

Meteors and comets in night's sky; Japan's pop concert prayers; Tigers fan goes viral; and fighting deepfake photos.

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, May 7 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... Meteors and comets in night's sky; Japan's pop concert prayers; Tigers fan goes viral; and fighting deepfake photos.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Earlier this week we celebrated Star Wars day ... May the Fourth ... May the Fourth be with you - and all of the crazy imaginary planets, creatures and characters that have been dreamt up for this epic saga set in a galaxy far far away.

Well this week, you don't have to travel that far to be wowed by the wonders of outer space - with a whole lot going on above our heads right here in our own solar system.

I'm talking about the Eta Aquariid meteor shower which happens every year and is happening right now, even as I speak.

All over the globe, the night's sky is going to be lit up this week by meteors streaking through the inky blackness - as our planet, Earth, passes through the tail of a famous comet, called Halley's Comet.

A comet's tail is famously made up of all sorts of space debris - bits of ice and rock - and when they come in contact with the Earth's atmosphere, they burn up - appearing as meteors.

Now - because of the light from the moon - it's going to be kind of hard to see meteors this year - but if you're up super early, before the sun rises, and the skies are clear and you don't have too much light pollution from living in a city - you may be in luck.

Don't want to wake up early for a celestial fix? Then try this on for size ..

There's also a comet streaking across the night's sky this month.

Called Comet PANStarrs - or c/2025 R3 if you want to get scientific - it is currently glowing a blue green colour and can be seen with binoculars just after sunset in the western skies.

And if meteors and comets don't get your lightsaber glowing - then how about this.

Venus and Jupiter will be visible in our night skies this month too ... just after sunset, look to the west and they'll appear as bright glowing objects ...

And as the month progresses - they will appear to get closer and closer to one another, as our orbit around the Sun lines up with their orbits around the Sun.

Because there's nothing better than star gazing to be reminded how incredible our universe is ..

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 ... where music lovers are praying at a religious shrine in the hope of snaring tickets to see their favourite pop stars.

A shrine is a building or temple where people go to pray.

And one Shinto shrine in Tokyo has become the go-to place for anyone hoping to get hard-to-find tickets to their favourite pop bands. Shinto is one of the religions practiced in Japan.

This particular shrine - in downtown Tokyo in the middle of the central business district - has developed a reputation as the place to go for anyone wanting luck in a lottery or help getting tickets to see their favourite K-pop or J-pop band.

When tickets for a recent BTS concert in Tokyo sold out within minutes, the shrine was inundated with BTS Army devotees, desperate to score a ticket in an online lottery.

Further proof, I supposed, that for some, Kpop really is a religion. (DAD JOKE ALARM) – ahh - there's my old friend the dad joke alarm ... it's been a while. Good to hear from you.

SPORT TIME

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Think about your favourite netball team ... or your favourite footy team .. or basketball team or cricket team. Think about how much you love them .. and how exciting it is when they win. And then think about how devastating it can be when they lose.

Being passionate about a sport or team or player is one of the great experiences in life - but it also means there are lows with the highs. As NRL Wests Tigers' fan Noah Deguara discovered at the weekend.

His beloved Tigers got smashed in their clash with the Sharks - going down 52-10 – ouch. And five year-old Noah was at Shark Park to watch the demolition of his heroes. And the TV cameras captured him crying his little heart out.

Fast forward to yesterday though the little fella had recovered - helped in no small part by a video recorded by Sharks' player, Nicho Hynes - in which he said he hoped Noah was feeling better ... before adding the Sharks were always on the lookout for passionate young fans if he ever want to swap teams.

Cheeky.

NEWSHOUNDS

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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 today his snout is twitching after the Italian Prime Minister got caught in a deep fake photo sting.

A deep fake photo is a fake image showing someone doing something they never did. And unfortunately with AI these days, it's all too easy to manipulate images to paint someone in a bad light - to hurt their reputation or embarrass them.

It's a really big problem in the disinformation world – and no one is safe.

This week, the Prime Minister of Italy posted a deep fake image of her wearing underwear. The image was fake - made entirely by artificial intelligence - but because the tech these days is so good, it looked real.

The PM nevertheless shared it on her own social media channels - labelling it a fake - but also using it to educate people how easily these fakes are created, and how quickly they can

spread across the internet. Creating fakes like these: that's called spreading disinformation. Making something up that's not true to hurt someone or damage their reputation. Sharing these fakes without checking if they're real or not - which is something we've all done - that's called spreading misinformation. You don't mean the person harm - you might simply be surprised and want to share it - but you're still contributing to the problem.

It's why Squiz-E the Newshound always tells is to STOP. THINK and CHECK before believing everything we see online. And why classrooms all over the country have signed-up to do Newshounds - our free media literacy program for primary school kids.

Check it out at squizkids.com.au .. you're welcome

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In the NRL clash between Sharks and Tigers last weekend, which team won?
2. In which country can you visit a Shinto shrine to pray for pop concert tickets?
3. What's the name of the comet whose tail the Earth is currently passing, causing the meteor shower known as the Eta Aquarids?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, May 7 ... today is World Password Day - when we're reminded to check our online security .. and don't forget - this coming Sunday is Mother's Day ... have you shopped at the Mother's Day stall at school? Or made a card? Or made plans for breakfast in bed on Sunday? Be sure to show the Mums in your life some love ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Remi from Forest Lake, Grace from Albany Creek, Maria from Findon, Ava from Cobbity and Eva from Mount Coolah.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Class 3/4W with Mrs Wren from Berwick Lodge Primary School, class 5/6K with Kalic from Plumpton Public School, class 5B with Miss Norris from Serviceton South State School in Inala and the 5th Grade class with Mrs Waltz and Ms Ruffin from Inman Intermediate School, who are listening from Nixa, Missouri in the USA.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Sharks
2. Japan
3. Halleys Comet

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you'd like a shoutout, or if you want a classroom shoutout... 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 the Kids vs Adults Weekly News S'Quiz

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