Notes from the Class Delegates' Meeting: Primary and Nursery
Monday 14 November 2016, 18:00 - 21:00

The school was represented by:

Mr. Per FRITHIOFSON - Director

Mr. Philippe RICHARD - Deputy Director

Ms. Aikaterini RAFTOPOULOU - Nursery coordinator

Mr. Frédéric GOOSSE - Security Manager

The APEEEL2 was represented by:

Ms. Delphine BALLAGUY - President

Mr. Pablo CHIMIENTI - Vice President Nursery and Primary

Mr. Konstantinos Chatzis - President of the Canteen Committee

Ms. Enza PETRONE - MC member

Ms. Roberta ZANI - Secretary

From 6 to 6.30 pm we went through the class delegate's role document and answered practical questions from parents.

A Questions and Answers session followed from 6.30 pm.

Questions about the parent badges

- Why the badges?
  - Parent badges have been introduced in order to improve the security measures at the school, especially since we reach the yellow alert.
  - They allow security staff to quickly control accesses, especially during pick hours (entry / exit times)
  - Institutional badges are too many and so different from one institution to another, which is complicated for the guards to check during pick hours. If the school accepts all badges from Institutions, that means they accept people in the school who are not parents from the school.

- Additional badges for families, badges for the staff of foyers and crèches
  - A form to require additional badges is now available on SMS system.
  - If, occasionally, a grandparent comes to pick up / accompany the kids, he will have to show an ID document to the security guards, as it was the case before

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- Special badges will be provided to creches and foyers who come daily to pick up children
- Exceptional cases, periscolaires activities, CPE
  - As far as we know, the school badges are not recognised by the CPE
  - Badges can be used to accompany kids to periscolaires activities
  - If a parent forget a badge he will have to show an ID document to the security guards
  - If a parent needs to access the school for a meeting he will have to show the invitation to the security staff
  - If a parent would like his/her child to leave the school with another parent (for instance, in case of traffic jam) the procedure remains unchanged: it is necessary to inform the teacher and, if possible, the school secretary as well.

Questions about surveillance / supervision

- Concerns about the level of supervision during breaks and at the beginning and end of the school day
  - During breaks, there are 7 teachers + 5 security guards in the playground, this should be sufficient
  - Some critical moments are faced between 8 and 8.40 am, and in order to offer a valid alternative to pupils the school is planning to set small places for reading and maybe use board games (not in the library itself, librarian staff could not supervise the students). For the moment, it will not be possible to join the classrooms before 8h40
  - Thanks to CAS founding, some new games (floor paths) have been installed to allow pupils to use all the different spaces in the playground.
- Supervision of the courtyard after the school hours
  - Improvements to the lighting of the courtyard will be done
  - No security guards are available on the courtyard after the school hours
  - Accompagnement service is available for nursery pupils who are going from CPE to their periscolaire activity (inscriptions through FAPEEEL). If parents would like to have this service for the primary pupils as well (P1-P2 for example), they are kindly invited to send their request to APEEEL2, we will do our best to take those feedbacks into consideration for the next school year.
- Lost and stolen objects
  - All parents are more than welcome to come to school and check among the lost and found objects
  - When facing cases of stolen objects, the school's intervention takes place under the pedagogical point of view, trying to raise awareness among the students. The school is perfectly aware that such events could be a problem for the public image of the school itself.
  - Lost and found objects' management will be discussed in occasion of the next Health and Safety Committee. APEEEL2 could find a way to manage these lost and found objects in order to try to find their owner but would need some volunteers amongst parents. The School strongly recommends parents to note their child's name on all clothes and accessories.

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Questions about the languages

- Groups of L2, Linguistic differentiation in L2 classes (P3-P5)
    - Groups are prepared and established at the beginning of the school year by the linguistic coordinators
    - For German classes it is more challenging due to the lower number of pupils (compared to French and English classes)
    - Since last year we can have groups in L2 classes which can be combined and organised accordingly to the progresses made by the pupils, but this is not the case in P1, where it is difficult and premature to evaluate the level of the pupils. Among the same groups, there might be anyway different levels
- Communication
    - Parents are invited to refer to L2 teachers for any question concerning their children and to get in touch with the teachers
    - If changes occur during the year, parents will be informed a.s.a.p.
    - Parents would appreciate some clarification and communication about the way the L2 groups are organised.
- L2 program for future SWALS in secondary
    - In previous years there were several actions in P5 for classes (f.i. the Hungarian and the Czech classes) who will continue as SWALS in secondary. When will they start this year?
    - Extra learning support will be provided starting from the second semester, hopefully in January / February, in order to better prepare the HU and CS pupils for the secondary where those pupils will be SWALS. HU and CS already followed religion/ethics classes in their L2.
    - Form and actions of this extra learning support cannot be communicated yet because of the time and the understaffing constraints, and also because it is important to study how to integrate the support without taking too much time from other important subjects: parents will receive asap more information
- SWALS
    - The information available on the school's website will be updated
    - SWALS have different needs compared to the other children, as they need to learn the L2 language more in deep and in advance in order to better start the secondary program. Discussions about the subject Languages/Swals could be organised by APEEEL2 if there are volunteer parents willing to form a working group on this.

