



"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness" - Desmond Tutu

2015/16 - APEEEL2's FlashNews2 - 11/2015



Welcome !

Like last year, APEEEL2 will be supplementing information from other sources by means of its FlashNews which aims mainly to provide an overview of information from the School-based Committees in which APEEEL2 members are statutorily involved.

This FlashNews focuses on the Committees held in September and October 2015.

If you have questions or comments, please write to office@apeeel2.lu

Bonne lecture,

The APEEEL2 Management Committee

FlashInfo

- 16, 19 and/or 23/11 : Parents' evenings, Secondary (S1-2-3/S4-5/S6-7)
- 17/11 : Coffee Morning Networking
- 18/11 : Educational Support, Nursery & Primary, 18:00-19:30
- 21/11: Saturday : **Marché de Noël (Lux I!)**
- 23/11 : Health and Safety Committee
- 02/12 : Class delegates Secondary 18:00
- 02, 07/12 : Christmas Concerts from 17:00
- 03/12 : Pre-Zinal meeting for P5 parents with class teachers, 19:00
- 09/12 : School Advisory Council
- 11/12 : Santa Lucia procession - St Nicolas
- 14/12 : Canteen Committee
- 15/12 : Coffee Morning Networking
- 15/12 : Nursery & Primary Education Council
- 11/01 : Secondary Education Council
- 15/01 : Canteen Committee

N'hésitez pas à consulter notre Save-the-dates.

L'APEEEL2 vous informe...

An important announcement on two APEEEL2 Interest Groups

- **Interest Group on Educational Support**

APEEEL2 has set up its own new dedicated email address for questions or issues relating to **Educational Support** : EdSuppApeeeLux2@gmail.com. By writing to this email address, you can also ask to be added to our mailing list through which we will keep you updated on any events or news regarding Educational Support in our School. This dossier is being followed closely by two of our members, **Fiona Kotziampasi** and **Gabriella Bomba**.

Since last year, we have also set up an **Interest Group on Educational Support**, a group meeting regularly to discuss the European School Educational Support policy documents, and more specifically, the implementation of this policy in the context of our School and beyond. If you are interested in participating in this group, please send an email to the dedicated email address above so that we can invite you to the next meeting. *An Information Meeting on Educational Support: Nursery and Primary was held earlier this week. A date for a parallel Information Meeting for Secondary will be announced soon.*

- **Interest Group on Secondary**

Anyone interested in joining this Interest Group please send an email to office@apeeel2.lu. Like the Interest Group on Educational Support, the aim of this group is to discuss European School documents currently under discussion at the level of our governing body, the Board of Governors. Documents being discussed at the moment include the report on the External Evaluation of the reorganisation of studies in Secondary and the new marking scale (see also point 3 below).

Brief Overview of September-October Committees

Retour sur les Comités ayant eu lieu en septembre-octobre

Nous vous informons sur les projets que nous suivons de près...

1. Nursery and Primary Education Council / Comité d'Education Maternelle and Primaire – 28/09/2015
2. Careers' Event / Forum des métiers – 02/10/2015
3. Conseil d'Education Secondaire / Secondary Education Council – 05/10/2015
4. Canteen Committee / Comité Cantine – 12/10/2015
5. Administration Board / Bord Administratif de l'Ecole – 15/10/2015

1. Nursery and Primary Education Council – 28/09/2015

The first meeting of the Nursery and Primary Education Council was held on 28 September 2015. A brief summary of points discussed follows.

