The great pen and paper classroom comeback; Donald Trump's big test; it's Melbourne Cup day; and the man who walked around the world.

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 Monday, November 2

In Squiz Kids Today …. The great pen and paper classroom comeback; Donald Trump's big test; it's Melbourne Cup day; and the man who walked around the world.

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

THE LOWDOWN

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Start practicing those handwriting skills, kids! The old pen and paper is making a comeback as more and more schools turn their backs on devices and governments create rules to return to old fashioned ways of learning.

After two decades of leaning into digital learning - the push to return to pen and paper got extra oomph yesterday with reports the NSW government will today propose NAPLAN tests for Years 5, 7 and 9 be done with handwritten exams from 2028.

Education Ministers from all states will meet today as teachers and parents here in Australia - and in many other countries around the world - worry that too much time on screens is restricting how much you're actually learning at schools.

Education experts say that the act of writing something down can improve a student's ability to understand and remember it.

Huh … handwriting … who knew it was so important, eh?

Meanwhile – a school in Sydney yesterday announced it was banning smartphones among its students .. with kids only allowed to carry simple phones with no internet connection - and never allowed to use them during school hours.

The great tech pushback is happening as more and more teachers worry about the widespread use of AI chatbots and how it is impacting our ability to learn new things.

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 United States - where President Donald Trump is about to face the biggest test since he was elected.

You're going to hear a lot this week about something called the Mid-Term Elections ..

And that's because this week, Americans will go to the polls to choose the politicians they want to represent them in Washington DC - the nation's capital - where decisions are made on how to run the country.

It's being widely considered a chance to voters in America to either show how much they like their President, Donald Trump - or how unhappy they are with the way he's running the country.

Election Day is this Tuesday in the US - but the results could take anywhere from hours to days or even weeks to be finalised.

Watch this space...

SPORT TIME

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I was looking forward to telling you about how well the Aussie men's cricket team beat South Africa in the first test in Cape Town over the weekend - but that didn't happen - so the less said about that the better.

So let's look forward instead to tomorrow - to a sporting event that is often described as the race that stops the nation...

I'm talking Melbourne Cup – where 24 beautiful thoroughbred horses will race one another around a 3.2 kilometre track at Flemington Racecourse - with the winner taking home four-and-a-half million dollars and a big gold cup.

There are favourites to win the race, and outsiders who are given next to no chance.

But the one thing that's certain about the Melbourne Cup is that anything can happen - and it usually does.

The race starts at 3pm Melbourne time ... giddy up!

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

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How many times have you heard someone say: "Oh, I had to walk around the world to get here" .... When they've had to make a short detour to get somewhere? Well one English man will be able to say it for real in the next couple of weeks, as he finishes an actual walk around the world that has taken - get this - 28 whole years to complete ...

When Karl Bushby was only 29 years old, he drew a line on a world map - starting at the bottom of South America, going up through North America, across into Russia, through China, Turkey and France and back to his home in England.

And then he got a backpack and sturdy pair of boots - flew to the tip of South America and started walking.

He's been walking for almost three decades – even walking in winter across the frozen waters of the Bering Strait - a stretch of sea between the North American and Asian continents.

And now that's he's almost home? What's the main lesson he's learned from walking around the world? That humans are essentially kind and generous - and will almost always offer a helping hand to a stranger in need.

Isn't that nice?

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 big elections taking place in the United States this week?
2. How many kilometres is the Melbourne Cup horse race?
3. How many years did it take Englishman Karl Bushby to walk around the world?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, November 2 – on this day, back in 1932 - the Great Emu War began in the wheatfields of Western Australia ... wait, what? The Great Emu What? War .. the Great Emu War - a chapter in Australia's history that few people know about - but once you've listened to tomorrow's Squiz Kids Shortcut on the topic, you're going to wonder how its the first time its crossed your radar ...

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... William from Forest Lake, Annabelle from Asquith, Jasper from Keysborough, Georgiana from Exeter, Tamia from Warnervale, Evie from North Ryde, Louie from Roseberry and Leona from Rosewood.

Belated shoutouts go to ... Ethan from Lismore, Matilda from Lane Cove West, Shannon from Fairy Hill, Gabeitch listening over in Ohio, USA and Olivia listening in Washington DC, USA.

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 4C and Miss Churchyard at Canberra Grammar School, class 4B with Mr Ben at Coomera Springs State School and class 4B with Miss Bougoure at St Aidan's Anglican Girls School in Corinda.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Mid-Terms
2. 3.2 kilometres
3. 28 years

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 -

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.