

A SharkEye in the sky; Paris' Olympic hiccups; the parrot with a big bill; and the Starliner's space camp is almost over.

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

I'm Christie Kijurina

It's Wednesday, July 31...

In Squiz Kids Today ... A SharkEye in the sky; Paris' Olympic hiccups; the parrot with a big bill; and the Starliner's space camp is almost over.

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

THE LOWDOWN

"The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." is a line from a poem by famous Scottish poet, Robert Burns. It means that no matter how well you prepare, things can and do go wrong. And although the Olympic Games have cost Paris almost nine billion dollars (that's billion with a 'b' people) there've still been some bumps along the way.

Firstly, to the Olympic Village that is home to 14,250 athletes during the games. There have been a few complaints about the food not being nutritious enough for the needs of the athletes. One heavy weight Aussie boxer was restricted to just 2 lamb chops for his dinner. I think even I could go more than that! And as for the cardboard beds athletes are sleeping on, Aussie swimmer Ariarne Titmus joked they're "not made for high performance." But even that didn't stop her from winning a gold and silver medal this week!

Next, to the basketball. The South Sudanese men's team who are making their Olympic debut (meaning it's the first time they've qualified for the Olympics), were left stunned earlier in the week when the wrong anthem was played before their opening match

against Puerto Rico. Instead of South Sudan's anthem, organisers played Sudan's, which has a tense history of conflict with South Sudan. After fans noticed the mistake, the correct anthem was played, and the team went on to win 90-79 in their debut match. Afterwards, one of the players was heard to comment that “overcoming adversity makes us better.”

And finally to the River Seine. Our regular listeners will know there's been a bit of a stink about the river's cleanliness, especially with some athletes set to swim there this Games. Yesterday, Australian time, the men's triathlon—that features running, cycling, and swimming—was postponed due to crappy water quality. But, officials willl retest the water today, and if all goes well, the race should go ahead this afternoon. Let's hope the athletes can plunge into a cleaner Seine soon!

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 California, on the west coast of the United States, where the hot weather is drawing crowds to the beach. But it's not just people flocking to the shore; young great white sharks are coming, too! Sounds like the start of the movie *Jaws*, (I hope you're too young to have seen that).

But don't worry—clever scientists have a solution to keep everyone safe without harming the sharks. It's called SharkEye. This system uses video equipment strapped to a drone, which sends images to an AI processor. If a shark is spotted, SharkEye sends a text message to lifeguards and anyone who signed up for the service, warning them to get out of the water for a bit. With AI watching the screens this allows lifeguards to focus on other lifesaving duties.

So, even though shark attacks are very rare, it's nice to know there's an AI eye in the sky keeping watch!

SPACED OUT

—

Have you been on school camp yet this year? Feeling nervous about being away from home? It's natural to feel that way, but camp is an exciting adventure that teaches you new things about yourself and life—an opportunity that doesn't come around every day.

Astronauts Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams are having a similar experience on their "space camp" aboard the International Space Station. Regular listeners might remember that back in early June, they blasted off on the Boeing Starliner, a spacecraft being tested for future space missions. Initially, their mission was set to last just eight days, but problems with the helium thrusters—which are like the spaceship's steering system—extended their stay.

Now on their 56th day off the planet, Butch and Sunita have been helping out on the ISS while engineers work on a fix. The good news? NASA and Boeing believe they've found a solution, and the astronauts should be home in a few weeks. So, while their adventure took an unexpected turn, it looks like they'll be back on solid ground soon with some great stories to tell.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

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And finally today, we have a story about a bird and a bill. No, it's not a duck we're talking about, it's a parrot. So, since when do parrots have bills?

Well, wayyy back in 1983 (41 years ago), Jonny Clothier, who studied architecture at the University of Bristol, missed his graduation ceremony because of an unpaid bill of £64.80 (that's about \$400 in today's money). The cause? His flatmate's parrot unleashed chaos in their dorm, damaging the rooms and leading the university to charge them a repair fee, which Jonny refused to pay. An old school rule stopped him from graduating; so he couldn't dress in that funny hat and gown or get his certificate, even though he still got his degree.

And here's the twist: This year, the university decided to waive the old bill, allowing Jonny to graduate on the same day as his 21-year-old son, Carter. Jonny, now 62, joked about the unpaid bill as an "ultra-long-term, interest-free loan."

And, in case you're wondering, the parrot was not invited to the party.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which event was postponed yesterday due to poor water quality in the river Seine?
2. What is the name of the AI equipment protecting swimmers, in California, from sharks?
3. How many days have Butch and Sunni spent in space so far?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, July 31 .. The birthday of Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling and of Harry Potter himself. I hope she has a cake for Harry every year.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today...George from Yass, Rivka and Charlotte from Rochdale, Shanzay from Point Cook, Richard from Bundaberg, Charlotte from Sydney, Judd from Ashmont, Lucinda from Eltham, Juniper from Healesville and Ceara (pronounced See ar ra) from Tailem Bend.

Belated shoutouts go to... Paxton from Lansdowne, Harry from Coal Point and Chloe from Grovedale.

Today's classroom shoutouts go to... class 3E and Mr Hayes at Alamanda College in Point Cook, class 5/6F with Mrs Farrell at Austinmer Public School, class 5/6C with Mrs Chapman at Deception Bay State School, classes 5A and 5D with Mrs Liang and Miss Charles at Sheldon College, class 4S with Mrs Spackman at Mount Terry Public School and class 5/6 with Gillian at Yarraville West Primary School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. The men's triathlon
2. SharkEye
3. 56

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or if you want a classroom shout out - drop us a line at squizkids@thesquiz.com.au or fill out the form on our website.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today -We'll be back again tomorrow withXXX

And don't forget, every morning of the Olympics we'll be bringing you the Squiz Kids Olympic Sprint — a quick catch up on what's been happening in Paris while you've been asleep.

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