

A second storm strikes Florida; Aussies in Lebanon make it home; fake news hurricane hoaxes; and a Fat Bear champion is crowned.

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, October 10...

In Squiz Kids Today... A second storm strikes Florida; Aussies in Lebanon make it home; fake news hurricane hoaxes; and a Fat Bear champion is crowned.

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

THE LOWDOWN

As this podcast goes to air this morning, let's take a moment to think about the people of Florida, a state in the southeast United States. Florida is mostly a peninsula, which means that it sticks out into the ocean, surrounded by water on three sides. I've stuck a link to a map of Florida in your episode notes if you want to check it out

Right now, a massive storm called Hurricane Milton is hitting Florida's coastline. It's one of the biggest storms people can remember, with winds up to 300 kilometres per hour - wowzers! This type of storm is called a Category Five hurricane, the strongest there is. We've done a Shortcut to Cyclones, Hurricanes and Typhoons, if you want to learn more about these tropical giants, there's a link to listen in the episode notes.

You might remember from last week's podcast that the poor people of Florida are only just starting to clean up after Hurricane Helene, with 300 dump trucks removing thousands of tonnes of debris, and now they're facing another challenge.

Almost six million people have been ordered to leave their homes as damaging winds, storm surges of ocean water up to five metres high and more than 60 centimetres of rainfall threaten to flatten and flood homes and cut off power and road access for days if not weeks.

Squiz Kids' thoughts are with you, Florida. We hope you stay safe!

Meanwhile, back home here in Australia, the summer storm season has kicked off with a bang! Queensland and New South Wales are getting hit with some serious thunderstorm action this week—think strong winds, huge hailstones, and rain coming down in buckets. To make sure you're ready for it, the Bureau of Meteorology has alerts that adults can sign up for using their weather app.

And hey, if you've got a dog who turns into a big scaredy-pup at the sound of thunder (I'm looking at you, fluffy friends!), you might want to keep them safe inside where it's a little less scary. Stay dry, everyone!

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 Lebanon, a country to the north of Israel, where nearly 4,000 Aussies have asked the Australian Government for help to get back home.

Lebanon has been caught up in the fighting between Israel and a group called Hezbollah, making it a dangerous place for both the people who live there and Australians who are visiting. You might be surprised to learn that around half a million Australians have Lebanese heritage, so it's possible you know someone with family connections to the country.

To help those who need to return, the Australian Government has been organising special flights to bring them home. There were plenty of hugs and happy tears at Sydney Airport earlier this week when the first 350 people arrived safely. While it's been a tough time for many, it's heartwarming to see families reunited and people coming home to safety.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

We've covered some serious stories today, so now it's time for... *Fat Bear Week!* Our favourite time of year at Squiz Kids HQ, where we watch the bears of Katmai National Park in Alaska stuff themselves silly with salmon to fatten up for winter hibernation. And we get to vote on who's gotten the fattest!

On Tuesday, the competition had come down to two semi finalists. mamma Bear Grazer (who you might remember was my pick) who is also busy raising a cub ...what a legend, and Chunk a full-grown male grizzly who is more than double Grazer's size at around 500 kilos... but is he fatter?

In the past week, more than a million people from all around the world had theirs say, and yesterday, with a whopping 40,000 vote lead, the winner was... [DRUMROLL] Grazer! [CHEERS] Big up for working Mums!

Now, with Fat Bear Week over, maybe I can finally get some work done!

NEWSHOUNDS

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, well, today he looks a bit sad. And that's because misinformation is spreading like wildfire in the United States after Hurricane Helene caused widespread damage to hundreds of communities.

There are lots of false claims doing the rounds of social media about how the disaster relief agency, Fema, is not helping people affected by the hurricane.

And it's not helped by the fact that many of the false claims are being spread by Donald Trump - one of the two people running to be President of the United States.

Why would he do that? Because he thinks he can make his political opponents look bad and maybe get more people to vote for him - even if it means spreading information that isn't true.

If you're among the thousands of Aussie kids who have already done Newshounds - our free media literacy program - you'd know that misinformation is information that is not true, but that people share innocently, thinking they are helping out. Then there's

disinformation: which is information that people spread, knowing full well that it's untrue.

Both are everywhere on the internet: which is why we always have to do as Squiz-E tells us - and that's STOP, THINK and CHECK before believing everything we see.

Thanks Squiz-E - you've done it again.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. What number represents the strongest category of a cyclone?
2. Roughly how many Australians claim to have Lebanese ancestry?
3. Which of the Katmai National Park's bears won the Fat Bear Week crown for 2024

SHOUT OUTS

It's Thursday, October 10... Walk to a Park Day! So grab a friend, get off your games, and get outside into some green spaces, people!

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today Theo from Box Hill, Amu (pronounced A-Moo) from Thurgoona, Nicola from Wagga Wagga, Toby from Jagera Country, Elise from Everton Hills, Angela from St Ives, Duke from Altona Meadows, Theo from Canberra and Keiran from Luskintyre.

Belated shoutouts go to... Kitty-Mae from Pymble and Olivia from Denistone.

Classroom shoutouts for those of you back at school in Queensland, Victoria, WA and Northern Territory go to... Classes LA10 and 12 with Mr Hansen and Mrs Harmon at Atwell Public School, class M19 with Ms Massotti at St Eugene College in Burpengary, class 6C with Mrs Heba at Roxburgh Rise Primary School, class 6A with Mrs Nilsson at International School of Helsingborg in Sweden.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Category Five
2. Half a million
3. Grazer

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 our Kids vs Adults Weekly Quiz.

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