

Bravery medal for WA teen; France's school kids take to the streets; Fake health advice online; and the alligator who thinks he's Elvis.

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, October 8 -

In Squiz Kids today Bravery medal for WA teen; France's school kids take to the streets; Fake health advice online; and the alligator who thinks he's Elvis.

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

THE LOWDOWN

He was stranded at sea with his mum, his brother and his sister off the coast off Western Australia after they were swept out by currents while paddleboarding and kayaking last year.

He made the brave decision, at only 13 years old, to swim the four kilometres back to shore, then ran 2 kilometres to the nearest phone to raise the alarm - resulting in his entire family being rescued.

And this week, Austin Applebee was recognised with a bravery award at a special ceremony at Government House in Perth.

Austin's mum, Joanne also received an award for making the brave decision to send her eldest son to shore ... a decision that saved the lives of an entire family.

Speaking after receiving his award, the now 14 year old Austin said his bravery medal belonged to his younger siblings too - for remaining calm during the 10 hours they were lost at sea.

What a remarkable family ... Squiz Kids salutes you all ...

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 France ... where schools across the country are closed as students take to the streets.

Now I know what you're thinking ... closed schools! How good would that be?

But it's a situation that no-one in France is especially happy about .. as protests grip the nation with everyone from students to parents to teachers angry at the government.

More than 800 schools across France were closed this week as students protested what they said was a lack of funding for education.

Protesting is a time-honoured practice in France ... French people regularly take to the streets to let the government know when they're not happy about something.

To their way of thinking, it's a fundamental part of living in a democracy .. making sure the people you elect to lead your country understand your worries and concerns.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

A tiny bird sun baking in a flower ... A cheeky squirrel launching a surprise attack on an owl ... an angry bird ... and an elephant playing hide and seek behind its trunk ... these are just some of the hilarious photos that have made the finals of this year's Nikon Comedy Wildlife Awards ..

Every year, wildlife photographers submit pics they have taken of animals doing hilarious things .. and as you'll see from this year's entries - a link to which I've stuck in today's show notes - animal antics in 2026 are just as whacky as ever.

Who will win this year's awards? Will it be the walrus gang, the sexy mantis or - my favourite - the alligator with an Elvis wig? U-huh, u-huh ...

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 up a treat after stumbling across a flood of fake doctors on Facebook tricking mums and dads and grandmas and grandpas into believing false health claims.

Squiz-E has sniffed out Facebook posts featuring fake photos and AI-generated videos - or deepfakes - of surgeons ... men in white doctor's coats, claiming to be New Zealand and Aussie doctors who have discovered a brand new treatment for sore shoulders and knee joints.

And for a small payment, the treatment is being offered up to anyone silly enough to believe it and hand over their credit card details ...

Squiz E did some digging – he ran the videos through Gemini, Google's AI assistant - and discovered they were fake ... created by fakers in Venezuela to rip off unsuspecting Facebook users.

Now - if you've done Squiz Kids very own, totally free media literacy program, Newshounds, you'd know to always STOP, THINK and CHECK before believing everything you see online.

Now - as budding Newshounds - it's your job to also help our your parents and grandparents - who aren't maybe as clever as you when it comes to online tricks – and make sure they starting using their critical thinking skills when they're online too.

Thanks Squiz-E - you've done it again ...

Q+A CALL OUT

NSW Premier Chris Minns

He's in charge of the biggest, most populated state in the country. He was one of the lead architects of a plan to kick kids off social media. He's a dad of three and knew he wanted to be a politician from the age of 13.

And now we're delighted to say NSW Premier Chris Minns has agreed to take the Squiz Kids Q+A hotseat and answer any question you might want to ask him.

Why did he go into politics? How hard is it to run a state? Who's his favourite footy team? If he was stuck on a desert island with only one book or movie for the rest of his life - what would it be?

Why is he so keen for kids to not be on social media before the age of 16? What does he think about screens in classrooms? What does he want the world you grow up in to look like? And what does a state Premier actually do anyway?

It's kids-only Question Time for Chris Minns - and you're in charge.

So - don't just sit there ... get busy sending in your questions already!

You've only got until two weeks before the cut off date for questions ... email them through to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which country is currently full of students protesting in the streets?
2. The Premier of which state is joining Squiz Kids for a special Squiz Kids Q+A?
3. How old was Austin Applebee when his brave swim to shore saved his family stranded at sea on paddleboards and kayaks?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, October 8 – today is World Octopus Day ... did you know that octopuses have three hearts and nine brains ... one in their head and eight mini-ones for each of their legs? Incredible ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Lourens from Exeter, Grady from Officer and Toby listening over in Mangere Bridge, New Zealand.

If you celebrated a birthday over the recent break, your shoutout was featured in our Holiday Quiz episodes, released each Friday during the break. If you missed the cut-off, send us an email and we'll happily give you a belated birthday shoutout.

A belated shout out goes to Travis from Karana Downs

Classroom shoutouts are back next week! If you'd like us to give your class a shoutout, ask your teacher or a parent to send us an email with your school, class and teacher's name or complete the shoutout request form on our website.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. France
2. NSW
3. 13

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.

And finally: if you love Squiz Kids, we'd love you do us a favour and hit follow on Apple Podcasts or Spotify or wherever you're listening to us. And while you're there, why not share this episode with someone you think would enjoy it too? The only way we can continue to do what we do is by growing and in order to grow, we need your support - Telling a friend, fellow parent or teacher about us makes a real difference. And a big Squiz Kids thank you in advance ...

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.