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Autor: Busch, Wilhelm
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Appeal for proper use of antibiotics

Health authorities have urged people to use antibiotics correctly to ensure they can continue to combat disease. The appeal came as Switzerland joined the first European Day of Information on Antibiotics. Although the Swiss are among the lowest consumers of antibiotics internationally, Switzerland is facing a growing number of bacterial diseases against which antibiotics are less effective.

Health officials are particularly concerned that new infections from resistant bacteria are leading to a deadlock in therapy for certain illnesses.

The European Day of Information on Antibiotics aimed at informing the public of the risks associated with inappropriate use of antibiotics, such as use without medical prescription or in treating viral infections. The course of treatment prescribed by doctors needs to be followed until the end, even if health improves, officials say.

from swissinfo

Humor

Es sitzt ein Vogel auf dem Leim,
er flattert sehr und kann nicht heim.
Ein schwarzer Kater schleicht herzu,
die Krallen scharf, die Augen gluh.
Am Baum hinauf und immer höher
kommt er dem armen Vogel näher.
Der Vogel denkt: Weil das so ist
und weil mich doch der Kater frisst,
so will ich keine Zeit verlieren,
will noch ein wenig quinquilieren
und lustig pfeifen wie zuvor.
Der Vogel, scheint mir, hat Humor.

Wilhelm Busch

Obama's grandmother showcases Swiss design

Choosing an outfit for the biggest global bash of the year involves careful planning and - if you're Barack Obama's grandmother – a little help from a Swiss designer.

When Obama's Kenyan paternal grandmother Sarah Obama was invited to attend the presidential inauguration in Washington, she picked three colourful traditional dresses. But she had not counted on the cold January weather.

A US television journalist following her preparations for the journey, said she would need some warm accessories and suggested enlisting the help of the Lugano designer Alessandra Roggero, known for dressing women for unique occasions.

Sarah Obama being helped by Roggero

Roggero has been designing clothes since the age of 17 and now creates haute couture for fashion houses and high-flyers. She was commissioned to make an elegant and "regal" shawl and turban that could be used several times during Granny Sarah's visit to the US capital.

She decided on two fabrics measuring six metres long each, sourced from Germany and France, to make up a two-sided shawl. One piece of silk was designed to go with the African dresses and another in gold lamé had velvet African designs. It was lined with borders of material made in Switzerland.

from swissinfo

Truancy – a problem underestimated in schools

Roughly half of Swiss schoolchildren skip school, according to a study published by the Swiss National Science Foundation. According to the study, the quality of the schools, including the teacher-pupil relationship, played a decisive role in truancy. Truancy has been underrated up until now, with school authorities often tolerating it and failing to discuss the problem openly.

The study found that every second pupil between the ages of 12 and 17 skips classes at least once during his or her time in school, and every third child plays truant once a semester.

About five per cent of the 4'000 students in nine German-speaking cantons questioned for the survey admitted to missing classes intentionally five times or more in the past six months. More than a third said they had played truant for the first time between their fourth and sixth year at school.

Three-quarters said they were home alone or had pretended to be sick. Every third youngster who had played truant said their parents were willing to write a note excusing them from school. One in five said they had forged their mother's or father's signature.

About two-thirds said they stayed away simply because they did not want to go to school, while around 40 per cent said they had chosen to sleep in on the day in question. About 22 per cent gave problems with their teacher as the only or an additional reason.

Half of the students who skipped school several times a year belonged to the high-risk group of pupils with poor marks and who had to repeat grades, with many described as juvenile delinquents.

from swissinfo