

Mexico goes KPop crazy; The Demon goes down to Alcaraz; blazing bushfires to blasting blizzards; and Aussie kids make a movie

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, January 28 -

In Squiz Kids Today ...Mexico goes KPop crazy; The Demon goes down to Alcaraz; blazing bushfires to blasting blizzards; and Aussie kids make a movie

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

THE LOWDOWN

With kids heading back to classrooms across much of Australia this week, we really hope your school has air conditioning, because it is hot out there.

Large parts of South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and the ACT are in the middle of a heatwave. A heatwave is when the weather stays much hotter than usual for several days in a row, even overnight, which makes it hard for our bodies to cool down. In South Australia, the town of Ceduna had its hottest day ever, reaching 49.5 degrees Celsius, or more than 121 degrees Fahrenheit. That's hot enough to fry an egg on the footpath. While in Victoria, the extreme heat has increased bushfire danger, with fires burning and some communities told to get ready, in case they need to leave their homes quickly.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, in the United States, millions of people are dealing with the opposite problem. A blast of icy Arctic air has brought snow, ice and freezing cold, knocking out power in some places and forcing families to shelter in warming centres.

Whether it's scorching heat or freezing cold, our thoughts are with families who've had to leave their homes, and with emergency workers who are working around the clock to keep people safe.

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And finally, as is tradition on January 26, the Australian of the Year for 2026 has been announced, with this year's honour going to Katherine Bennell-Pegg. She's made history as Australia's first astronaut fully qualified under the Australian flag.

I was lucky enough to speak with Katherine last year, and that interview was republished on Monday. If you'd like to hear it and find out how you go to the toilet in space, as well as other fascinating stuff, you can find it by scrolling back a couple of episodes in the podcast feed.

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 Mexico, where the Mexican President may have found a unique way to appeal to younger voters.

Mexico's president, Claudia Sheinbaum, has done something many K-Pop fans could only dream of. She's officially written to the president of South Korea to ask for help arranging more concerts by K-pop superstars BTS in Mexico.

Why? Because demand is huge. President Sheinbaum says around one million young people want tickets, but there are only about 150,000 seats available. That's a lot of fans refreshing ticket websites and practising their dance moves at home.

BTS are preparing for a major world tour later this year, alongside their first new album launch in three years, after taking time out for South Korea's compulsory military service.

It might sound unusual, but it shows just how powerful music can be... when even presidents are stepping in to help fans get to a concert.

SPORT TIME

The Aussie summer of cricket has barely wrapped up, with the Perth Scorchers winning the Big Bash final, and tennis has stepped straight in to keep the nation's nightly sport habit alive.

The Australian Open is now at the pointy end, where every match feels tense and just a little bit nerve-wracking. And last night, it didn't get much bigger for Aussie fans, with our very own Demon, Alex de Minaur, taking on 22-year-old Spanish superstar and world number one Carlos Alcaraz.

The top seed (which means the highest-ranked) was just too strong for Di Minaur and won in straight sets in what was still a hard-fought victory.

Elsewhere, Novak Djokovic and Jannik Sinner are still in the hunt as the men's draw narrows to the final four, while in the women's competition, stars like Coco Gauff lost to Ukrainian Elina Svitolina to head into the semis.

The women's final will be played Saturday night, with the men's final on Sunday night, wrapping up two scorching weeks of tennis in Melbourne.

Plenty still to play for... and another few days of late nights for the tennis fans in your life.

POP CULTURE CORNER

Our last story today proves that imagination isn't just something you have... It's something you can build.

A new Australian film called *Imagine* hit cinemas around the country on Australia Day, and it all began during COVID, when a group of young Indigenous students were asked to imagine the future they want to live in.

The film weaves together bold ideas about fairness, education and opportunity, and a bright, animated visual style that brings those thoughts to life. Through the Indigenous mentoring organisation AIME, kids didn't just talk about their ideas, they worked alongside filmmakers, artists and big-name creatives to turn those ideas into a real movie.

One of those collaborators was Taika Waititi, the director behind favourites like *Thor: Ragnarok* and *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*. Instead of just giving advice, Taika and other creatives listened, shared skills, and helped young people tell their own stories on their own terms.

The message is loud and clear: when kids are given tools, trust and opportunity, they don't just imagine the future... they start creating it.

I've stuck a link to the trailer in the episode notes.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What temperature did it reach in Ceduna on the weekend?
2. Which country's president asked South Korea for more BTS concerts?
3. What is the nickname of Aussie tennis star Alex de Minaur?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, January 28, International LEGO... or *LAY-go*, depending on where you're from... Day!

Did you know there are more LEGO minifigures on Earth than there are people? That means if they all came to life at once, humans would be seriously outnumbered. Nightmare!

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

Noah from Oran Park, Thea from West Albury and Zach from Kuraby.

If you had a birthday over the Christmas break, your shoutout was featured in the weekly Quizzes released each Friday during the holidays. For anyone who missed the cut-off, don't worry — we'll be sharing your belated holiday shoutouts in this week's episodes... starting with...

Belated shoutouts to... Myla from Perth, Adam from Glen Waverley, Harrison from Sandringham, Adele from Melbourne, Quinn from Duncraig, Luke H from Wantirna, Harper from Walkerville, Seb from Wolloowin, Olivia from Randwick, Josie from Mudgee and Isla Grace from Kallangur.

Classroom shoutouts will resume next week! Teachers, send us your class details now so we can give your students a shoutout on the podcast.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. 49.5 degrees Celcius... more than 121 degrees Fahrenheit
2. Mexico's President
3. The Demon

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.