- A number of **new classes** were opened in the new school year. These include a new EN class in nursery, a second P2 EN class and third P1 and P2 FR classes. Some classes in smaller sections have been unmerged and 4 new Nursery teachers and 10 new Primary teachers were welcomed to the School in September. Initial difficulties with missing DE teachers were resolved.
- The round of parents' meetings was completed. Good feedback was received in particular on the Moral/Religion and SWALS meetings. A brief discussion of the ONL meeting took place and a decision was taken to move this meeting to later the year when options meetings are held.
- The **transport, access and supervision on-site** issue was discussed. Parents are encouraged to use the different modes of transport available to children (Commune, MDDI or ATSEEE buses, or supervised shuttles). Those arriving by car should respect the rules in the "Kiss & Go" zones and pay the utmost attention to the safety of pedestrians and cyclists around the school.
- A document outlining a **Supervision Policy** is being prepared. This will describe the arrangements which have been introduced for supervision of Nursery and Primary children, in the playground and elsewhere, during the course of the. Following a suggestion on the part of APEEEL2, feeding back from parents, it was agreed that an Authorisation form which would entitle the child to leave school would be revised, after which it would be translated into EN and DE versions before being reissued.
- **School trips** have taken/will take place according to plan. One difficulty which arose in the weeks since the Council meeting concerns arrangements for the *P5 Zinal ski classes*. This trip is a shared trip between Lux2 and Lux1 and the preference of the other School (fortunately for some and unfortunately for the others) had to be taken into account in the final choice of mode of transport to the ski resort. One consequence of this is that the final cost of the trip will, yet again, be relatively

expensive this year. APEEEL2, like the School, has a Social Fund available and will be doing its utmost to ensure punctual consideration of all requests for financial assistance received.

- Ms Schmit, General Coordinator for Nursery has, as she has done for some years now, organised “**Fruits 4 School**” (www.fruit4school.lu). This year, the whole school – Secondary included – will benefit from this initiative.
- **The contribution towards the cost of photocopies** has been adjusted on the basis of consumption. The contribution for Nursery has decreased from €10 to €8 whilst that for Primary has increased from €16 to €18. Invoices for Primary pupils will also be billing for the Internath book.
- Dates of a number of events organized by the School, as well as dates of inspector visits, were communicated. One important date is that of the **annual meeting with pupils’ representatives**, which will be held on 9 December. One topic which will be discussed during this meeting is the Anti-Bullying policy.

The next meeting of the Nursery and Primary Council will take place on 15 December 2015.

2. Careers' Event

On Friday 2 October 2015 for the first time, the European School Luxembourg II, together with APEEEL2 organised, with the help of many parents, teachers, security staff and Serge Feltes, a Careers' Event, *Forum des métiers*, for pupils from S5 till S7.

The many experts, parents, and alumni, all professionals in their own right, both from the School and from outside, showed a great deal of flexibility and willingness to make the event a real and worthwhile opportunity for pupils to get information on possibilities for their future career paths.

The enthusiasm with which this first Careers' Event was received has led all involved in its organisation to take the decision that the event should be organised again at the beginning of next school year. The organisers received some extremely useful feedback as well as some commitments from experts willing to participate again next year.

Since it is crucial for the pupils to have as many (parent-)experts from different fields, sharing their expertise, feel free to already spread the word via your own networks. The event is even an occasion for (parents-)experts with shared interests to socialise in an informal way within the European School Luxembourg II community. **Once again a big Thank You to all those who contributed to this extremely successful event.**

3. Conseil d'Education Secondaire – 05/10/2015

L'APEEEL2 était présente au premier Conseil d'Education Secondaire de l'année qui s'est tenu le 5 octobre dernier et vous informe des principaux points abordés.

- **Rentrée scolaire** : 1129 élèves répartis dans 56 classes ont fait leur rentrée cette année au secondaire, rentrée qui fut comme vous le savez, assez perturbée par le problème des emplois du temps. L'Ecole a renouvelé ses excuses et remercie les parents pour leur patience lors de cette période difficile. L'APEEEL2 a demandé des garanties à l'Ecole pour que cette situation ne se reproduise pas à nouveau. L'Ecole est en train de terminer son plan d'action et le communiquera aux parents, à la demande de l'APEEEL2, dans le courant du mois de novembre.
- **Réorganisation études secondaires** : Comme vous le savez, une réforme des études secondaires aux écoles européennes est en cours, la réforme concernant les classes S1 à S3 est déjà en place mais celle qui concerne les classes S4 à S7 avait été refusée. Une étude par un cabinet d'experts externes avait été demandée. Ce rapport est maintenant disponible et propose des pistes nouvelles à étudier en plus ou à la place de ce qui avait été proposé dans la réforme initiale. Si vous souhaitez en savoir plus, n'hésitez pas à nous contacter à : office@apeeel2.lu ou à rejoindre le groupe de travail que l'APEEEL2 a déjà constitué pour réfléchir à ces nouvelles propositions.
- **Nouveau système de notation** : L'Ecole nous a confirmé qu'un nouveau système de notation entrera en vigueur à la rentrée 2017 pour les classes S1 à S5 dans toutes les écoles européennes puis au rythme d'un niveau par an. L'échelle de notation sera toujours sur 10 mais la note de passage sera fixée à 5 (au lieu de 6 actuellement). Il y aura donc 5 notes de réussite. Les inspecteurs nationaux sont actuellement en train de travailler sur les critères d'attribution de chaque note pour chaque matière et chaque année.
- **Différenciation L2** : A la demande de l'APEEEL2, l'Ecole a pris des dispositions début octobre pour qu'une différenciation soit mise en place en S2 pour la langue 2 et ce notamment pour les élèves SWALS qui ont suivi toute leur scolarité en

