International Women's Day on the football pitch; Matildas draw with South Korea; Sweden's lolly Saturday; and news of a new XBox.

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 Monday, March 9

In Squiz Kids Today ... International Women's Day on the football pitch; Matildas draw with South Korea; Sweden's lolly Saturday; and news of a new XBox.

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

THE LOWDOWN

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Yesterday was International Women's Day ... which meant that all over the world yesterday, and at events that will take place throughout the week ahead, women will get together to celebrate the progress they've made in the pursuit of gender equality - and also to look at how far there still is to go.

What's gender equality? Put simply: it's the idea that men and women are equal. Which hopefully sounds like a no-brainer to you. Hopefully you look at your classroom or look at your friends, family, cousins - and think anything boys can do, girls can do just as well - and sometimes better.

But unfortunately that's not true in every country of the world. And sadly, it's not always true even here in Australia.

It's a lesson that's been thrown into sharp focus this weekend with the plight of the Iranian women's soccer team.

They're here in Australia at the moment - playing in the same pool as the Matildas - in the Women's Asian Cup. Now: that's remarkable for a bunch of reasons - not the least of which is that in their home country Iran, women are routinely discriminated against.

They need their husband's permission to travel or get a job, they must wear the hijab at all times or face punishment, they are limited in terms of education they can access.

So the fact that the Iranian women's team are here competing at all, is incredible.

But when the team refused to sing the Iranian anthem in their game against South Korea last week - it got them in trouble with authorities at home and now they are scared to go back. But also scared for their families at home if they don't go back.

Throughout this week you're going to hear talk of something called 'asylum' - which is where someone from another country tries to stay overseas because they fear for their safety if they go back home.

And you should stop and think about how lucky we are, in comparison, to not live with that sort of fear.

SPIN THE GLOBE

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Each day we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops .. and today we've landed in Sweden ... where a weekly visit to the lolly shop is being credited for the healthy teeth of the country's kids.

It's long been a tradition for kids to visit the sweets/lolly or candy shop - take your pick depending on which country you're in - every Saturday.

This once a week tradition means kids look forward to stuffing their faces with sugary treats every Saturday - but means they tend to avoid lollies throughout the week.

And now there's a theory that Swedish kids' teeth - which are among the healthiest in the world - is down to this regular lolly munching. Precisely because it's limited to once a week.

Am I saying candy is good for your teeth? Ahh - no - sorry. But like all red light foods, a little in moderation now and then is absolutely ok. It's the moderation bit that's important.

SPORT TIME

They pulled off a draw - finishing three all in their must-win pool match against South Korea last night - but it was only enough to see the Matildas finish second in their pool of the Womens' Asian Cup - meaning they now need to win every game going forward if they want a chance of winning it.

Defensive midfielder Alana Kennedy scored two of Australia's goals before a huge crowd in Sydney - and Sam Kerr kicked the third.

But South Korea had more points on the board overall to win Group A - meaning the Tillies now head to Perth for a quarter final against either North Korea or China.

Meanwhile, down in Melbourne - it was all about Team Mercedes when English Formula One racer George Russell won the Melbourne Grand Prix.

It was a one-two result for Mercedes with Russell's team mate Kimi Antonelli coming in second place.

IT was a race better forgotten for Australia's Oscar Piastri ... he crashed his car into a wall in a warm up lap before the actual race had even begun. Ooops-a-daisy.

<u>POP CULTURE CORNER</u>

Hands up if you're an X-Box fan? Yeah - I thought that might send a few hands into the air ... I don't really do video games myself, but I know they're hugely popular, with kids and adults alike - so the news that there's a new XBox console being developed set the internet alight over the weekend.

The big software company Microsoft - makers of Xbox - have confirmed the new console will be able to play - get this - both Xbox AND PC games ... there's no date yet on when the new console will be ready to hit shop shelves - but there's a big computer game developers conference in San Francisco that kicks off today ... so watch this space ..

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In which Scandinavian country do kids go to the lolly shop every Saturday?
2. Which team did the Matildas play last night in Sydney?

3. Which gaming console is expected to reveal a major update this week?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, March 9 ... it's a public holiday in Victoria - lucky ducks - and it's also World DJ Day - so if you have a favourite song - turn it on, turn it up and dance like no one's watching ..

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow...Yufeng from Vermont South, Nik from Gumdale, Mollie from Ocean Grove, Chloe from Roseville, Mikayla from Albany Creek, Alba from Cashmere, Maxwell from Bald Hills, Leon from Bridport, Chanel from Paraburdoo and Bax from Gumdale.

Belated shoutouts go to... Aarna from Cherrybrook, Joe, Willow, Carter, Max and Jordan from Albany Creek, John from Yass, Esme from Richmond, Zachy from Artarmon and Daon listening over in Incheon, South Korea.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 5G with Mrs Gordon and Mrs Jensen at Saint Thomas more catholic parish primary school and happy birthday to Ms Jensen, class 4C with Mrs Chapple at Merimbula Public School, years 3 to 6 with Mr B at Lord Howe Island Central School, class 6C with Miss Coffin at Parap Primary School in Darwin, class 4M with Mrs Miller at Lake Clarendon State School and Mrs Carr with Year 6 Datsuns at Oran Park State School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Sweden
2. South Korea
3. XBox

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 with a special, and brand new episode of Squiz The World ... this week we’re firing up the Squiz Kids Super Fast, Supersonic Jetliner to take you on a virtual visit to Iran ... a country that’s been in the news a lot these past couple of weeks - to discover the rich history and culture of a country that in spite of its troubled present, has a rich and proud past.

In the meantime ... get out there and have a most excellent day ... over and out.