

The fastest kid in Australia; Paris cathedral rises from the ashes; Adelaides two new pandas; and Dorothy's ruby slippers make millions.

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 Monday, December 9 ...

In Squiz Kids Today ... The fastest kid in Australia; Paris cathedral rises from the ashes; Adelaides two new pandas; and Dorothy's ruby slippers make millions.

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

THE LOWDOWN

He's the sixteen year old kid from Brisbane who has the athletics world talking. And at the weekend, teen running sensation Gout Gout sent the hype-o-meter into overdrive running faster than any other Australian has ever run - beating even the time that Usain Bolt ran at the same age.

If you haven't seen Gout Gout run - hop into the episode notes and click on the link I've stuck there. It's just remarkable ... he almost seems to float above the track. And running experts reckon he has what it takes to become Australia's next Olympics 100 metre gold medallist. Something that no Aussie has ever achieved.

Gout Gout broke all the records at the weekend running in the Australian All-Schools Athletics championship in Brisbane. He sprinted through the 200m with a time of 20.04 seconds. When the fastest man in the world Usain Bolt was Gout Gout's age, his 200m record was 20.13 seconds.

And running in the 100 metres on Friday, Gout Gout blitzed the field again running 10.04 seconds ... the current world record over 100metres, set by Usain Bolt in 2009, is 9.58 seconds ...

Did I mention he's sixteen years old?

Gout Gout is one of seven kids - his parents immigrated to Australia from South Sudan in Africa just before he was born - to give Gout Gout and his brothers and sisters a shot at a better life.

Gout Gout - Squiz Kids salutes you.

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 Paris, the capital of France - where one of the world's most famous churches has reopened - five years after a fire almost saw it crumble to the ground.

If you've ever seen photos of Paris - you will have seen Notre Dame cathedral. Notre Dame is French for Our Lady. It's twin bell towers, gargoyles staring down from on high, and sweeping buttresses supporting it from the back were built over 850 years ago - and took over 100 years to build.

When a fire tore through the cathedral back in 2019, causing the historic spire to collapse - it left a big hole in the heart of the world's most visited city. But five years, billions of dollars and lots of lots of clever tradespeople later - the cathedral has been restored to its former glory.

And presidents, church elders and a prince were on hand yesterday to celebrate Our Lady's restoration - including a standing ovation for the firefighters who helped save her.

ANIMAL KINGDOM

Hey Adelaide ... what do you want for Christmas this year? How about a couple of new pandas for your zoo? Because that's what's on the cards with news over the weekend Adelaide Zoo's replacement panda pair will be arriving some time in the next week or so.

Remember earlier this year we talked about how beloved pandas Wang Wang and Fu Ni - who had been at the zoo for 15 years, returned to their homeland of China? Well, the two pandas being sent to replace them - Yi Lang and Zing Chi-u are getting ready to make their way to Australia - with zoo officials confirming they should be in their new home at Adelaide Zoo by next Monday.

I've never seen a panda IRL ... must plan a trip to Adelaide to visit them.

CCC

A-ha! It's the Classroom Companion Clarion ... reminding you to check out the excellent free classroom worksheet that Christie has prepared ... and today, because it's the last one for the year, she's saved the best for last! This week's special Classroom Companion is an epic game—and it's all about the top news stories of 2024. From Taylor Swift's Eras Tour taking over Australia to Tasmania's historic AFL team and two astronauts becoming stranded on the ISS, we've got it all covered.

Here's how it works: roll the dice, pick a card, and read aloud sentences featuring 2024's biggest headlines. Spot where the punctuation goes, and if you're correct, move forward on the game board. First one to join Squiz-E at the finish line wins!

So grab it for free where you find the Classroom Companions on the Squiz Kids website, and let the games begin!

POP CULTURE CORNER

Long before Wicked was a thing - and the Wicked Witch of the West was a creepy, green-faced, hook-nosed crone in a movie called The Wizard of Oz - there were a pair of ruby slippers whose magical qualities helped a girl called Dorothy to navigate the yellow brick road.

I'm talking about the classic 1939 movie, The Wizard of Oz - with the tin man, lion and scarecrow.

The ruby slippers from that movie sold at auction this weekend for \$43 million ... lions and tigers and bears, oh my.

And in other pop culture news: Beyonce has been crowned the Queen of Pop for 2024 by Billboard magazine - beating Taylor Swift, Billie Eilsh and new pop princess on he block, Sabrina Carpenter.

BREAK

Alright funsters ... today's your last chance to send in a question for Santa Claus for our upcoming Squiz Kids Q+A with the big fella himself. Email your questions to squizkids@thesquiz.com.au to go into the draw to win a family pass to Movie World on the Gold Coast - and be sure to tune in next Monday to catch Santa himself in this very podcast feed.

And while I have you: just a note that this is our last week of the Squiz Kids Today daily podcast. From next Monday, we're in Summer Holiday Content mode - serving up a whole bunch of road trip quizzes, shortcuts, squiz the worlds and special festive themed fare ... just make sure you've subscribed to Squiz Kids in your favourite podcasting app and you won't miss a thing.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. Which Aussie zoo will two new pandas soon be calling home
2. What's the name of the famous Paris cathedral that's just reopened?
3. What's the name of the fastest teenager in Australia - who this weekend ran faster than Usain Bolt at his age?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, December 9th ... it's only 16 sleeps til Christmas!

It's also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow... Joseph from Cannon Hill, Tremaine from Ashmont, Giuliana from Thornlands, Kenzie from Rose Bay, Fiona from North Rocks, Prableen and Fiona from Oran Park, Florence from Mt Gravatt, Amy from Tarneit, Elijah from West Albury, Kesley from Rolleston, Parker from Melbourne and Austin from Langwarrin.

Belated shoutouts go to... Angus from Annadale and Em, Josh and Leo from Ali Sabieh Region in Djibouti ... wow! That's the first time we've done a shout out to Djibouti - now I can retire And if you've never heard of Djibouti - look it up in your nearest atlas ...

Classroom shoutouts go to... class 1/2D and Mrs Dunkley at St John the Baptist Primary School in Koo Wee Rup, class 3CC with Ms Carlton and Ms Chen at Mount View Primary

School in Glen Waverley and class 3SI with Mr Ison at King Street Public School in Singleton.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Adelaide Zoo
2. Notre Dame
3. Gout Gout

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.

And a reminder - if you celebrate a birthday over the Christmas break, send us your birthday shout-out by **this** Friday December 13, and we'll make sure to include you in the weekly Quizzes that will be going out each Friday of the school hols.

Well - that's all we have time for. Thanks for listening to Squiz Kids Today - We'll be back again tomorrow with our Squiz Kids Shortcut on Toys Around The World.

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