primaire dans leur langue 2. Sur les 4 périodes hebdomadaires de L2 en S2, 3 cours ont lieu dans le groupe habituel et le 4ème cours (« L2 Appro ») est dédié aux élèves dont le niveau est plus élevé (SWALS et autres élèves, sur décision du professeur) ce qui devrait permettre de mieux répondre à leurs besoins, et ce pendant une phase de quelques semaines. Ce cours sera dispensé par un autre professeur que l'enseignant habituel. Une réflexion est en cours pour adopter également ces dispositions en S1, elles sont pour l'instant valables pour les cours de L2 FR et EN, les enseignants de L2 DE n'ont pas jugé nécessaire de mettre en place un tel dispositif car les élèves sont beaucoup moins nombreux.

- **Casiers** : Nous vous rappelons que les casiers de l'Ecole ont été gracieusement offerts par l'Administration des Bâtiments Publics à l'ouverture de l'Ecole. Le système de fermeture de ces casiers s'avérant défectueux, une première phase de réparations a eu lieu pendant l'été pour 364 casiers. 2 autres phases sont à prévoir pour réparer l'ensemble des casiers. Les Bâtiments Publics financent une partie des réparations et l'autre partie est payée par le prix de location des casiers qui passe cette année de 2,5 à 5€ par élève et par an.
- **Prix photocopies** : Le nombre de photocopies pédagogiques par élève était en légère augmentation en 2014-2015 mais le prix facturé aux parents pour l'année scolaire 2015-2016 restera le même à savoir 25€ par élève.

Le prochain Conseil d'Education Secondaire aura lieu le 11 janvier 2016.

4. Canteen Committee – 12/10/2015

The first Canteen Committee meeting for the school year 2015-2016 took place on 12 October 2015.

APEEEL2 has appointed three new members onto this Committee: Mr Konstantinos Chatzis, Mrs Ivana Ballova and Mrs. Elvira Wassenaar, in replacement of Mrs Sharon Pierrard, Mrs. Delphine Ballaguy and Mrs. Danièle Montredon Mosonyi whose term on the Canteen Committee came to an end. APEEEL2 would like to take this opportunity to thank the latter, in particular Mrs Sharon Pierrard who served as the President of the Committee, for their valuable work on behalf of parents.

The main topics at the meeting included:

- The **nomination** of Mr Konstantinos Chatzis (APEEEL2) as President, Mr Emmanuel Risse (School Administrator) as Vice-President and Mrs Jennifer Travanca (Assistant to School Administrator) as Secretary.
- The start of preparations for the work on the **new call for tenders** for school catering services for the next 4-5 years from the next school year.
- Preliminary discussion of the possibility of improving the catering service for Primary by **extending the self-service pilot of P5 to all Primary classes**.
- Examination of **solutions** to diminish the noise in the canteen, reduce food waste and improve recycling possibilities.
- Discussion of the need for the school to communicate the **policy on microwaves** in the Secondary canteen.

