

The world remembers Dolly; Spain's food fight festival; Sniffing out voice clones online; and Game of Thrones meets Harry Potter.

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, August 27 -

In Squiz Kids today ... The world remembers Dolly; Spain's food fight festival; Sniffing out voice clones online; and Game of Thrones meets Harry Potter.

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

THE LOWDOWN

Every now and then something happens in the world that touches millions of people .. and yesterday was one of those days.

Despite the fact she was born eighty years ago - and mostly topped the music charts when your parents and even grandparents were young - there's a good chance you would recognise a Dolly Parton song if you heard it.

Jolene, 9 to 5, I Will Always Love You ... the music this country music star wrote and recorded was popular around the world - making her the Taylor Swift of her generation.

So when news broke that she had passed away, aged 80, after a battle with illness - the world stopped for a moment to remember an icon and reflect on a life well lived.

Presidents, prime ministers and pop stars alike posted tributes to Parton yesterday - speaking of the impact she had both on the pop culture world - where she wrote more than 3,000 songs across six decades of a singing-song writing career - but also as a philanthropist.

A philanthropist is a person who has done well in life - had some success and maybe made some money - who uses that money to help out those less fortunate than them.

And that's what Dolly did - especially through her efforts to teach kids to read and write.

Inspired by her father who was raised dirt poor and never learned to read - Dolly donated over 300 million books to kids in need in her lifetime.

Last year, the United Nations estimated there were some 272 million children around the world who were unable to attend school and get an education - with some agencies estimating up to 70% of kids under 10 in poorer countries are unable to read or write.

Imagine that. Not being able to read a simple sentence. Imagine the impact that can have on your life. And remember that when you're in class today - and take a moment to appreciate how lucky you are to have an education at your fingertips.

And most of all - if you get a moment today - maybe right now on the school drop off or over the breakfast table - listen to a Dolly Parton song and think about the importance of giving back.

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 Spain – where the world's biggest food fight has just taken place.

More than 20,000 people have flocked to the small Spanish village of Bunol to hurl tomatoes at one another in a tradition that stretches back 80 years and has since become famous around the world.

I've been to Tomatina - I know how chaotic it is. Tip trucks drive through the narrow streets of the town dumping piles of overripe tomatoes - farmed in the fields surrounding Bunol - at which point thousands of people wearing goggles and swim suits chuck tomatoes at each other for about an hour.

It's madness. And quite stinky too.

And just to add to the crazy .. the food fight starts with the crowd in the main square being hosed with water, before a competition is held to see who can climb a soapy pole to knock a leg of ham from the top.

Why? Because sometimes you just have to be a little bit silly.

POP CULTURE CORNER

And so to some exciting news for Harry Potter fans – with filming underway on a new TV series about the boy wizard - and the casting of a Game of Thrones favourite in the role of Gilderoy Lockhart.

The flamboyant author the Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher at Hogwarts - author JK Rowling's famous school for wizards - is going to be played by Game of Thrones actor Kit Harington in the upcoming HBO Max Tv series it was announced yesterday.

From the dragons of Westeros to the wizards of Hogwarts - Kit clearly likes his fantasy.

A whole new group of child actors have also been cast in the TV series, which promises to completely reimagine the wonderful world of Harry Potter.

And if you're interested in movies - and making them - be sure to get your entry into Trop Jr – a short film competition for under 15s .. I've stuck a link to the website in today's episode notes – and with the closing date for entries on September 18 - we're going to be chatting to previous winners the Macfarlane Bros, a Brisbane-based pair of movie-making brothers who have more than 1 million subscribers on their Youtube channel .. can't wait ! We'll bring you that interview very soon ... stay tuned ...

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday, Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his snout into Squiz Kids HQ and reports back on fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet ... and today - the trusty bloodhound is growling after coming across AI generated voice clones which are causing all sorts of confusion online.

Artificial intelligence has worked out how to clone - or copy - pretty much anyone's voice - and websites exist which have taken samples of well known and every day Australians voices and cloned them.

Thor actor Chris Hemsworth and even Aussie Prime Minister Anthony Albanese have had their voices cloned – which has allowed AI bots to create social media posts making out that they said things which they never said. The government has started to look at laws to outlaw the practice.

In the meantime - it's up to us to be super careful when we're online - watching YouTube or visiting websites or playing online games ... to have our internet detective magnifying glasses at the ready to examine every piece of content we come across- to do as Squiz-E always tells us - and that's STOP. THINK and CHECK before believing everything we

see or hear – just as he teaches in Newshounds - Squiz Kids' very own media literacy program for primary school classrooms.

Thanks Squiz-E - where would we be without you? (WOOF)

BOOKWEEK CALLOUT

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Well blow me down with a feather and colour me impressed ... every year I think I can't be any more impressed by how clever and creative Squiz Kids are - and every year, you prove me wrong.

We're midway through Book Week and the photos of your costumes have been flooding into Squiz Kids HQ ... and as you'll see from the galleries posted to our Instagram account - the costumes this year are next level.

But there's still half a week to go, so keep those photos coming. Kids, ask an adult to send a photo of your costume to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au. Make sure they include your name, age, where you're from and the character you've dressed as. There are prizes to be won!

And teachers — don't be shy! Gather your teaching team, strike your best Book Week pose and send us a photo of your costumes too.

And while you're at it - be sure to check out the Squiz Kids Instagram feed at [@squizkids](https://www.instagram.com/squizkids) - with parental supervision of course - to see the clever costumes celebrating the wonderful world of books this year.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. In which country did a big ol' food fight take place yesterday?
2. Which Hogwarts character will Game of Thrones actor Kit Harington play in an upcoming Harry Potter TV series?
3. How many books is it estimated Dolly Parton donated to kids in need throughout her lifetime? Is it a) 3 million b) 30 million or c) 300 million?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, August 27 – its' World Rock Paper SCissors day! Make sure you find a friend and have a round or ten of it today ... which is your go to? I'm a paper guy, myself.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today ...India-Grace from Forestlake, August from Tanunda and Oliver from South Yarra

A belated shoutout goes to ...

Classroom shoutouts go to ... Class 5/6 Platypus and their teachers Mrs Gray and Ms Garfoot at Jewells Primary School, Class 6KZ and their teacher Miss Zander at Padua College in Kedron and Class 3N and their teacher Mr McKenzie at Minchinbury Public School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Spain
2. Gilderoy Lockhart
3. c) 300 million

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you'd like a shoutout, or if you want a classroom shoutout, or parents, if you'd like to shout out a class or a wonderful teacher... 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 v Adults Weekly new S'quiz

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