

Making kids heard this election; Myanmar's massive earthquake; the Bombers' newest star; and Gout Gout pipped at the post.

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, March 31

In Squiz Kids Today ... Making kids heard this election; Myanmar's massive earthquake; the Bombers' newest star; and Gout Gout pipped at the post.

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

THE LOWDOWN

And they're off and racing! If you've noticed politicians suddenly hanging out in your neighbourhood - kissing every baby they can lay their hands on, handing out flyers at the train station or hammering posters of themselves into your neighbour's front yard - that's because Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called a federal election on Friday morning - and it's all you're going to hear about for the next five weeks.

Between now and when Australia goes to the polls on May 3, you're going to see politicians making all sorts of promises to try to get people to vote for them.

It's kind of like the school captains election at your school - but on a national scale.

And while kids might not be able to **vote** in this election - today we're launching a campaign to make sure kids' voices are still heard.

We've created a bunch of letter templates for Squiz Kids, their parents and teachers, to send to Anthony Albanese and Peter Dutton - the two blokes running for Prime Minister.

In line with our push to make Aussie kids the most media literate in the world, the letters call on our political leaders to take seriously the issue of digital literacy education - the lessons that our friend Squiz-E the Newshound teaches every week.

Just visit our website: squizkids.com.au to download the templates - then email them off. Do it as a classroom, do it as a family. It's a great way to get your kids involved in this election.

There are links in your episode notes too.

And teachers: if you think now is a good time to teach your class about how our system of government works - make sure you check out Squiz Kids' very own, very free podcast series, The Sensational World of Civics .. I've stuck a link to that in your episode notes - or you can find it under the Evergreens tab on our website.

So don't just sit there - get writing already!

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 Myanmar - a country in South Asia, just next to Thailand - where a massive earthquake over the weekend has caused widespread damage.

Thousands of people have been left homeless and many were killed after the earthquake struck near the city of Mandalay on Friday - flattening buildings, buckling roads and sending residents fleeing outdoors to safety.

The quake was a really big one. A 7.7 magnitude quake is considered to be a major earthquake - and the fact that it happened close to the surface of the earth means the impact was severe.

Countries all over the world, including Australia, have already swung into action to lend a hand - sending food, water and money to help in the recovery.

Myanmar - which used to be called Burma - is home to some 54 million people.

Send them all your good wishes this week.

SPORT TIME

When you're good at something, it's really good to have people around you who are also good at it.

It might be painting, drawing, singing, netball, AFL, or - in the case of Gout Gout - running.

And that's a lesson the remarkable sprint sensation from Brisbane learned at the weekend when he came second in a 200 metre race in Melbourne.

Fellow Aussie athlete Lachlan Kennedy pipped Gout Gout at the post ... literally ... to win the big race on Saturday - crossing the finish line at the Maurie Plant Athletics Meet **four hundredths** of a second in front of Gout Gout.

That's barely the amount of time it takes to blink.

After the race, Gout Gout and Lachie hugged it out – they're both from Queensland and are always racing one another.

And Gout Gout said he'd use the second place to motivate him to train harder and hopefully run faster when the pair meet again in Perth in a fortnight for the national titles.

SQUIZ KIDS SALUTES

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There was a lot of sport over the weekend - but one performance stood out deserving of a Squiz Kids salute - and that was the effort put in by Essendon's newest Bomber, Saad El-Hawli.

Making his debut for the AFL team on Thursday night - and helping the Bombers to a win over Port Adelaide - Saad chatted after the game, giving a shout out to Australia's Muslim community - of which he's a proud part.

There aren't all that many practicing Muslims playing AFL - so Saad is something of a trail blazer - which is an expression that's often used to describe someone who is the first to do something.

Making Saad's achievement all the more impressive: he made his AFL debut in the Holy Month of Ramadan - during which practising Muslims don't eat or drink during daylight hours. Imagine doing the sort of training required to be a professional AFL player and not eating during the day. Respect. I bet his plate will be piled high today for the end of Ramadan feast, Eid-al-Fatir.

THE S'QUIZ

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

1. How many hundredths of a second did sprint star Lachie Kennedy beat Gout Gout by on the weekend?
2. What is the name of the country hit by an earthquake at the weekend?
3. Which AFL team did Saad El-Hawli run out for last Thursday night?

SHOUT OUTS

It's Monday, March 31 ... in Mexico, today is the Day of The Taco ... that sounds pretty yum ...

Today is also a special day for these Squiz Kids celebrating a birthday today and tomorrow...

Jayden from Fernvale, Bailey from French's Forest, Edie (pron Eee-Dee) from Tarragindi, Tom from Forde, Charlie from Preston, Charlie from Kulin, Lyra, April, Meeden and Zac all from St Clair, Sadie from West Albury, Radha from Riverview, and Pearl from Cannon Hill.

Belated shoutout go to... Verona from Willoughby, Elijah from the North Shore, Ari from Kenmore, Stephen from Balwyn, Isabella from Salisbury Heights, Vivian from Suffolk Park and Maia listening over in Dili, Timor-Leste.

Classroom shoutouts go to ... Class 5/6 JA at Cannon Hill State School, class 3/4O with Mrs Owen and Mrs McCarty at Glenbrook Public School, class 6C with Mr Cogran at Casino Public School, class 6C with Miss Vantarakis at Livingstone Primary School and Room 3 with Mrs O'Kane at Inglewood Primary School in WA.

The S'Quiz Answers:

1. Four hundredths of a second
2. Myanmar
3. Essendon Bombers

Don't forget .. if you've got a birthday coming up and you want a shout out - or, if you're after 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 a special podcast to mark International Fact-Checking Day—

Instead of a Shortcut or Squiz the World, we're bringing you an episode of Newshounds! Specifically: Episode 6 which is called "AI: Friend or Foe?"

In it, you'll learn how to spot images that have been made using artificial intelligence, how to do your own reverse image search to fact-check where an image came from, and how to help your parents or grandparents steer clear of online scams.

And if you listen on Spotify or YouTube, you can watch the podcast as well as listen!

Plus, if you want to follow along with the activities, we've linked to the classroom worksheets in the episode notes—and you'll also find them on the Squiz Kids website along with the full Nine Podcast Newshounds program... and the best bit, it's absolutely free.

Winner!

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