

SA kids join Squiz-E's gang; a large-as-life foosball record; Roman ruins buried at school; and a big bug bust.

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 Wednesday, June 10 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... SA kids join Squiz-E's gang; a large-as-life foosball record; Roman ruins buried at school; and a big bug bust.

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

THE LOWDOWN / NEWSHOUNDS

(HOWL)

Ummm ... Squiz-E? What are you doing here? We normally don't see you at Squiz Kids HQ until Thursday .. you're a day early ... what's going on?

(SQUIZ-E HOWL)

What's that you say? You have news? Ok, let's have it ...

(SQUIZ-E HOWL)

What? That's amazing! The South Australian government yesterday announced a four-year partnership with Newshounds to make kids in SA the most media literate in Australia! Wow! You must be delighted.

Yes, that's right folks, Bryce spent the day in Adelaide yesterday with the South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas - who announced in the South Australian budget last week that not only is he is a huge fan of Squiz-E - but he wants to help him make

every kid in his state a Newshound - able to think critically about the flood of content they're exposed to each day online.

A new and improved Newshounds, with updated content, an emphasis on AI and improved teacher training, will be rolled out to all South Australian primary schools later this year following a funding deal agreed with Australia's great southern state.

To say everyone here at Squiz Kids HQ is delighted would be an understatement - as it hopefully marks the beginning of a wider, similar state-by-state roll-out around the country.

For now though, it will mean a few changes for Newshounds schools outside South Australia .. but more on that later.

Here Squiz-E - have yourself a big juicy bone to celebrate ... you've earned it ...

(SQUIZ-E HOWL)

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 Canada, where hundreds of football fans have squeezed, shuffled, slipped and booted their way into the record books.

With the FIFA World Cup kicking off later this week across Canada, the United States and Mexico, football fever is already spreading fast. And in the Canadian province of Ontario, 254 people decided to celebrate by playing the world's largest game of human foosball.

Now, if you've never played foosball, imagine a tabletop soccer game where little plastic players are attached to long metal bars. You spin the bars, kick the ball and try to score goals.

But in this version, the players weren't plastic. They were real people.

The hundreds of volunteers pulled on bright football jerseys and lined up on giant poles stretching across a huge field. Just like the figures in a foosball game, they had to keep holding onto the poles and could only move sideways together while trying to kick the ball, defend their goal and score points.

Even pouring rain and chilly weather couldn't stop the fun. When the final whistle blew, Ontario had officially broken the world record for the largest game of human foosball ever played.

Let the games begin!

ANCIENT EARTH

What do you think might be hiding underneath your school? An old lunchbox? A broken fidget spinner? Maybe a long-lost tennis ball? Students at a school in Rome, Italy, have discovered something just a little bit older: an ancient Roman villa (kinda like a mansion) nearly 1,900 years old.

The discovery happened after a group of students spent several nights at their school during a protest a few years ago. While exploring the building, they found a locked door in the basement and told one of their teachers about it afterwards.

When they investigated, they unlocked the door, squeezed through an opening and found themselves standing inside a hidden Roman home complete with decorated walls and ancient mosaics...colourful artworks made with little tiles.

Archaeologists have now excavated part of the site and say the villa dates back to the time of Roman emperors. And incredibly, we even know who lived there because ancient inscriptions found on water pipes revealed the names of the homeowners... L.Fabius Gallus and Umbria Albina.

Researchers have already uncovered dozens of crates filled with artefacts, including ancient storage jars and drinking cups. They think much more of the villa is still hidden underground.

That's a bit more exciting than a mouldy old tennis ball...

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Australia's biggest-ever illegal bug bust (that's right, bug bust...not drug bust) has uncovered more than 100,000 illegal cockroaches.

I can't even imagine! And sorry if you're eating...

The record-breaking bust happened in regional New South Wales, where authorities discovered two exotic species of cockroach that aren't allowed to be kept, bred or sold in Australia, including Madagascar hissing cockroaches, giant insects that can grow up to eight centimetres long and make a loud hissing noise when they're disturbed.

Now you might be wondering: who on Earth wants that many cockroaches? Well, some reptile owners use large insects to feed their pets, while other people collect unusual bugs as a hobby.

But Australia has strict rules about bringing foreign animals and insects into the country. If these species escaped, they could become invasive pests and threaten native wildlife.

In fact, if you listened to Sunday's From the Vault Shortcut on invasive species, you'll know that introducing new species can sometimes have unintended consequences. Well done to biosecurity officers, who take even the creepiest of crawlies very seriously.

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 name of the tabletop game where little plastic players are spun on bars to try to score goals?
2. How old is the ancient home found beneath a school in Rome?
3. From which African country does the hissing cockroach come?

SHOUTOUTS

It's Wednesday, June 10, National Iced Tea Day in the USA!

Tea itself is ancient. The oldest tea remains ever found are the 2,400-year-old tea in a royal tomb in China's Shandong province. The iced version came much later. Written recipes for iced tea started appearing in American cookbooks in the 1870s. But the drink's big moment came in 1904, at the World's Fair in St. Louis. A tea merchant set up

a stall planning to sell hot tea, until a sudden heatwave hit and nobody wanted anything warm. So, he popped some ice into his already-brewed tea, and the crowd went wild.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Clara from Geebung, Zoe and Hamish from Leura, Eddie from Manly Vale, Aniya and Kashif from Plumpton, Bonnie from Yatte Yattah (pron Yadda Yadda) and Nicola listening over in Tokyo, Japan.

Belated shoutouts go to... Bede (pron Bed) from Gladstone, Ethan from Kallangur, Maxwell from Maroubra, Tatiana from Goonellabah, Mia from Caversham, Nate from Vermont South, Zahi from Kogarah, Maeve from Yeppoon, Zac from Mitcham, Jasper from Arncliffe and Max from PArkinson.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Mrs Cole's class in the Creators Village at Redeemer Lutheran School, in Nuriootpa, to Katie and Nina with Miss Jess at Inverway Station School Room in the Northern Territory, class 1F with Mrs Felici (pron Fuh-lee-chi) and class 5Y with Mr Yaacoub (pron Yuh-koob) both at Yarra Valley Grammar School in Ringwood.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Foosball
2. Nearly 1900 years
3. Madagascar

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

.

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