

China shoots for the Moon; Scaring off witches in England; Disney's fake hurricane news; and the best Halloween movies.

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, October 31...

In Squiz Kids Today ... China shoots for the Moon; Scaring off witches in England; Disney's fake hurricane news; and the best Halloween movies.

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

THE LOWDOWN

It's Halloween people! And that means getting dressed up in your best vampire zombie costume and terrorising the neighbours in a trick or treating lolly frenzy.

It's also traditionally the night where ancient societies believed ghosts walked the earth and wolves howl at the moon. Which is why the moon is excellent place for today's Lowdown - especially given that in the wee small hours of this morning, China sent a bunch of astronauts to its space station as part of its plan to build a human base on the Moon.

Three astronauts blasted off from a remote launch pad in the Gobi Desert en route to the Tiangong space station - which is spinning around the earth in an orbit 425 kilometres up in the sky and is the temporary home of Chinese astronauts doing all sorts of space science experiments.

This group of astronauts will spend the next few months testing a set of lunar bricks in space .. these are bricks made from a material similar to dirt that's found on the Moon and which might one day be used to build the base on the Moon's surface.

Which is kind of amazing when you think about it.

China is hoping to have humans living permanently on the Moon by 2035 - so just over ten years away. Which again, is kind of amazing when you think about it. But - they're in a race to set up a Moon base with other countries including the United States and India. The great space race ... it's a thing ...

— BREAK

And if you want to get your Halloween on - be sure to tune in to Squiz Kids from 5pm this evening for the first ever Squiz Kids Spooky Bedtime Story .. the perfect way to wind down as you're tucked into bed after a busy evening of trick or treating. It's called Squiz-E and the Ghostly Glow ... and its totally spooky ...

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 England ... where Halloween is being marked by the discovery of witch marks on an old English manor.

A manor - spelt M-A-N-O-R - is the fancy word for a big house. And in this case, the house was built back in the 1500s - so over 500 years ago. And if you can believe it, it was a time in England where people believed that witches actually lived among them - and they were incredibly superstitious and worried that witches were casting spells on them.

So worried that they used to carve witch marks into the houses they lived in - symbols carved into walls or door frames - which they believed would keep the witches away.

Historians this week released photos of the old English manor in Lincolnshire showing the witch markings ... and I've stuck a link in today's episode notes if you want to have a look.

Of course, there will be plenty of witches out on the streets of suburban Australia tonight ... but instead of casting spells, they'll most likely just be interested in how much candy they can get off you ... and no amount of witch carvings are going to keep them at bay ...

POP CULTURE CORNER

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Are you more of a Ghostbusters sort of movie freak, or a Goosebumps fan? Does Beetlejuice get the hairs on the back of your neck standing up, do the Goonies give you

all the horror you're after or does Captain Underpants Spooky Take of Hack-a-ween satisfy all your scares?

That's the question this Halloween as various news sites have this morning compiled ultimate lists of the spookiest movies for kids.

Nightmare Before Christmas has made the cut, as has Wallace + Gromit's The Curse of the Were Rabbit. Casper the friendly ghost has made the cut, as has the animated movie the Corpse Bride, the spooky silly Addams Family movie and the 80s classic, Hocus Pocus.

For me: I'm a Hotel Transylvania fan for when I want a vampire fix - and can't go past any of the Harry Potter movies for when I want to get my witch, wizard and warlock on ... happy halloween !

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 this week his nose is twitching after coming across a bit of fake news about his one of his favourite places on the planet - Disney World in Florida.

Social media posts were circulating last week suggesting that Disney World had been testing new technology at the theme park to ward off hurricanes.

According to the reports: enormous magnets placed around the park were interacting with magnets out in space creating a sort of magnetic field that hurricanes couldn't penetrate.

Which any good Newshound should hear and immediately sniff out something fishy. That sounds like something out of a MARvel film, not real life. And so - after getting out his magnifying glass and doing a bit of investigating, Squiz-E discovered the website that wrote the story was a satire website - that only ever writes fake stories about the Disney parks.

Which is why it's important to always do as Squiz-E says - and that's to STOP. THINK and CHECK before believing everything you see, read or hear online.

And a reminder to any teachers out there ... we're giving away a book pack to two lucky new teacher sign-ups to our free media literacy program for primary school kids - Newshounds - but you've got to sign up by midnight tonight to go into the draw - so don't just sit there - head to squizkids.com.au and get involved already ... 3,500 other Aussie teachers can't be wrong ...

MID-ROLL - ZOWN (updated for Thursday)

If you've been listening to the pod this week, you will have heard us talking about ZOWN - the kids app that's a safe alternative to social media.

Created by a Sydney mum, and featuring Zed, the online buddy who's there to build you up not tear you down - it's a positive online environment for kids.

Challenge mum and dad with the daily quiz or riddle... talk to Zed about anything and everything... set your goals for the week - ZOWN is full of great (and helpful) stuff for kids!

Contributor's Corner is where you can create your own content - share your thoughts on movies, books, podcasts or TV shows... share your favourite recipe - or a funny story about a pet! Your contributions will be checked with your safety in mind - and then available to share with the ZOWN community! And it's free.

Check it all out at the app store - just search ZOWN - Z-O-W-N - or visit zown.app.

And because Squiz Kids and Zown are two peas in a safer internet pod, Squiz Kids listeners get free access to premium for 3 months. Just use the code SQUIZ24 ... you're welcome.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which country yesterday sent three astronauts into space to road test Moon bricks?
2. Historians in England have discovered engravings on an old house believed to have been carved to scare off what?
3. Which famous theme park was this week caught up in a hurricane-inspired fake news story?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Wednesday, October 31 ... Halloween .. as I might have mentioned once or twice already .. don't forget to check out our excellent Squiz Kids Shortcut to Halloween - explaining the history and traditions of the holiday - it dropped in the Squiz Kids feed on Tuesday.

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today... Aaliyah from Larrakia Country, Evie from Blackburn South, Lekeisha from Unanderra, Beau from Yass, Nadia from Tarneit, Harper from Ballajura, Aerin from Five Dock, Catalina from Ringwood North, Aaron from Allambie Heights and Tialiyah listening over in Otewa, New Zealand.

A belated shout out goes to Mutethya from Wangaratta.

Classroom shoutouts go to... Stage 2 classes with Ms McCrae and Ms Simon at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School in Waterloo, class 4 Ruby with Miss Rak at John the Baptist Catholic Primary School in Bonnyrigg Heights, class 5 Green with Mrs Croft and Mrs Willson at St Joseph Catholic School in Corinda and class 2B with Mrs Fish at Wishart State School.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. China
2. Witches
3. Disney World

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 vs Adults Weekly Quiz.

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

