

The Social Media shake-up starts; a big win in the Sumo ring; a self-portrait smashes records; and Batman makes us kinder.

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, November 26 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... The Social Media shake-up starts; a big win in the Sumo ring; a self-portrait smashes records; and Batman makes us kinder.

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

THE LOWDOWN

We're pretty sure you'll be aware by this stage... but just in case: on December 10, the Australian Government will become the first in the world to ban kids under 16 from having social media accounts. The ban covers big platforms like Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat, plus the chat features in Roblox. And just last week, Twitch was added to the list. That's the site where gamers livestream and chat with viewers in real time.

Some Apps are getting ready for it now. Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook have all begun sending pop-ups, emails and texts to Aussie users they believe are under 16, warning them their accounts will soon be locked. Many will also get instructions on how to download their photos, chats and videos before the 10 December deadline.

And, parents and teachers, if you just look young and act young at heart but are actually over 16, you'll be asked to "verify your age", which might mean checking a passport, licence, or bank account, or taking a selfie that special software uses to estimate your age. If you really are 16 or older, passing the check keeps your account active. And, if you're under 16, verifying your real birthday means your account will unlock automatically the moment you turn 16, with everything right where you left it.

It's a huge change designed to keep kids safe, and the whole world is watching.

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 Japan, where a Ukrainian sumo wrestler has made history.

Sumo is one of Japan's oldest and most respected sports. Two huge wrestlers, called rikishi, face off in a circular ring, and the goal is simple: stay inside the ring and don't let anything except the soles of your feet touch the ground. It's a sport full of ceremony, tradition and incredible strength.

And this week, something remarkable happened. A 21-year-old Ukrainian wrestler, Danylo Yavhusishyn became the first person from his country to win one of Japan's elite sumo tournaments. Danylo fled Ukraine as a teenager in 2022 after Russia's full-scale invasion. Years earlier, he'd met a Japanese wrestler at a competition and kept in touch and after the invasion, he decided to move to Japan and pursue sumo full-time.

Over the weekend, after 15 days of matches in the Kyushu Grand Sumo Tournament, Danylo won the final bout against a top-ranked Mongolian wrestler.

Danylo says he hopes his victory gives encouragement to people back home in Ukraine. Great work Danylo!

POP CULTURE CORNER

Have you heard of an artist called Frida Kahlo? You might recognise her from colourful picture books or those striking self-portraits with flowers in her hair. Frida made history at the weekend, a whole 71 years after her death.

In case you're thinking, "Frida who?" She was a Mexican painter who faced some big challenges. When she was six, she caught polio, a virus that can weaken muscles, and it affected one leg for the rest of her life. Then, at 18, she survived a terrible bus crash that left her with serious injuries. While recovering in bed, she had a mirror fixed above her so she could paint self-portraits while lying down.

And now one of those works, a 1940 painting called *El sueño* (La cama), or "The Dream (The Bed)", has sold for \$55 million. The highest price ever paid for a painting by a female artist.

The artwork shows Frida asleep in her wooden bed under a golden blanket, with a skeleton holding flowers on the canopy above her, more Day of the Dead than scary, and curling vines adding to the dreaminess.

Frida was clever, creative and incredibly practical. You can't help but wonder what she'd think of her bedside painting selling for that much money.

WEIRD SCIENCE

Would you give up your seat on a train to someone who needed it more than you did? You're a Squiz Kid... of course you would. But that's not always what happens in real life. And that's why some clever researchers in Italy have been testing something they call... 'The Batman Effect'.

They wanted to see if an unexpected moment, like suddenly spotting Batman on your morning commute, could snap people out of autopilot and make them more generous. So they ran an experiment on the Milan subway. First, a woman who appeared to be pregnant got on the train. In this normal situation, just over one in three passengers offered her their seat.

Then they repeated the test, but this time, someone dressed as Batman strolled into the carriage. And suddenly, two out of three people gave up their seats.

The scientists say surprises help us pay attention and remember our values. Or maybe everyone just thought... "Quick! Batman's watching."

To quote Aunt May from Spiderman 2 - I believe there's a hero in all of us.

XMAS PROMO

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(sleigh bells) Can you hear that? That's the sound of Christmas fast approaching .. and we couldn't be more excited.

As we continue the countdown to the most magical time of the year - Squiz Kids is getting into the Christmas spirit.

As per Squiz Kids tradition, we've managed to convince Santa Claus himself to hop into the Squiz Kids Q+A hotseat again this year – answering ANY questions you might have for him. It's your chance to say hi to the big fella and ask him how he makes the magic of Christmas work - from reindeers, to elves, to toy workshops and sleighs. If you have a question you'd like Santa to answer - email it through to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au.

And because too much Christmas is never enough .. we're launching an Elf On The Shelf competition too ... Elves will be arriving in households around the country in the next

couple of weeks .. and we want to see what wacky places they find themselves in in the lead up to Christmas. Email photos of your Elf to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au and we'll share them on our socials .. and there'll be a prize for the weirdest and wackiest Elf hiding spot. Those crazy elves ..

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which livestream and chat platform used by gamers has been recently added to the Social Media Banned List?
2. True or false? If your hand touches the ground in a Sumo Wrestling match you lose.
3. How much did Frida Kahlo's painting *El sueño (La cama)* sell for?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, November 26... International Cake Day... need I say more?

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Remi from Forest Lake, Harrison from Fernvale, Tien from Springvale, Lucy from Howard Springs, Oscar from Erskineville, Zoran from Adelaide and Dilara from Pakenham.

Belated shoutouts go to... Leeane and Heshanya from Clayton, Ashling from Wagga Wagga and Francis from North Bondi, who is turning 11.. Wishing you a speedy recovery for your broken thumb, Francis!

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 1BS with Mr Stirling, class 5TQ with Ms Quinn, 5DH with Mr Ham and class 1BM with Miss Buck - all from John Henry Primary School in Pakenham and year 3 Hovell at Brighton Grammar School and birthday wishes to their teacher Mr Barker for yesterday.

Lastly a special shoutout goes to Year 5 with Ms Forgan from Karama School in Darwin we hope Cyclone Fina didn't shake you up too much... We're all thinking of you!

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Twitch
2. True
3. \$55 million

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.