

Petrol pump politics; Matildas through to semis; Oscar time in LA; and whale-munching micro fish.

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 16

In Squiz Kids Today ... Petrol pump politics; Matildas through to semis; Oscar time in LA; and whale-munching micro fish.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Do you find yourself sitting in the back of mum and dad's car - watching them curse as they drive past a petrol or gas station ... mumbling under their breath at the cost of filling the tank?

That's because of the conflict in the Middle East.

And you might be sitting there thinking: how can something happening on the other side of the earth effect the cost of petrol, or gasoline, where I live?

Here's the deal. The primary ingredient for making petrol is oil. And the part of the world where a lot of the oil comes from is ... you guessed it, the Middle East.

Countries like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq - and, yes, Iran.

Unless you've been under an especially large rock these past couple of weeks, you'd know Iran is currently at war with the US and Israel. And not only does Iran produce a lot of oil, but a stretch of sea through which loads of oil tankers pass every day - a place called the Strait of Hormuz - is right next to Iran and it's dangerous for big ships to sail through it right now.

With less oil being refined into petrol - the price rises at the petrol stations. It's simple economics - which is a subject some of you may study in high school.

Now I dare you to explain that over the dinner table tonight ...

Oh my giddy aunt ... colour me impressed and knock me down with a feather.

You would have heard us talking the last two weeks about our PM for A Day competition ... your chance to win a trip for two to Canberra to meet the Prime Minister, hang with the House Speaker and spend a day at Parliament Housewell ... well entries closed on Friday and we have been SO impressed ...

So, so, so many of you sent in videos, telling us what one thing you would do to make Australia a better place if you were PM for a Day. From Geraldton to Hobart, Townsville to Adelaide, Darwin to Melbourne, from cattle stations, cotton farms and high-rises in the city ... we have spent ALL weekend watching your entries.

And i have two things to say:

1. A huge thank you to everyone who took time to record a video and send it in; and

2. This country is in very safe hands ... the range of ideas, the passion, the enthusiasm and the flat-out optimism for what an incredible place we live has warmed the cockles of my heart.

You guys really are the best ...

Now excuse me as I sit down with Christie and our panel of judges to undertake the PAINSTAKING process of picking a winner ...

Watch this space ...

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 Los Angeles - in the United States - where right now, the biggest stars in Hollywood have gathered for the Oscars.

The Oscars are the biggest movie awards ceremony in the movie making calendar. As big a deal as it gets in the film world.

Which is why a visual effects company from Adelaide has all its fingers and toes crossed this morning.

The folks at Rising Sun Pictures were responsible for making Michael B Jordan appear on screen at the same time, playing a set of twins, in the vampire thriller, Sinners.

The same actor, on screen next to himself, reacting to himself - and all of it looking like two different characters.

It's an MA15 film here in Oz, so you're going to have to take my word for it - but it's amazing.

And like economics - visual effects and the creativity of movie making is something maybe some of you will do when you finish school.

Good luck today Rising Sun Pictures ... and good luck all of the talented creative people vying for an Oscar statue today...

SPORT TIME

Speaking of trophies ... the Matildas took one giant leap towards winning the Asian Women's Cup on Friday night when they beat North Korea by two glorious goals to one.

Sam Kerr and Alana Kennedy slotted the winning goals for the home side - sending the Tillies straight into a semi final on Tuesday night - where they will face off against China.

China comes into the semi ranked 17th in the world - compared to Australia which is ranked 15th – so you know: it's going to be a close match.

China only just scraped into the semi finals- beating Chinese Taipei on the weekend in extra time.

The winner of the Matilda's China semi will play the winner of the Japan vs South Korea semi - with world number 8 Japan tipped to be the team beat, especially after they trounced the Philippines yesterday 7-0.

Ouch. That's gotta hurt ...

ANIMAL KINGDOM

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Imagine a whale — one of the biggest animals on Earth — slowly sinking to the bottom of the dark, dark ocean after it dies. What happens next? A PARTY - that's what.

New studies of the deepest part of the ocean have revealed an amazing picture of how whales, after death, provide such a rich source of food that one dead whale can sustain an entire deep sea ecosystem for up to ten years.

What!!!!

When a whale sinks to the seafloor, scientists call it a "**whale fall**" — and it's like a giant pizza delivery arriving in a place that almost never gets food!

First come the sharks, crabs, and hagfish. These hungry visitors can feast for up to two years!

Then the **Tiny Tunnellers move in** - worms, crustaceans, and mollusks burrow into the leftover blubber and even the soil underneath the whale!

Then, my favourite: the zombie worms move in. These creepy creatures feast on whale *bones* by drilling in with their "roots," secreting an acid that dissolves the bone, and using special bacteria to digest the fat and protein inside.

I feel a bit sick just thinking about it ... hope you've finished your breakfast ... _

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In which Australian state capital city do the Matildas play their semi-final on Tues night?
2. Name the Oscar nominated film starring Black Panther's Michael B Jordan on which an Adelaide visual effects team worked ...
3. In which US city will the Oscars take place today?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, March 16 ... Queen Mary of Denmark and her hubby, King Frederik will be in Canberra today as part of their Aussie tour ... did you know that Denmark's Queen Mary is actually an Aussie from Tasmania ... how cool is that?

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Ollie from Castle Hill, Huckson from Yass, Ollie from Castle Hill, Anabelle from Armadale, Alexis from Kurri Kurri, Laura from Wantirna South, James from Leeton, Hudson from Albany Creek, Audrey from Naremburn, Eli from Maudsland, Charlotte from Aldgate, Harlon from Goonellabah, Lily from Noojee and Wesley listening over in Fort Mill, USA.

Belated shoutouts go to... Anisha from Kellyville, Rachel from Doncaster East, Ethan from Bulleen

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 5Y and Ms Le Ray at Lakes Grammar School in Warnervale, class 5/6SK wit Mrs Dixon at Avoca State School, class 5W with Ms Korsman at Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School in Kurri Kurri, class 4M with Miss Klemke at Koorungal Public School in Wagga Wagga, class 5 Gold with Mrs Jensen at St Thomas

More Catholic Parish Primary School in Campbelltown and to the students at Mansfield State School and a Happy birthday to their teacher Mr Guy.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Perth
2. Sinners
3. Los Angeles

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 our Squiz Kids Q+A with Dr Karl ... yes folks - everyone's favourite scientist answering questions that you sent in. It's a winner of an episode and you don't want to miss it.

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