

Counting down to a moon mission; Maryland's stinky sock festival; a Little Athletics legend; and making music with mayonnaise

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 Monday, March 30

In Squiz Kids Today ... Counting down to a moon mission; Maryland's stinky sock festival; a Little Athletics legend; and making music with mayonnaise

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

THE LOWDOWN

Ever tried to plan something big... and then had to hit pause at the last second? That's exactly what happened back in February with NASA's Artemis 2 mission — the next giant leap back to the Moon.

NASA was hoping to launch back then but a few stubborn problems got in the way — including fuel leaks and technical issues with the massive rocket, called the Space Launch System. It's a bit like spotting a crack in a rollercoaster just before take-off... you wouldn't ride it until it's fixed, right? Well, they're ready to try again this week.

So what is Artemis 2? It's the first time astronauts will head around the Moon in more than 50 years — since the days of Apollo. Four astronauts — including commander Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Canada's Jeremy Hansen — will blast off, loop around the Moon, and return to Earth about 10 days later. And this isn't just a sightseeing trip. It's a test run — checking that the spacecraft, called Orion, can keep astronauts safe in deep space before future missions actually land humans back on the

Moon. It's also packed with milestones — including the first woman, the first person of colour, and the first non-American astronaut to travel to the Moon's neighbourhood.

Now, here's where timing gets tricky. Rockets can't just launch anytime — they need a *launch window*, when everything lines up perfectly, from weather to the Moon's position. For Artemis 2, that window opens from April 1 to April 6. For us in Australia, if it launches on April 1 in the USA, it'll be around **9:24am AEDT on Thursday April 2** — perfect breakfast viewing.

And if all goes to plan? This mission paves the way for humans to land on the Moon again later this decade... and eventually, even head to Mars. If the launch does go ahead NASA will be livestreaming so you, get a front row view.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLA_DiR1FfKNvjuUpBHmylQ/live?app=desktop

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 the US state of Maryland... in the bayside city of Annapolis... where the air is thick with the smell of stinky socks, smoky bonfires... and piles of oysters.

Yes — you heard that right.

After a winter so cold the rivers froze solid, locals are saying “enough is enough” in the most unusual way possible... by chucking their socks into a giant fire.

This quirky tradition dates all the way back to 1977, when one very over-it boatyard worker decided he'd had enough of his winter socks, and ceremoniously burned them, declaring he wouldn't wear any again until next winter.

Fast forward to today, and hundreds of people gather for the annual Oyster Roast and Sock Burning festival — with music pumping, oysters piling high... and socks sailing through the air toward the flames.

It's a fiery farewell to winter... and a slightly smelly welcome to spring.

SQUIZ KIDS SALUTES

What do most kids get up to when they're 11 years old...? Riding their bikes? Playing footy? Maybe forgetting their homework?

Because one young Queenslander has just been rewriting the record books.

At the Little Athletics State Championships in Brisbane over the weekend, 11-year-old Rylan Wooster blitzed the track, setting Australian records in the 800m and 1500m, and a Queensland record in the 400m. That's a clean sweep across three tough events... just days before his 11th birthday.

Even more impressive? He's only been focusing on running for a few years, and his big dream is to play AFL.

Rylan Wooster... you sent it! Squiz Kids salutes you!

Meanwhile... in a different stadium, in a different race... another Queenslander was making headlines.

Teen sprint sensation Gout Gout isn't running this race alone — Lachie Kennedy is right there with him.

At the Maurie Plant Meet in Melbourne on Saturday, Kennedy stormed home to win the 200 metres in pouring rain — holding off a fast-finishing Gout by the tiniest margin.

A rivalry is brewing... and Australian athletics fans are loving every second.

WEIRD SCIENCE

Is mayonnaise an instrument...? If that question sounds familiar, you can thank SpongeBob SquarePants, where Patrick the starfish once asked it... and got a very firm “no.”

Well... turns out... Patrick might have been onto something. Researchers working with mayonnaise brand Hellmann's have *actually* studied it — and their answer is... yes. Mayo can be an instrument.

Here's the science-y bit: to count as an instrument, something just needs to be able to make or change sound in a controlled way. And mayonnaise? It can be squished, scraped, tapped, or squeezed to create different noises.

Even weirder? A jar of mayo, a squeeze bottle, and a blob on its own all make different sounds, meaning it can fit into multiple musical categories.

Scientists say it's all thanks to its structure: a thick, gloopy emulsion that reacts when you mess with it.

So next time you're making a sandwich... you might also be tempted to make some music

Patrick: 1.

Science: also 1.

PM FOR A DAY

So many clever Aussie kids .. so many clever ideas on what they'd do if they were Prime Minister For A Day .. and it's all leading up to tomorrow

That's right. One of those clever Aussie kids is right now packing their bag getting ready to fly to Canberra on Tuesday to be Prime Minister For A Day - as the winner of the competition we've been running this past month.

Once there, they'll visit Question Time, get a personalised tour of Parliament House and even meet the actual PM himself!

Wow!

Be sure to tune into the special Squiz Kids episode publishing first thing tomorrow morning where we share some of the cleverest and funniest entries, reveal the finalists – and crown the winner.

Can. Not. Wait ..

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What is the period of time when rockets are able to launch called? The clue is in the question.

2. In which US state is the annual Oyster Roast and Sock Burning festival held?
3. Which three track events did Rylan Wooster break records in on the weekend?

SHOUTOUTS

It's Monday, March 30 ... on this day wayyy back in 1853, famous artist Vincent van Gogh, was born. He painted some of the world's most recognisable artworks — like *The Starry Night* and *Sunflowers*... full of bold colours and swirling brushstrokes.

Surprisingly... he only sold a few paintings while he was alive and today, they're worth millions. And yes... he's also known for cutting off part of his ear during a tough time in his life.

I've popped a link in the episode notes so you can check out his masterpieces.

<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/9-vincent-van-gogh-paintings-to-see-around-the-world/RwWRODZc6vAQLg?hl=en>

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Baaj and Adrian from Forest Lake, Jack from Chelsea, Ryan from Castlecrag, Ruthie from Yarrawonga, Michael from Broadbeach, Jeremy from Wantirna South, Edith from Teppoon and Tilly who is from Yandina but currently travelling around Australia with her family.

Belated shoutouts go to... Hunter from Ambrose, Sergio from Maroubra, Ibrahim from Albury and James from Jindalee.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 4F with Mrs Frost at St Brendan's Catholic Primary School in Mackay, class 4 Blue at St Thomas More Catholic Parish Primary School in Campbelltown, Room 35 with Miss Bonnie and Mrs Jacinda at Salisbury Heights Primary School, class 5M with Mrs McConaghy at St John's Anglican College in Forest Lake and class 5/6SK with Mrs Dixon at Avoca State School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. A launch window
2. Maryland
3. 400, 800 and 1,500 metres

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 when we'll find out which clever Squiz Kids listener is our very first ever PM for the Day!

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