Back to basics in Aussie schools; Christmas arrives early in New York; Koala saved from python's grip; and Kenya's rugby girls win gold.

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 9

In Squiz Kids Today …. Back to basics in Aussie schools; Christmas arrives early in New York; Koala saved from python's grip; and Kenya's rugby girls win gold.

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

THE LOWDOWN

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It's screens down and pens at the ready for Aussie school kids, after a big meeting last week of the politicians who decide what happens in our classrooms.

Education ministers from every state and territory in Australia met last week and agreed that phones and screens need to be largely removed from primary and secondary school classrooms - as evidence shows kids who learn with pen and paper get better results.

It's a message that's been emphasised by the leader of Australia's biggest state, NSW - a fella called Premier Chris Minns.

In a special Squiz Kids Q+A recorded last week, Premier Minns explained why his state was intent on bringing back old fashioned ways of learning - saying that screens will

undoubtedly be a part of every kid's life in a digital age, but pen and paper helped to develop imagination, critical thinking and problem solving skills.

You can hear our podcast with the Premier first thing tomorrow morning - and thanks to all the Squiz Kids listeners who sent in a question.

Meanwhile - the education ministers also agreed that more teaching was required in the area of civics .. which is learning about the system of government that shapes our lives and how we all have a role to play in it.

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 New York City - where the spirit of Christmas has officially landed with the arrival of the famous Rockefeller Christmas Tree.

Each year, a tree is selected from the surrounding area to be chopped down and installed above the ice-skating rink in Rockefeller Plaza – one of the most iconic Christmas destinations in the world.

And this year, that tree is a 23-metre high Norway spruce - weighing 11 tonnes - so about the same weight as 11 small cars.

It took crews of tree surgeons and cranes and heavy haulage trucks to remove the tree from the rural field upstate it had been growing in for the past 75 years.

In a couple of weeks' time - the tree will be decorated with thousands of crystal decorations and Christmas lights, as millions of people flock to see it and get into the Christmas spirit .. because, get this, it's only 46 days away!! Whaaaaaaaaa ??

Better start working your way onto Santa's nice list ...

ANIMAL KINGDOM

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And back to the Aussie bush we come - to bring you news from the animal kingdom where a baby koala has been rescued from a python by a woman walking her dog.

It all happened in Brisbane - just kilometres from the heart of the city - in a nature reserve known for its koala population. The woman came across a mother koala frantically scratching at a juvenile diamond python which had wrapped itself around her joey.

The woman managed to untangle the python from the joey with her bare hands - I know right – brave — allowing the joey to scramble with its mother up a nearby tree to safety.

The python was released and slithered off in search of an easier meal.

Koalas 1 - pythons 0

And yes: I've stuck a link to video of the rescue in today's episode notes. You're welcome.

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And while we're here in Animal Kingdon corner - don't forget that this week marks the start of Frog ID week ... where we all become citizen scientists.

It's the Australian Museum's annual frog count .. where anyone anywhere around the country is encourage to record any frog sounds they have in their garden or local park - and upload it to the Frog ID app - to help the Museum do its annual frog count. I've stuck a link to the app in today's episode notes.

SPORT TIME

—--And Kenya was celebrating an epic victory over the weekend after beating tournament favourites Australia in the final of the womens' rugby sevens at the Youth Olympic Games.

Christie told us about the Youth Olympics in last week's podcast .. it's a version of the Olympics for kids aged 15-18.

And while the Aussie women's rugby 7s team went into the competition as favourites to take home the gold medal - Kenya's Rising Lionesses managed to pip them at the post in a thrilling golden point finish.

And look: while I'd obviously have preferred the girls in green and gold to win - the victory meant so much to the Kenyan team .. and no wonder.

It was an historic victory, afterall - marking the first time ever that Kenya has won an Olympic gold medal in a teams event .. and being a country where boys and girls don't have the same opportunities that kids in Australia have - the win could see the team

members lives transformed - with scholarships and sponsorships that could change their lives.

Bravo Lionesses!

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. How many tonnes is the Rockefeller Christmas tree this year?
2. What do we call a baby koala? Hint: it's the same as a baby kangaroo..
3. Which African country beat Australia to the gold medal in the womens' rugby sevens at the Youth Olympics this weekend?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, November 9 – today marks the start of National Recycling week – an excellent opportunity to stop and think about all the ways in which we can help the planet by recycling ..

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Taylor from Albany Creek, Hugo from Riverton, Paige from Trafalgar, Kuvira (pron koo-VEE-ruh) from Vermont South, Charli from Ashmont, Angus from Bullarah, Jedda from Wollongong, Jayden from Pymble, Jamie from St Ives, Flynn and Pippa from NSW and Cozmo from Victoria.

Belated shoutouts go to...

Classroom shoutouts go to... Class 5Y and Ms LeRay at Lakes Grammar School in Warnervale, Year 4 with Mrs O'Brien at Ariah Park Central School, room 13 with Miss Vinten at North Cottesloe Primary School and class 4RD with Mrs Rawson and Mrs Dwyer at Pennant Hills Public School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. 11
2. Joey

3. Kenya

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 with the Kids v Adults Weekly News S’Quiz ...

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