rare earth elements. Those are the special metals inside things like phones, computers, and electric cars — and right now, most of them used in the USA come from China, but Australia has a big supply. So the new Australia-US partnership aims to make sure we can mine and share more of them ourselves.

The two leaders also confirmed that the big AUKUS submarine plan is still full steam ahead.

That's the project where Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom are teaming up to build a brand-new fleet of nuclear-powered submarines. And don't worry — “nuclear-powered” means the subs use nuclear energy as fuel so they can travel super-far and stay underwater for ages.

They won't carry nuclear bombs. They're just quieter, faster and cleaner to run than regular diesel subs — and they'll help Australia patrol and protect our oceans. Before heading home, Albo invited President Trump to visit Australia next year — Trump said he'd love to come, so watch this space.

Meanwhile, millions of people around the world — including plenty of kids — got an unexpected break from the screen yesterday when Amazon's web services crashed.

Sites like Roblox, Canva, Duolingo, and Fortnite all glitched or went offline for hours.

It wasn't a hack — just a tech hiccup — and everything's now back online . And it is a good reminder to hit "save" often... just in case the internet decides to have a little nap.

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 France, where a real-life heist just like in the movies has played out inside the world's most famous museum, the Louvre.

Early on Sunday morning in Paris, four thieves dressed as construction workers or tradies used a construction lift to reach a second-floor window, cut their way in with power tools, and broke open glass display cases. No guns, no violence — just speed and planning.

In under ten minutes, they snatched eight sparkling pieces of royal jewellery and zoomed off on scooters — the motorbike kind that zip through Paris traffic.

The Louvre is home to more than 35,000 artworks, including Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa. The stolen jewels once belonged to French royals like the Emperor Napoleon's wife, and police say their value is "incalculable."

France's national police are now on the case, scanning CCTV across the city to track the gang. One crown was even found dropped and damaged outside the museum — maybe proof that even the slickest movie-style heist doesn't always go perfectly to plan.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Hands up if you find it hard to sit still for more than a few minutes. Yep, same here. So imagine how tough it must be for kids and adults who have to spend days, weeks or even months — stuck in hospital beds.

After being in hospital himself, Aussie filmmaker Jonathon Sheldon was inspired to create a program called Holiday from Hospital. Bringing the outside world to patients using virtual reality headsets.

Patients pop on a headset and suddenly they're visiting the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Colosseum in Rome and now the ancient wilderness of the Kimberley in Australia's top end - all from their hospital bed.

Jonathon and his team film real 360-degree videos, giving people a moment of freedom and calm when they need it most.

A holiday without leaving your bed? Sign me up.

POP CULTURE CORNER

You can tell Halloween's creeping closer when zombies take over the streets... and giant floating pumpkins take over the waterways!

First to Mexico's capital, Mexico City, where thousands of people — some dressed as zombie nurses, others as chainsaw-wielding maniacs, and perhaps most terrifyingly, zombie clowns — shuffled through the streets for the annual Zombie Walk. Entire families joined in, covered in fake blood and spooky makeup, turning downtown into a scene from a horror movie.

Then to Oregon, in the United States, where competitors in full costume — from Shrek to a giant hotdog — climbed inside enormous, hollowed-out pumpkins and raced them across a lake in the Giant Pumpkin Regatta. The winner? A man dressed as Buddy the Elf, paddling a 400-kilogram pumpkin to victory.

Halloween's coming in hot — I need to get my costume ready!

Squiz Weekly Quiz Promo

Just before we dive into the S'Quiz today, adults If you want to put your news knowledge to the test, The Squiz - news for big people - have a brand new weekly quiz series over on their News Club Podcast Channel. There you can play along as the brightest minds in The Squiz office, as well as some exciting guest contestants, go head-to-head in a quiz

of the past week of news, led by Quizmaster extraordinaire, Andrew Williams. Head on over to the News Club channel and let us know if you beat our contestants. Happy quizzing...

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What special metals did Anthony Albanese and Donald Trump agree to work together on mining and sharing?
 - a) Gold and silver
 - b) Rare earth elements
 - c) Iron and coal
2. What were the jewel thieves dressed as when they robbed the Louvre?
3. In which capital city did thousands of people join the annual Zombie Walk?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, October 22 ... it's CAPS LOCK DAY... that doesn't give you permission to go shouting at everyone...OK?

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

Naomi from Vermont South, Chloe from Kurri Kurri, Henry from Castle Hill, Benji from Yass, Soham from Forest Lake and Lachlan from Wyee.

A belated shoutout goes to.. Sam from Wollongong

Classroom shoutouts go to... Classes 5TC and 5JV with Mr McKniff, Miss Lesich and Miss Vella at John Henry Primary School in Pakenham, class 3/4 Blue with Mrs Shafter at Holy Trinity Primary School in Wantirna South and the senior L class with Mr Lester at Anglesea Primary School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. b) Rare earth elements
2. Tradies or construction workers
3. Mexico City

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.