

**Pope Francis hits the road; an 8-foot athlete rules Paris; Moon crash video a fake;
and the planet-protecting doughnut.**

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 Thursday, September 5...

In Squiz Kids Today ... Pope Francis hits the road; an 8-foot athlete rules Paris; Moon crash video a fake; and the planet-protecting doughnut.

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

THE LOWDOWN

You've heard of pop stars going on tour, right? Travelling across the world to see their audiences? Well, this week, Pope Francis, the head of the Catholic Church and leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics, has embarked on a tour of the Asia-Pacific region - over 12 days, travelling almost 33,000 kilometres. That would be a big deal for anybody, but considering the pontiff is 87 years old, it's pretty epic.

So, why is he making this huge journey? Pope Francis is dedicated to promoting peace, conversation between people of different faiths, and action on climate change. His first stop yesterday was Indonesia, a country of 275 million people, of whom a whopping 87% are Muslim. He's aiming to bring people together, regardless of their religion, and promote the importance of helping the planet. With millions living in low-lying areas, places like Indonesia face rising sea levels and extreme heat due to climate change. The Pope's mission? To encourage everyone to take care of our planet, showing his commitment to creating a better, safer world for all.

The Paralympics are in full swing in Paris, and the Aussies are making a splash in the pool! Rachel Watson put in a fantastic performance to earn a hard-fought bronze medal in the women's 100m S3 Freestyle. Meanwhile, 18-year-old Alex Saffey was overjoyed to claim bronze in the men's 100m S10 butterfly final. Alex moved from Western Australia to Canberra at just 16 to chase his Paralympic dream, and his hard work is definitely paying off.

Over on the track, sprinter James Turner, who was battling illness before the Games, powered through to win gold in the men's 400m T36 final, even smashing his own world record!

At the time of recording, Australia sits proudly in 8th place on the medal tally, boasting 9 gold, 8 silver, and 14 bronze medals, making a total of 32.

Go Aussies!

SPIN THE GLOBE

Each day, we give the world globe a spin and find a news story from wherever it stops. Today, we've landed... oh, look at that, we're still in Paris! That's because the world's second tallest man, Morteza Mehrzad Selakjani (mehr-zad-selak-jani), is dominating at the Paralympics. Standing an incredible eight foot one—nearly two and a half metres tall—Morteza has a condition called acromegaly, which causes him to keep growing. His daily life is impacted in many ways, including not fitting into the beds in the Olympic Village, meaning that he's been sleeping on the floor.

Morteza normally uses a wheelchair but abandons this when he takes the court for his country, Iran, to compete in his chosen sport - sitting volleyball. Even sitting, he can reach over six feet high with his arms raised, making him a formidable opponent. His spikes are nearly impossible to block, as Brazil found out during their match on Sunday. Morteza's coach says that his main focus is helping his team win a third straight Paralympic title.. whether he has to sleep on the floor or not. Now that's commitment!

WEIRD SCIENCE

Have you ever had an X-ray to look inside your body? Well, one Aussie scientist has done something even cooler—he's taken lots of X-rays to peek deep inside the Earth! Underneath the Earth's 2,900-kilometre-thick solid mantle, right at the equator, he discovered a previously unknown doughnut-shaped layer. Mmmm doughnuts! So, what's the big deal about this doughnut? Well, it could be the key to how the Earth's magnetic field is created, the invisible force that acts like a superhero shield, protecting us all from dangerous solar storms. Without this magnetic field, our atmosphere could be stripped away, and we'd lose all our electric technology, like power and the internet—imagine that!

We can sometimes see the shield when it interacts with solar flares, causing those coloured light shows in the sky, auroras, that we've spoken about recently. Discovering this hidden doughnut is like finding a key to how life on Earth has been able to survive and thrive protected from the harsh space environment. So, a pretty big deal.

NEWSHOUNDS

Every Thursday, Squiz-E the Newshound sticks his snout into Squiz Kids HQ to tell us about all the fishy things he's sniffed out on the internet... and this week, his nose is twitching like crazy because a video posted by a Facebook user called Darkest Conspiracy [HOWL] (Squiz-E calm down!)...this video appears to show a giant asteroid shooting toward the moon and crashing into it, creating a massive shockwave. The video, captioned "*Moon hit by asteroid: CAUGHT ON CAMERA*," has gone viral, racking up over 8,000 likes and more than 1,200 shares before being reposted on TikTok.

On checking, Squiz-E discovered that while NASA confirms that although asteroids do occasionally hit the moon (the moon's many craters and pockmarks show where impacts have happened) seeing such an event live—especially in bright daylight with the naked eye—is extremely rare.

For those of you who have completed our Newshounds program, you'll know how to spot the clues when you Stop, Think & Check, so you won't be fooled by videos like this! And for those of you have yet to sign up... what are you waiting for? It's totally free and we think its essential in this time of deepfakes and misinformation. Find out more at our website squizkids.com.au

Thanks Squiz-E, you've done it again!

AD STING

Mid-roll: Bounce (EB updated 5th Sept)

Hey adults... Do you have a kids' birthday party coming up? Or are you looking for an activity these holidays where you can leave all the planning to someone else? Then get yourself to your nearest BOUNCE venue - the indoor action adventure playground where kids parties are hassle free. Let the kids jump, climb and fly at BOUNCE with adventure challenges including the ninja course, cliff jump, dodgeball and the big bag... and the best bit? BOUNCE's parties are run by a dedicated host, meaning you can leave the supervising to someone else. Fun, safe, adrenaline-inducing physical activity... and not a screen in sight. Find your nearest BOUNCE and view their party options and packages by visiting bouncinc.com.au. And for Squiz Kids there is 10% off during these school holidays, just use the code SQUIZKIDS10 when you book online, NICE! T&C's in the episode notes.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which majority Muslim country is the first stop on Pope Francis' tour?
2. Which sport does eight-foot athlete Morteza Mehrzadselakjani (mehr-zad-selak-jani) play?
3. What are the three things that Squiz-E the Newshounds tells us we should do whenever we come across anything fishy on the internet?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, Sept 5 ... National Be Late For Something Day in the United States, which was started in 1956 by the Procrastinators' Club of America . I wonder if they're still accepting new members?

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... Samar and Jack from Cannon Hill, Christian from Woongarra, Jack from Middle Harbour, Eleanora from

Goodna, Theo from Tocomwal, Jake from Lambton, Diezal from Echuca and Frankie from Hawthorne.

Today's classroom shoutouts go to.... Class 5 Red with Mr Jimmy at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School in Attadale, class 1A with Mrs M at Hamlyn Banks Primary School, class 7/8S at Northern Bay College in Corio, class 5/6G and Mr Galear at Oyster Bay Public School, class S3I with Mr Stewart-Ison at King Street Public School in Singleton and all of the students at Terrey Hills Public School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Indonesia
2. Sitting Volleyball
3. Stop, Think and Check

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 Kids v Adult weekly news S'Quiz.

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