

## **ChatGPT warning for kids; Iceberg diving in Canada; sleeping jumping spiders; and noodles made from geckos?**

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 29 -

In Squiz Kids Today .... ChatGPT warning for kids; Iceberg diving in Canada; sleeping jumping spiders; and noodles made from geckos?

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

### ***THE LOWDOWN***

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A Year Six student from Newcastle in NSW is celebrating today after being crowned an Australian slam poetry champion for his poem about the dangers of ChatGPT.

Twelve year old Blake Mackenzie scooped the pool at Sydney's Opera House this week - winning for his poem warning about how reliant kids can become on AI bots like Chat GPT ...

"Called 'Dear Chat GPT' Mackenzie's poem includes the lines: "Since the day I met you ... on every single topic you 've agreed with me ...You're designed to addict us, and never contradict us"

"You make me never have to work hard, you expose me to some things – now I'm permanently scarred."

“I don’t need to learn, my teacher is concerned ...”

Mackenzie’s victory at the slam poetry competition comes in the same week politicians in Canberra are debating a new law that would make tech companies responsible for any harm they cause to users – called the Digital Duty of Care law.

Because: as the new version of Newshounds - currently under development - will lean into - knowing about algorithms and AI and how they work will be an important new skill for kids to have.

I’ve stuck a link to Blake’s majestic poetry effort in today’s show notes. You’re welcome.

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(EVIL MAN LAUGH)

Spooky costume .. tick. Bucket to collect lollies from the neighbours ...tick. Ready to get my scary on .. tick.

Yes friends .. it’s Halloween this weekend ... and that means dressing up, trick or treating and filling your belly with more chocolate and lollies than is strictly necessary.

It’s estimated that this year, Australians will spend a record-breaking \$510 million on costumes and lollies and house decorations.

That’s a whole lot of jack o’ lanterns ...

Happy Halloween !

***SPIN THE GLOBE***

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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 icy waters off the eastern coast of Canada — a province called Newfoundland .. where a new world record has been set ..

Professional cliff diver Molly Carlson has become the first woman to dive off an iceberg into the ocean.

And get this ... she first of all had to learn to climb an iceberg using picks and special spiked boots - and then did the dive backwards ... as in stood with her back facing the

14metre drop then flipped on entry to the surging sea below ... I've stuck a link to video of the amazing feat in today's show notes ..

You're welcome ..

## **ANIMAL KINGDOM**

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And some good news today out of the Animal Kingdom .. as Aussie scientists have discovered that spiders like to sleep.

And that's good news for spiders - because we all need a good rest - and good news for humans - because if they're sleeping, they can't be crawling all over us while we're asleep ..

Or is that just a phobia that I have?

The scientists studied a species of jumping spider - which is easily the worst kind of spider in my book - and discovered evidence that they have similar sorts of active sleep - including REM sleep - as dogs and humans do.

REM stands for rapid eye movement - which is what your eyes do when you are in that part of the sleep cycle where your brain is active, your eyes are closed, and your limbs can sometimes twitch.

Have you ever noticed your dog sleeping and twitching their paws or half-barking? That's them in REM sleep .. and spiders have been found to do the same.

Dozy spiders ... now I've heard everything ..

## **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 coming across a video online that's causing all sorts of confusion – and more than a few tummies to turn ..

I'm talking about a video that's gone viral in some parts of Fiji and the South Pacific - showing dead geckos being baked and crushed and used to make instant noodles.

Euggh .. on so many levels ... euggh.

The video is a fake. As in, it's been made by AI. But it looks real. And so lots and lots of people on social media have watched it and believed it.

And this is the problem with Ai-generated fake videos .. it's getting harder and harder to tell when something is real or something is fake. Which is why becoming a Newshound - and getting your teacher to sign up to do Squiz Kids' very own, totally free media literacy program for primary school classrooms - is a 2026 must!

And when you've become a Newshound and helped Squiz-E muddle his way through the online gameboard - you'll be able to help your parents and grandparents and make sure they don't fall for fakes ...

Or find themselves eating gecko-inspired noodles.

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

## **THE S'QUIZ**

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

1. Starting with 'n' - what is the name of the Canadian province off the coast of which Molly Carlson did her iceberg dive?
2. How many millions of dollars are Australians expected to spend on Halloween this year? Is it a. \$5million b.\$50m or c. \$510m?
3. Starting with R - What's the three letter acronym for the sort of sleep you have that's really deep?

## **SHOUT OUTS**

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It's Thursday, October 29 – today is Bandanna Day ... which is why a bunch of you today will be coming to school wearing a bandanna – to help raise awareness of cancer in 12 to 25 years olds ... Canteen is the name of the charity that Bandanna Day supports - and you can help them help young Aussies with cancer by wearing a bandanna today or buying one online or making a donation at [canteen.org.au](http://canteen.org.au)

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today... Alistair from Indooroopilly, Noam from Stuart Park and Jackson from South Australia.

Belated shoutouts go to ... Aliah from Lyons and Ryder listening over in Rome, Italy.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 2B with Mr Ben at Coomera Springs State School, class 2M with Ms Murphy at Wenona School in Sydney and classes 5/6B with Mr Blain and 5/6C with Mr Crack at Belmont Primary School in Geelong.

**The S'Quiz Answers:**

1. Newfoundland
2. \$510m
3. REM

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](mailto: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 -

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.