We would like to remind our members that:

- Information about the Canteen Committee, including meeting Minutes, can be found in the school website: <http://80.90.48.2/lux2/fr/les-composants-de-lecole/service-de-restauration/comite-cantine>
- APEEEL2 representatives may be contacted via the office@apeeel2.lu address for:
- Suggesting topics to be put forward in the Canteen Committee. The next Canteen Committee meeting Agenda will be closed on 04/12/2015.
- Making proposals in relation to the new catering service call for tenders/contract and opinions on the Primary self-service plans.
- Complaints or questions related to the school canteen should be addressed to the service provider: contact.eel2@euresl.lu and/or the School: cantine@eursc-mamer.lu with office@apeeel2.lu in copy.

Please note that the Canteen Committee does not cover the catering services provided to the CPE V. Parents are therefore kindly asked to contact the CPE administration directly: jenka.nydrova@ec.europa.eu

5. Administrative Board – 15/10/2015

The Administrative Board meeting took place on 15 October. The main aim of the

Administrative Board is to deal with the administration and management of the School, including its budget and use of funds. Amongst the topics addressed were the following:

- General organization, creation of classes, groups and options, educational support
- Adoption of School calendar, in alignment with the European School Luxembourg I
- Staffing issues, administrative as well as teaching posts
- Financial matters and quality assurance

A number of encouraging announcements were made by the Deputy Secretary General, Mr Marcheggiano during the meeting. Amongst these was the possibility of the reopening of negotiations on new (better and more attractive) **contracts for locally recruited teachers** (see more below).

At the start of the meeting, a summary of the **school timetables situation in Secondary** and of the lessons learnt from this was provided by the School. One of these lessons is related to the issue of recruitment (see more below). It is clear that the timetabling task is too onerous for one individual working alone. The School will do all in its power to recruit from amongst its staff an additional timetabler to work on this complex task next year.

The Deputy Secretary General then spoke briefly about the **Syrian refugee crisis** and informed the meeting that the Secretary General, Mr Kari Kivenen, had written to the Schools reminding them of the duty of solidarity towards those in this difficult humanitarian position in case of need. The School gave a brief summary of the situation to date, namely that it had been approached by the local authorities with a request about its possibilities for hosting one or two *classes d'accueil*. Although the School has given a positive response to this possibility, the Luxembourgish authorities had not, at the time of the meeting, got back with anything concrete. The Government expects to put in place, in an area which belongs to the State which is situated on the territory of the Commune of Mamer, a temporary village to house some refugees. More precisely, this area is located between our school site and that of the Lycée Josy Barthel, close to the a "Mamer-Lycée" train stop. Both Schools continue to insist that they should be kept in the information loop on this matter.

An issue which was discussed at great length was the transport situation. The School gave a presentation of the complex situation of transport, one which is impacted by issues of access, and which results in issues relating to an additional onus on the School to provide a service of supervision on site (e.g. young children need to be accompanied from the buses to the School and vice-versa at the beginning and end of the day). In response to the School's presentation, APEEEL2 also spoke about the complex situation and about a "gap" which arises in this context. With so many elements to deal with (issues of access to/off the school site, parking, cycling and pedestrian paths; buses offered by the Communes – only available for children up to S1; buses offered by the MDDI to all at no cost; buses and a supervised shuttle service run by ATSEEE), there is a pressing need for a contact point which will serve as a "coordination and communication hub". There was agreement in principle on this need and on the possibility of employing a professional person to carry out the necessary work of developing a) a new model incorporating all the elements; and b) a sustainable mobility plan. Nevertheless, the Commission in particular, but also the Deputy Secretary General, were reluctant to give the School the go-ahead to include a provision for such a temporary post in its budget: discussion continues.

Human resource recruitment is often felt to be insufficient and/or not fully adequate to the needs of the European School Luxembourg II in various domains, non-pedagogical (e.g. human resources to ensure communication in a multilingual/multicultural environment) as well as pedagogical (continuity of projects via experienced and interested teachers – many such teachers leave the system for various reasons, and replacements are not always easy to identify; educational support; library etc.). APEEEL2 presented a position paper on this issue, and in this context welcomed the announcement of the Deputy Secretary General on the matter of the reopening of negotiations on locally recruited contracts. In this context, the School's commitment to working to develop a structure for an element of middle-management amongst teaching staff was also welcomed. Work on this is ongoing and will be discussed in the context of upcoming Education Council meetings.

The APEEEL2 Management Committee

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