

Ramadan holy month begins; America honours a hero; the seabird who went to hospital; and helping your grandparents on YouTube.

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

I'm Bryce Corbett

It's Thursday, February 19 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Ramadan holy month begins; America honours a hero; the seabird who went to hospital; and helping your grandparents on YouTube.

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

THE LOWDOWN

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It's Ramadan friends - one of the most important times on the Muslim calendar - and everywhere around the world from now and for the next month or so, people of the Islamic faith will be fasting during the day and feasting during the night.

Sounds pretty cool, eh? Well - maybe not the fasting bit.

Do you know what I mean when I say fasting? It means not eating any food. Which is what many Muslims will be doing from sunrise to sunset for the next month.

Maybe you're one of those people observing Ramadan - which is a fancy way of saying taking part in the religious ceremony.

Maybe some of your classmates will be observing Ramadan.

It's not all that different when you think about it to Lent - which is a religious observance that many Christians follow. Lent is a period between Ash Wednesday - which was yesterday - and Easter when devout Christians give up something - it might be something they like to eat or something they like to do - as a sort of offering to God.

Same deal with Ramadan - where Muslims fast during the day as an offering to Allah - who is their God.

And this is what makes Australia so good ... lots of different religions with lots of different traditions and rituals - all living side by side one another in harmony. Difference, after all, is what makes us all interesting.

So what else happens during Ramadan? It's not just about fasting - it's also about praying and spending time with family and taking time out of our busy lives to help others in our community and work on being a good person.

"Ramadan Mubarak" to all our listeners of the Islamic faith ... and if you're keen to learn more about Islam - be sure to tune in to our From The Vault podcast this Sunday - where we dust off the Squiz Kids Shortcut to Islam ... it's a fantastic introduction to a religion that is practiced by some 2 billion people - or approximate a quarter of all humans on the planet .. so well worth a listen.

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops .. and speaking of celebrating tolerance - we've landed in the United States - where a famous pioneer of black rights has passed away.

The Reverend Jesse Jackson is his name - and he was an important figure in the US when it came to Black people and their fight for equal rights.

It may seem hard to believe- but it wasn't that long ago that Black people in parts of the United States were kept separate from white people - on buses, in shops, in swimming pools.

This is what is called racial discrimination - when you treat someone differently simply because of the colour of their skin. And sadly - it still happens a lot today, in all countries of the world.

Jesse Jackson was a warrior for Black rights in America - and the work he did in his lifetime paved the way for that country's first Black President, someone you might have heard of called Barack Obama.

Rest in Peace Reverend Jesse Jackson ...

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Here's a question for you this fine Thursday morning ... when humans are sick they go the doctor or local hospital. When birds are feeling poorly though - where do they go?

Well, in the curious case of a cormorant in Germany last week - the hospital seems to be the answer ..

Hospital workers in the town of Bremen were surprised to find a cormorant - which is a type of seabird - knocking on its glass door ...

On closer inspection, it turned out the poor animal had a fishing hook stuck in its beak - and had chosen - of all places - the local hospital as the place to get help.

Doctors removed the hook and set the bird free ... what a clever cormorant ...

Wonder if it had health insurance?

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his snout into Squiz Kids HQ to report back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet ... and this week, Squiz-E is most upset after coming across a YouTube video which has upset grandparents all over the country ...

The video makes all sorts of absurd claims .. including that the government is about to start testing grandparents on how well they can operate digital devices like phones and ipads - and ridiculous claims that new laws will be introduced to aged care homes and retirement communities banning excessive noise like laughing grandchildren.

Squiz-E did what all good Newshounds do .. and that was to STOP, THINK and CHECK ... stop before believing the video, think about who made it and why, and then check credible sources of information to see whether there's any truth to the claims.

And of course - there wasn't any truth. It's what is called DISINFORMATION ... information that's been made up intentionally to confuse or cause chaos.

But unfortunately, lots of people believe everything they see online - they haven't been trained to sniff out fakes and disinformation like Squiz-E.

It's a good reminder that as grandkids: you have an important role to play to help your grandparents sort out what's real and what's not online ... because bless them: they were raised to expect the best of people and not question everything they see.

There's an excellent grandkid-grandparent role playing exercise in Session 6 of Newshounds – our very own, very free digital literacy program for primary school kids.

If you - your child or your class - are not in the process of becoming Newshounds - then don't just sit there! Sign up for a free account quicksticks via the Squiz Kids website - www.squizkids.com.au Because we like to give For now ...

Q+A Callout

If you listened to the pod yesterday, you would have heard Christie announce our exciting next guest for a Squiz Kids Q+A = the podcast where you, the kids of Australia, get to ask the questions ...

And it's none other than science explainer extraordinaire, Dr Karl !

If you have a question you'd like Dr Karl to answer - be it a curly science question or something about the good doctor himself - email that question to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au and if we pick yours, we'll ask you to send us a voice recording.

OR head to the Squiz Kids website, follow the instructions carefully, and send us your voice recording directly.

But you've only got until Tuesday, March 3 to get your question in ...

So go on... what are you waiting for?

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What's the name of the famous Black rights activist who passed away in the United States yesterday?
2. What sort of a bird took itself to hospital to get a hook removed from its beak?
3. Name the holy month in the Muslim faith that kicked off yesterday?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, February 19... birthday of Stranger Things star - Mille Bobby Brown - the actress who plays 11 ... that's her character's name - not her age ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Paitlyn from Kurri Kurri, Yoeswary from Pakenham, Mike and Nate from Wagga Wagga, Charlie from Tarragindi, George from Gunning, Numayer from The Willows, and Sophia from Cherrybrook

Belated shoutouts go to... Henry and William from Banana.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Mrs Smith's class at Gladstone Public School, class 5S with Mr Shackcloth at Westside Christian College in Goodna, class 5/6 Senior Elliotts at Avoca State School in Bundaberg, class 5/6 with Mrs Hutt at Exeter Public School, class 2S with Miss Saleeb at Kogarah Public School and class 4C with Mr Alizzi at Our Lady of the Way Catholic Primary School in Petrie.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Jesse Jackson
2. Cormorant
3. Ramadan

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.