

Stinky Seine swim goes ahead; Bear Cam is back; Simone Biles conquers the twisties; and dance fakes on TikTok.

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, Aug 1 ...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Stinky Seine swim goes ahead; Bear Cam is back; Simone Biles conquers the twisties; and dance fakes on TikTok.

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

THE LOWDOWN

It's been the most anticipated event of the Paris Olympics - and for all the wrong reasons - as triathletes took to the stinky waters of the River Seine yesterday for the swim leg of their event.

For months leading up the Games there's been a big pooh emoji-shaped question mark hanging over the triathlon and specifically whether there was too much effluent in the water for athletes to safely swim in the Seine.

Effluent is everything from overflowing sewage to industrial waste to stormwater drain run-off that makes its way into rivers.

In the weeks leading up to yesterday's triathlon, tests showed an unhealthy level in the river of something called the e-coli bacteria - commonly found in human pooh. I'm sorry - are you eating your breakfast? Sincere apologies.

But officials tested the water early yesterday morning and were satisfied it was safe for swimmers. Gosh - I hope they were wearing nose plugs.

As it turned out: bacteria wasn't the only thing the athletes had to battle. With The Seine renowned for its fast flowing current, many of the swimmers looked like they swimming backwards as they battled their way upstream.

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 Alaska - where, speaking of hapless creatures battling their way upstream, one of our favourite events of the year is well and truly underway. I'm talking the annual salmon-feasting festival by the bears of Katmai National Park.

Long-time listeners of the podcast will know we get very excited every October when Fat Bear Week rolls around - and the internet votes on their favourite brown bear from Brooks Falls who has spent the northern hemisphere summer standing at the top of the falls with their mouth wide open as hapless salmon leap straight into their jaws as they swim upstream. Hapless is a fancy word for not being very lucky.

Bears use the summer months of the northern hemisphere to eat as much as they can to fatten up before going into hibernation for winter.

The Brooks Falls Bear Cam is a live stream of the big bear feast - and we've spent many hours in the last week watching the drama unfold. Between that and the Olympics - it's a wonder we're getting any work done at all. And yes of course, I've stuck a link to it in today's episode notes.

SQUIZ KIDS SALUTES

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Have you ever found yourself about to do something in front of a big crowd - whether it's on stage in your dance concert, or on the sporting field, or standing up in front of the class - and your mind has just gone blank? In the world of Olympic gymnastics, that's called 'the twisties' - when your body and mind are not talking to each properly. And when you're flying through the air in the middle of a gymnastics routine - that's a dangerous prospect. Which is why today we are sending a great big Squiz Kids Salute to gymnast Simone Biles - who yesterday became the most decorated American gymnast of all time after helping her team win a gold medal in Paris. Simone famously pulled out of the last Olympics in Tokyo after suffering from the 'twisties' - but by staging such an amazing comeback, she's shown how true champions just can't be held down - and that it's not our failures that define us, but the way in which we pick ourselves up afterwards and carry on. An inspiration to us all.

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 he's got his glitter disco pants on after spending the week scrolling through videos of politicians dancing on TikTok ... we're talking US Presidential candidates Donald Trump and Kamala Harris shaking their groove thang on a 1980s TV program called Soul Train ... except in both cases - the videos are fakes. And it's a phenomenon not just isolated to American politics. A video circulated in Australia earlier this week, apparently showing the Queensland Premier dancing .. except it was a deep fake - which is a video generated by AI where someone's face is put on a body that doesn't belong to them to make it seem they did or said something they never did or said.

And as we get closer and closer to elections both in Queensland and the USA, the amount of disinformation like these deepfakes will only become more common. Which is why we have to have our Newshounds magnifying glasses at the ready, and as Squiz-E says, always Stop, Think and Check before believing everything we see online - especially on social media where anyone can say pretty much anything.

Thanks Squiz-E - what would we do without you. Now take off those glitter disco pants.

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 of the river that runs through Paris and was the venue for the swim leg of the triathlon yesterday?
2. What sort of fish are brown bears feasting on in Alaska?
3. What's the name of the American gymnast who has overcome the twisties?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, Aug 1 .. Horse's Birthday for every one of our hooved friends in the southern hemisphere .. fun fact: January 1 is Horse's Birthday in the northern hemisphere - in both instances marking the beginning of the breeding and foaling season for horses. Happy birthday horsies!

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... Hugo from Warrnambool, Olivia from Cannon Hill, Jamie from Woongarra, Ava from Yass, Arwen from Leura, Nicholas from Carnes Hill, Jordan from East Ulverstone and Hazel from Jerilderie.

Today's classroom shoutouts go to... Class 5S with Mr Shackcloth at Westside Christian College, class LA10 with My Payne at Atwell Primary School, Grades 3,4,5 & 6 with Miss Mirabito (or Miss M) at Goornong Primary School, class 3M with Ms Ferguson at St Martin's Catholic Primary School in Carina, class UP with Mr Shane at Rapid Bay Primary and lastly a special shout out goes to Mrs Cole and Year 3/4 from Redeemer Lutheran School in the Barossa Valley!

And finally - a shout out to siblings Alby, Clancy and Valerie in Canberra - I met your mum yesterday and she's pretty cool ...

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. The Seine
2. Salmon
3. Simon Biles

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

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.