

## National "Eiger Climate Schools" school project

*Message from Christoph Schläppi  
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Check against delivery

Rarely have the Jungfrau Railways expressed their support for a project so willingly and with such alacrity, right from the outset. Eiger Climate is right on our track: Children are very welcome guests to the Jungfrau – Top of Europe. They are the potential customers of the future. For several years we have been promoting family skiing with our special offer of free passes for children on Saturdays. Needless to say, BKW's idea of familiarising young Swiss with the impact of climate change – a factor which is of crucial importance for our own business – fell on fertile ground. After that, it took little persuasion to get our big sister, SBB AG, on board for Eiger Climate. Together with the SBB and our local partners, Grindelwald Bus and Pfingstegg Bahn, we now arrange transport for the study trips. Rail and bus services have long been the key element in the organisation of educational excursions and interesting school trips.

I still have fond memories of rail trips and picnics at stations with my classmates under the watchful eyes of our class teacher, natural history teacher or art teacher. And I am sure that you, too, ladies and gentlemen, harbour unforgettable memories of such trips. And the same will be true of the students we tempt out of the schoolroom with the Eiger Climate project. Naturally I hope that you will be left with a lasting impression not only of the social contacts – which inevitably are enhanced through such trips – but also of the rail trip right across Switzerland, our spectacular landscape and of course the nature studies! I'd like to briefly read you out Klaus Schädelin's description of what happens when such rail trips are combined with scientific experiments: Frieda wrote [Stucker & Zesiger] a nice poem from our camp [...] and the result was a 25-litre bottle of syrup, not perhaps the finest but still syrup. [...] During the journey there was always a space around this bottle. If anyone came near, [Frieda] called out: Watch the syrup! Then came the spiral tunnels near Wassen. The driver gathered us around him and explained the system to us, saying that, if we wanted, we could prove that the tunnel was spiral: All you needed to do was to tie a heavy object from the ceiling with a long piece of string and watch it swing. It always swings in the same direction as the train descends the spiral tunnel [...] and immediately he removed his boot, hung it up, and everyone stood or sat in a circle until we reached the spiral tunnel. Scarcely had we entered the tunnel than the light went out. [...] and we were all dancing in the dark: [...] I had just patriotically pushed [the shoe] away from me again, when from the other side came the ominous sound of breaking glass. [...] "The Frieda's leaking!", came an anxious cry, accompanied by the unmistakeable aroma of raspberries.

If anyone wants to know how to clean a rail coach of 25 litres of syrup and what the conductor does in such a situation, I recommend that you read "Mein Name ist Eugen" for yourself. I hope that the young people among us will enjoy some memorable lessons – if possible, without us having to restore the Jungfrau Railways! I welcome students to our terrain stretching from the Eiger Glacier to the Jungfraujoch, and would like to extend my warmest thanks to BKW, Dr Martin Pfisterer and his team, and all other partners, for making this worthy project possible.