Mechazilla makes space history; Philippines win Eurovision Asia; Ice Age bear cave discovered; and Australia wins rugby league World Cup.

Hello and welcome to Squiz Kids Today … your fresh take on what's happening in the world around you.

I'm BC

It's Monday, November 16

In Squiz Kids Today …. Mechazilla makes space history; Philippines win Eurovision Asia; Ice Age bear cave discovered; and Australia wins rugby league World Cup.

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

THE LOWDOWN

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On the other side of the Earth yesterday morning - when most of us were still rubbing the sleep from our eyes - humans took another step towards Mars as the SpaceX Starship completed a successful mission, returning to Earth after a 22 hour flight in space, to make a controlled landing and be snatched from mid-air by a pair of mechanical chopsticks.

Called "Mechazilla" - these so-called chopsticks are expected to completely change the ease with which humans go into space - helping to create a re-useable spaceship which can be re-fuelled and refurbished faster than any spaceship before it - ready to head back into space again.

The Starship 15 mission saw a spacecraft launched into space on Saturday, spin around the Earth 14 times over a 22 hour period, deploy no fewer than 26 satellites while it was up there - then make a fiery re-entry to Earth's atmosphere yesterday morning - at a

speed of 26,000 kms per hour no less - before elegantly returning to the exact spot from which it took off, to be plucked from the air by Mechazilla.

Remarkable.

Thousands showed up in Texas, in the United States, to watch the landing live, and millions others followed the live link online, as scientists and engineers made history in the human endeavour to eventually travel to Mars.

The reason they've come up with this jet propelled landing system for Starship? Because on Mars, there are no landing strips for spacecraft to fly in on, or oceans for them to splash down in.

Just think: with predictions that humans could land on Mars sometime in the late 2030s, early 2040s - it's something that you will see happen in your lifetime! Who knows: maybe you'll be one of the astronauts who does it.

Look up tonight at the stars my friends – and dream big.

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 Thailand – where the Philippines has just won the first ever Asia version of the Eurovision Song Contest.

19 yo Filippina singer Carmelle beat all comers with her catchy tune Sobra Sobra - host country Thailand came in second and Vietnam came third.

Sobra Sobra - which means ‘too much’ in the native language of Filipino - has been hailed as a girl power song - celebrating strong women.

I’ve stuck a link to lyric video of the song in today’s episode notes - it’s super catchy, in that Eurovision way.

It’s the first time Asia has held it’s own version of the Eurovision song contest – which saw 11 Asian countries compete including Bhutan, Bangladesh and Mongolia.

And the winners of the most original act? That would be the Bangladeshi beat boxers who, instead of a backing track, used their voices to replicate the sound of drums and basslines.

Cool ..

SPORT TIME

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And it was a rugby league world cup double whammy for Australia last night as first the women’s and then the men’s team beat New Zealand to take home the trophy.

The Jillaroos got the winning proceedings underway first at Brisbane’s Suncorp Stadium, blitzing the Kiwi Ferns in the womens’ World Cup final by a convincing 34 points to 10.

The convincing victory saw the Jillaroos take out their fourth consecutive World Cup title. And the crowd went wild …

Then it was the Kangaroos time to go to work …

The Aussie mens’ team took to the field as favourites - and barely drew breath as they clinically deconstructed the Kiwis in the stinking heat of a Brisbane summer night.

The final score: 32-12 to Australia ... seeing the home team take home their fourth consecutive World Cup too.

Aussie, Aussie, Aussie ...

ANCIENT EARTH

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And so to the Alps mountain range in Italy we go - where a mountaineer has discovered an Ice Age cave bear graveyard.

Scientists are high-fiving each other following the discovery of a cave full of bones, high in the freezing Italian Alps, believed to belong to a massive species of ancient bear that went extinct 24,000 years ago.

There are skulls and leg bones and thigh bones and jaw bones .. so many bones that scientists will now have years of exciting work ahead of them putting together this massive puzzle - like an ancient animal jigsaw - to create a picture of life on Earth 24,000 years ago.

The Ice Age cave bears are believed to have measured up to 3 metres long and weighed about 1200 kilograms ... so significantly bigger than the average polar bear - which is the biggest living species of bear currently on planet Earth.

Wouldn;t want to have been a cave man stumbling upon on family of those asleep in my cave ... yikes ...

SANTA Q+A

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(SLEIGH BELLS) Is that sound what I think it is? Are those sleigh bells? And does that mean Christmas is just around the corner?

Oh yes, indeed it does, my tinsel-loving friends … there are only 39 sleeps until Santa Claus does his big spin around the world, sack full of treats for kids all over the world – and here at Squiz Kids - we could NOT be more excited ..

Which is why we're beside ourselves to announce ,,,, drum roll please (DRUM ROLL) .. both Santa AND Mrs Claus have agreed to take time out of their super busy pre-Xmas schedule to take part in a special Squiz Kids Q+A ..

That's right … they've agreed to answer any questions you might want to ask them ..

Santa AND Mrs Claus! How exciting!

So whack on your elf hats and email through your questions to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au .. or hop onto our website, squizkids.com.au and record and submit your question directly there — with an adult's permission, of course.

Your chance to find out what really goes on in the North Pole … how the world's most famous married couple pull off one of the world's favourite holidays each year .. what's it like to live with Santa? How do they manage all those elves and reindeer? Do they have a favourite? And what do they do to wind down once Christmas is over? Any question you like — we'll select the ten best and put them to the Clauses.

Because it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas .. (SLEIGH BELLS)

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What's the name given to the mechanical chopsticks that caught Starship 15 on its return to Earth yesterday?
2. Which country won the Eurovision Asia song contest?
3. What species of bear, currently alive on planet Earth today, is considered to be the largest?

SHOUT OUTS

It’s Monday, November 16 – today is Odd Socks Day .. an annual event where people are encouraged to wear odd socks to raise awareness of mental health – as an acknowledgement that we all have days when we’re feeling a bit odd, and that’s ok.

It’s also a special day for these Squiz Kids, celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Maddy from Shoalhaven Heads, Jacob from Dimbulah, Ted from Goornong, Arlo from Port Macquarie, Sidhaarth and Indie from Gumdale, Isla from Kurri Kurri, Brayton from Picton, Amber from Vermont South, Oscar from Heidelberg West, Quinn from Lilydale and Owen from Coburg.

Belated shoutouts go to... Flynn from Arundal, Haylee from Malanda and Patty from Westbury.

Classroom shoutouts go to... classes 5B and 5W at Holy Spirit Catholic School in Kurri Kurri, year 1 with Mrs Davissen and Prep with Mrs Klinarkis at Coorparoo State School and class 2P with Ms Brook at Milton State School in Brisbane.

The S’Quiz Answers:

1. Mechazilla
2. Philippines
3. Polar bear

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 a Squiz The World episode where we hop into the Super Fast Supersonic Squiz Kids Jetliner to pay a visit to Turkiye - a country in the news a lot this past week as a huge climate change conference takes place there.

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