

Family saved from paddleboard peril; a spectacular sporting sorry; floofy pups chase Best in Show; and Germany's Spudpocalypse

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, February 4 -

In Squiz Kids Today ...Family saved from paddleboard peril; a spectacular sporting sorry; floofy pups chase Best in Show; and Germany's Spudpocalypse

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

THE LOWDOWN

We don't usually do a Squiz Kids Salutes at the top of the podcast, but after you hear this one, I think you'll agree it deserves it.

A family day on the water almost ended in disaster on Friday, saved by the determination of one 13-year-old. It happened in a small beachside community in Western Australia's south-west, not far from the town of Busselton.

A mum and her three kids were kayaking and paddleboarding in the ocean when conditions changed quickly. Strong winds pushed them further and further from shore, until paddling back was no longer possible. As things became more serious, the eldest child made a huge decision. The 13-year-old tried to kayak back to land to get help, but when his kayak began filling with water in rough seas, he was forced to abandon it.

Instead, he swam. For kilometres, and for four hours. Through choppy water. As the daylight faded.

Eventually, he reached shore and raised the alarm. That set off a major rescue involving marine rescue crews, water police and a rescue helicopter.

Around 8:30 that night, his mum, 12-year-old brother and 8-year-old sister were found almost 14 kilometres offshore, clinging to a paddleboard. Rescuers say lifejackets helped keep them afloat, and the teen's clear description of the gear helped teams locate them faster. They were all brought safely back to shore.

To the 13-year-old whose determination and courage brought help to his family when it mattered most, Squiz Kids salutes you!

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, for a volleyball match, and one of the most memorable apologies you'll ever see.

The moment happened at a volleyball all-star event in the city of Kobe. During a fun serving challenge, star player Yuji Nishida's (YOO-jee nee-SHEE-dah) powerful serve went off target, accidentally hitting a courtside judge on the back.

Ooof

Nishida froze. Then... he apologised. Not with words, but with action.

He launched himself into a long, dramatic slide across the court, head down, arms by his sides, like a torpedo... or as one commentator described it "a freshly landed tuna". But he wasn't done. He then got to his knees and kept bowing, again and again. And I think she accepted the apology, because the smiling judge bowed back to him.

In Japanese culture, apologies are a big deal. The most serious form is called *dogeza* (doh-GEH-zah), where someone kneels and bows all the way to the floor to show deep regret or respect, but this version took it to a whole new level.

Oh — and just quietly — he also helped his team win the match and was named MVP.

I've stuck a link to a video of this stunning display in the episode notes.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show is marking a major milestone this year — 150 years of dogs, judging, and very serious strutting. Never heard of it? Where have you been?

Around 2,500 dogs from 212 recognised breeds travel from across the United States and 18 other countries to compete in The Big Apple - New York City (not a literal big apple -

that's just a nickname for New York). Anyhoo..you won't spot any doodles there — because they're not an official breed — but mixed-breed dogs do feature in agility and flyball events, where speed and teamwork matter more than posing.

So how does it work? Dogs first compete against others of their own breed. Breed winners then move into one of seven groups — sporting, hound, working, terrier, toy, non-sporting and herding — before the group winners face off for Best in Show.

Some of the world's most popular pets have never won that final title, including Labradors and golden retrievers. This year's standouts include Comet the shih tzu, Neal the bichon frisé, Zaida the Afghan hound, and Baby Joe the miniature schnauzer (schnauzer - such a great word)— who all sound like they'd fit right in with Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy.

There's no prize money — just ribbons, trophies, and lifelong bragging rights.

I've popped a paw-some photo gallery link in the episode notes

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD

What's your favourite way to eat a potato? Chips? Mash? Roasties? A baked spud with everything on top?

Well, if you're in Germany right now, you could have all of those and more, for free.

Germany is in the middle of what locals are calling a Kartoffel-Flut (kar-TOF-el float) — which literally means potato flood. Farmers have produced their biggest potato crop in 25 years, and there are simply more spuds than people can eat.

So, farmers and volunteers have set up pop-up potato pick-up points across Berlin, inviting anyone to come and help themselves. Soup kitchens, schools, churches, homeless shelters — even the city zoo — have been loading up tonnes of potatoes that might otherwise go to landfill.

There are soooo many potatoes locals said they first thought that photos of them online were fake or AI-generated, but no, and they've been bringing people together to pick up their sacks of spuds, swap recipes, help each other carry sacks and turn mountains of potatoes into moments of warmth, cheer, and very full bellies.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What sport was Yuji Nishida playing when he hit a sideline judge with a ball?
2. What type of dog is Baby Joe... who's taking part in the Westminster Dog Show
3. What is the English translation of the German phrase Kartoffel-Flut (kar-TOF-el floop)...

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, February 4 ...World Read Aloud Day. Do you have a favourite book to read out loud? Mine's still The BFG — mostly for the phizz-whizzing words. If you can read, why not read aloud to someone younger today? And make sure you do the voices!

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today ... Gabby from Forest Lake, Erin from Vermont South and Benjamin from Springwood.

Belated shoutouts go to... Archer from Castlemaine, Evelyn from Rosanna, Oscar from Townsville and Kiowa from Ashmont.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 6A with Ms Sheppard at Gumdale State School in Cleveland, class 6A with Mrs McIver at Kallangur State School, class 5B with Ms Kane at The Willows State School in Townsville and class 2C with Ms Clark at Kellyville Primary School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Volleyball

2. miniature schnauzer
3. It literally means potato flood

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.