- Other topics concerning languages
    - School, cannot offer for the time being language classes of Mandarin, Russian, Arabic, etc. It's clearly mentioned in the European Schools regulations that only official languages of the EU can be taught.

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peut être n'importe quelle langue officielle des pays de l'Union
    - européenne
    - A working group in Brussels is actually evaluating the possibility to introduce L2 in nursery and a L3 as from the primary. The teachers have different views on this proposal
    - Languages classes were not a priority among the program of periscolaires activities proposed by FAPEEEL : usually, in the FAPEEEL board, the priority was given to sports and hobbies, for which there is a strong demand. Please send feedback in this sense to the APEEEL2: if there is a demand for more language classes, this possibility will be taken into consideration
    - In reply to a question, Mr. Frithiofson underlines the fact that there are no official discussions about the eventuality that English would no longer be an official EU language
    - Parents are worried about the fact that there is no longer seconded English teacher and that, for the ones already on site, the new school in Differdange is offering more competitive salaries

Questions about the Canteen

- Complaints about the quality of the food
    - At the beginning of the school year, many complaints have been sent to APEEEL2 because of the poor quality of the food and because of the way the portions were distributed
    - Teachers are also complaining about the bad quality of the service, especially at the beginning of September
    - Since September, APEEEL2 representatives underlined the lower quality of the food served by Eurest at the first Canteen committee and at different occasions with the School management and with Eurest.
    - APEEEL2 was involved in the redaction of new specifications before the call for tenders took place. We now have required, at different occasions, a copy of the contract with Eurest in order to check if quality and quantities correspond to what has been agreed
    - Problems concerning quality and portions are now sensibly decreasing since last month.
    - APEEEL2 reminds that the Association has no influence at all on meals served to CPE children on short days. Parents who have complaints regarding these meals have to contact CPE directly.

- Portions, distribution and queues
    - Mr. Richard underlines the fact that teachers are in the canteen not only to help pupils with serving food, but also to help them to become more autonomous
    - In P2, pupils who distribute food do not have the time to eat their lunch. Mr. Richard solicited EUREST to improve the timing and to solve this problem.

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- Time constraints are inevitable due to the fact that there are more pupils than the room's capacity could host, so a system based on 3 turns in primary is the only solution for the moment

- How to monitor Eurest
  - Mr. Frithiofson confirmed he has visited the canteen at different occasions. He also intends to implement a better organisation of the canteen, by organising regular inspections from part of the parents who volunteer for that. He wants to inform EUREST about all the complaints received
  - Regular visits and inspections are planned by APEEEL2
  - As soon as the visit organisation is ready (procedure, questionnaire…) parents will be welcome to volunteer to test and to make inspections.
  - APEEEL2, as well as the Cantine Committee, react on the basis of the feedbacks received from parents: feedback from parents on elements they consider important is solicited.
- Menus, nutrition values
  - Based on feedbacks, improvements have been made (for instance pork is not served so often, it has been requested to replace it by fish or white meat)
  - Eurest publishes menus on the website, they are in line with the legal requirements and subjected to the approval of the Canteen Committee. Eurest is also working with a nutritionist to make the menus.
  - APEEEL2 asked Eurest to be more transparent and clear about changes in the menus / food served / prices
- Other topics concerning canteen
  - The school cannot provide coat hangers at the canteen entrance area, there is no space for that. For the time being, no suitable solutions to the problem have been proposed/adopted by the school
  - In order to limit the noise level in the canteen, some noise-absorbing partition walls has been mounted. The school and the Canteen Committee will evaluate the situation in order to decide if further improvements should be planned.

Pedagogy and coordination of the teachers

- Different methods in P1 and P2 classes
  - Regarding reading, different approaches are adopted, for instance in French classes, where teachers choose between Syllabic (Taoki) and Global Croque Lignes methods. The school does not have a common policy regarding the learning methods: teachers are free to choose.
  - The different learning method is a topic mainly for the French section: parents should always refer to the teachers in order to better understand the reason for which a method has been chosen. If needed, this topic could be raised with the French inspector in occasion of the next visit.
- Religions / ethics classes: syllabus?
  - Mr. Richard reminds that, at the beginning of the year, a meeting was organised with religions and moral teachers where parents had the opportunity to ask

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questions. In case of further questions during the school year, as usual parents are invited to get in touch with the teachers.
    - Religion and ethics teachers send the program of their classes to the school on a regularly basis. Parents asked to have access to this program but this is not possible as it is a work document where details about the way the teacher will handle differentiation in his class are mentioned.
    - Pour les enseignants utilisant beaucoup de feuilles de travail hors manuel, les parents souhaiteraient savoir comment ils peuvent avoir une vue d'ensemble du programme de l'année et de son suivi. Cela recouvre une question plus large de communication entre parents et enseignants notamment pour les parents ne pouvant pas venir à la sortie des classes ou aux horaires (en journée !) dévolus aux parents.
- pedagogical choices
    - It may happen that teachers use sweets (especially candies) to motivate the children, which might be viewed as a bad practice because of health and moral concerns
    - Mr. Richard will discuss the topic with the teachers
    - Mr. Richard reminds parents that teachers are always open to discussion in case parents require more information about their pedagogical choices

