

The Philippines shaken by a mega quake; NASA launches space underwear; Commonwealth Games qualifiers; and some mozzie misinformation

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 Thursday, June 11 -

In Squiz Kids Today ... The Philippines shaken by a mega quake; NASA launches space underwear; Commonwealth Games qualifiers; and some mozzie misinformation

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

THE LOWDOWN / NEWSHOUNDS

In the next couple of years, when NASA plan to send astronauts back towards the Moon, they'll be wearing something designed with help from one of the world's biggest fashion brands. Italian luxury label Prada has teamed up with an aerospace company to help develop NASA's next-generation Moon underwear.

Called the Liquid Cooling and Ventilation Garment, or LCVG, it's essentially the astronaut equivalent of high-tech long underwear. Tiny tubes woven through the fabric circulate cool water around the body to stop astronauts from overheating while working in space. It actually looks more like a superhero costume than something you'd find in your underwear drawer.

The new gear is being developed as NASA prepares for its Artemis missions, which aim to return humans to the Moon for the first time since the famous Apollo missions of the 1960s and 70s.

Earlier this year, Artemis II carried astronauts on a record-breaking journey around the Moon, travelling farther from Earth than any crew since the Apollo era.

Now, NASA has announced the four astronauts selected for Artemis III, including Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano, who will become the first European to fly on an Artemis mission.

The crew won't land on the Moon just yet. Instead, they'll spend two weeks orbiting Earth and practising with brand-new lunar landers being built by two of the world's richest entrepreneurs: Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin.

If all goes to plan, those spacecraft could soon carry astronauts back to the lunar surface, where NASA hopes to build a long-term Moon base and eventually use what it learns there to help send humans even farther.

Maybe, even to Mars.

And, as mums everywhere say when you're leaving on a trip: "Have you packed your underpants?" And if you're heading to the Moon, the answer had better be yes.

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 Philippines, where rescuers are searching for survivors after one of the country's strongest earthquakes in years.

The magnitude 7.8 earthquake (that's a big one) struck the southern island of Mindanao on Monday morning, injuring hundreds of people and causing widespread damage to homes and buildings and even, very sadly, some deaths.

The earthquake happened on the first day back at school after the summer holidays, and many children were outside taking part in assemblies when the shaking began. Experts say that may have helped protect students as they were already outside when the shaking began, rather than inside classrooms, where falling debris can be especially dangerous.

The Philippines is no stranger to earthquakes. The country sits on the Pacific Ring of Fire, an area where several giant sections of Earth's crust (called tectonic plates) meet, making earthquakes and volcanic eruptions more common.

People of the Philippines, our thoughts are with you.

SPORT TIME

Every four years, athletes and para-athletes from countries that belong to something called the Commonwealth, gather for a giant sporting competition known as the Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth is a group of 56 countries, including Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India, South Africa and many others that share historical links with the United Kingdom. And with just six weeks to go until the next Commonwealth Games begin in Glasgow, Scotland, Australia's team is starting to take shape.

Some of Australia's top runners, jumpers, throwers and this week, swimmers, are securing their places on the plane to Scotland. Although teenage sprint sensation Gout Gout won't be going as he has chosen to focus instead on the World Under-20 Championships in the United States, which begin just days after the Commonwealth Games conclude.

In Sydney this week, Australia's swimmers are competing at national trials where Commonwealth Games places are on the line. Among those making waves is Lani Pallister, who is emerging as one of Australia's brightest stars following the retirement of Olympic champion Ariarne Titmus.

Perhaps the most inspiring story belongs to breaststroker Sam Williamson, who secured his place on the team after recovering from a devastating knee injury that once left him having to learn how to walk again.

With more swimming finals still to come this week, plenty more Australian athletes are hoping they'll soon be able to say four very exciting words:

"I'm going to Glasgow."

NEWSHOUNDS

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 he's buzzing about mosquitoes.

(SQUIZ-E HOWL)

Thankfully, he hasn't brought any in with him...

Last week, Bryce told us about a scientific project involving millions of specially bred mosquitoes that could help reduce dangerous diseases like dengue fever and malaria.

This week, however, social media posts started spreading a much scarier version of the story.

Some claimed that Google was preparing to release tens of millions of "bacteria-infected mosquitoes" into parts of the United States, warning of possible environmental disaster. [Duh Duh Duhhh]

Now, here's where a good Newshound needs to slow down and investigate.

The claim does contain a grain of truth. Google does own a project that breeds mosquitoes carrying a naturally occurring bacteria called Wolbachia. Scientists have been studying the technique for years, and similar programs have already been tested in places including Singapore, where researchers found it helped reduce dengue fever infections.

But... the online posts leave out some important details.

Like...the bacteria is not known to make humans sick, the mosquitoes involved are male mosquitoes that don't bite people, and, perhaps most importantly, the latest proposed releases are still being assessed by government regulators whose job is to examine the risks and protect the public.

So, if a scary headline grabs your attention... you know what to do! Make sure to Stop, Think and Check because we really don't need more things to be worried about... especially if they're not even true!!

(SQUIZ-E HOWL)

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which two billionaires are building NASA's new lunar landers?
2. What was the magnitude (so how big was) the Earthquake in the Philippines on Monday?
3. Which young Aussie runner will not be travelling to Glasgow for this year's Commonwealth Games?

SHOUTOUTS

It's Thursday, June 11, The United Nations International Day of Play! Play is not only fun... It's super important to build problem-solving skills and creativity...

The whole idea of a day of play is built on Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child... a document that lists the basic rights every kid in the world should have. Right there in Article 31, it says: every child has the right to play.

Not as a reward, but as a right, the same way food and education are rights.

Sounds good to me!

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today...

Sulayman from Oran Park, Henry from Exeter, Finlay from Wyong, Eva from Heyfield, Isaac and Elijah from Balmoral and Sadie from Bald Blair,

Belated shoutouts go to... Skyla from Blayney and Ava from Banksia Grove

Classroom shoutouts go to... Class 5W with Miss Weller at Saint Augustine's Catholic Primary School in Brookvale, class 5 Blue with Mrs K at Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School in Kurri Kurri, class 4A with Mr Auso at Thomas Acres Public School in Ambarvale and the 4L literary class with Mr Loker at Pymble Ladies College in Sydney.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos
2. 7.8 on the magnitude scale
3. Gout Gout

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.