School access / transport

- Discussions with MDDI
    - The school, together with APEEEL2, is discussing since years with the MDDI (Ministère du Développement Durable et des Infrastructures) about the possibility to improve accesses to the school
    - the European Institutions, well aware about the unquestionable accessibility problems of the school, decided to take part to discussions
    - MDDI will now take concrete actions in this sense, even though nothing has been officially approved: more specifically, there will probably be 2 lines to come through the “Carrefour Belle Etoile”, which should allow buses and cars to leave the school faster than now. The MDDI also proposes a dedicated line for buses from Lycee JB until EE2 bus platforms.
    - In principle, priority will be given to the sustainable mobility and not to cars, but if buses will use independent ways, cars will also circulate easily. All the proposals and the modifications are under discussion, if finalised, the works could start next year in 2017.
    - APEEEL2 hopes to be soon able to organise a meeting or conference with the parents in order to give more information on this topic and also to communicate to parents the results of the transport survey run by the University of Luxembourg in June 2016: this will be done as soon as a concrete project is approved.
    - Parents ask to propose to MDDI to immediately change the timing of the traffic light positioned at the level of the “Belle Etoile” Carrefour because this might be a temporarily solution, waiting for more stables and concrete ones.

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- Car parks and security
    - Parents must be reminded about the fact that they must not park their cars outside the parking places: this might obstacle the way for buses or other cars, and it is dangerous
    - It is forbidden to occupy car parks reserved to persons with disabilities
    - To promote “mobilité douce”, APEEEL2 has launched a ‘securité routière’ project (with the help of CAS founding) which aimed to raise awareness among nursery and primary pupils about the dangers of the road.
    - Pedagogical actions are also intended with the purposes to better educate children who can influence their parents’ behaviour. If necessary, the assistance of the Luxembourg police could be requested too
    - There is no supervision on buses 92, 93 and 94 which are offered by MDDI. APEEEL2 is working on a global transport analysis: in the future, these buses could be supervised but parents would have to pay for it.
    - APEEEL2 will ask the school to implement more parking for bicycles, covered and lightened.

School website

- New website
    - Parents express the idea that the new web site of the school is nice, but it's focusing on the introduction of the school for visitors instead of providing concrete information for parents, it seems to be a marketing strategy.
    - Mr. Frithiofson assured that an English version of the web site will be available a.s.a.p., but he cannot promise a specific timing for that because of the lack of dedicated human resources.
    - This web site is not definitive yet: the school is still working on it, trying to improve and to make easier the research of information. Time and resources constraints make these improvements slower than expected.
    - The accessibility of the web site and the facility to browse will be improved a.s.a.p.: the school is still collecting feedbacks and suggestions and is aware about the difficulties for parents in finding information.
    - Some useful documents are not available anymore, e.g. canteen committee minutes and the memorandum. Mr. Frithiofson will evaluate if those documents should be added to the new web page but reminds also that many information are available on SMS (School Management System).

Refugees

- Classe d’accueil
    - There are 12 pupils in the “classe d’accueil”, pupils are physically in our school but administratively they depend on Lycee Josy Barthel. Our school is trying to help them with the integration and, when possible, creates occasions to increase interpersonal relations.

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- Secondary pupils are organising events to facilitate their integration (lunches, possibility for them to join the pupils committee…)

- Refugee's village – the project to build a village for applicants for international protection near the school has been delayed. The school and APEEEL2 do not have any further information on this topic.

Miscellaneous / Divers

- **School capacity –** For Primary, the school has now reached the 97% of its planned capacity. Considering that there is the obligation to welcome category 1 pupils, it is not possible for the time being to make any prevision. There is anyway still room in case the number of pupils will increase in the future (we are not yet 100% occupied). Compared to the last year, there are 100 more students in Primary.
- **Acoustics and noise** - improvements to reduce the echo e.g. fitting of sound dampening wall / ceiling coverings and all sort of improvements aimed to reduce noise could only be realised by the Bâtiments Publics.
- **Coordination between the periscolaires activities, EUREST and the CPE** for activities starting early in the afternoon, some pupils do not have the time to eat their regular lunch, so they bring a sandwich, but CPE is charging them for this meal they do not eat. Unfortunately this has to be dealt with CPE. Parents ask the activities to start later to allow children to go to the canteen first. APEEEL2 also mentioned that for children who do not have access to CPE, it's easier for them to have the activity which starts just after school. APEEEL2 agrees to improve information for these activities so parents would know in advance the implications and the restrictions of some classes, starting before 14.00.

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