NEWSLETTER

January 2021

"Le bonheur n'est pas toujours dans un ciel éternellement bleu, mais dans les choses les plus simples de la vie." Confucius



In this issue of the newsletter, you will find information on these topics and more:

- **A proposal to change the management of the canteen**
- **Our work to address health and safety at school during the pandemic**
- **Christmas Card competition**
- **Updates on the BAC 2021**
- **Career Guidance for secondary students**
- **Plans to create a student-led LGBT+ Support Group**
- **Information on Periscolaire activities during the crisis**

Dear parents,

We wish you a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021!!

Our Newsletter provides an overview of information from the School-based Committees in which APEEEL2 members are involved as well as some key events involving the Parent's Association.

We would like to remind that APEEEL2 is the only official Parents Representative Association at Lux II.

If you have any suggestions, do not hesitate to contact us: office@apeeel2.lu

Bonne lecture,

The APEEEL2 Management Committee

http://www.apeeel2.lu

1. Le Mot du Président



Chers parents,

Nous espérions tous des jours meilleurs avec cette nouvelle année 2021 mais nous devons continuer à nous armer de patience et maintenir notre vigilance. Je suis tout de même très heureux, au nom de l'APEEEL2 de vous souhaiter à tous une excellente année 2021, une très bonne santé et la réussite scolaire de vos enfants.

Depuis mars 2019, notre vie, notre quotidien et nos habitudes ont été chamboulés. La vie de notre association également. L'activité de l'APEEEL2 s'est fortement accrue (des réunions plus fréquentes et plus nombreuses, plus d'emails à répondre, de fortes contraintes sur la gestion du périscolaire…) Nous sommes conscients que cet accroissement d'activités, sans augmentation de nos ressources, s'est fait au détriment de notre communication. Nous n'avons effectivement pas été en mesure de sortir nos traditionnelles *FlashNews* aussi régulièrement qu'avant la crise sanitaire.

Nous avons donc pris la décision de renforcer notre équipe en place en lançant le recrutement d'une personne supplémentaire à temps partiel. En attendant ce recrutement, toute notre équipe (notre personnel et nos membres bénévoles du comité de gestion) est heureuse de vous présenter notre première **Newsletter** de l'année. Vous y trouverez des informations importantes sur notre implication en tant que représentants de parents dans cette crise sanitaire, sur les changements à venir dans notre école et sur les quelques projets qui malgré toutes les restrictions sanitaires en place arrivent à se concrétiser à Lux2 !

Je profite de cette lettre pour remercier toute l'équipe APEEEL2 pour son implication quotidienne à vos côtés.

Liebe Eltern,

Ein Frohes neues Jahr 2021!

Wir sind auch in diesem Schuljahr mit der Pandemie beschäftigt und müssen alle unseren Beitrag leisten damit wir diese Krise überwinden.

Dear parents,

I wish you a Happy New Year! That you and your children stay healthy!

APEEEL2 faces, as all of us, the difficult times of the pandemic with energy and trust. Energy to tackle all the new challenges, the increased number of meetings, the videoconferences, and trust in you and your children to respect the measures put in place to reduce the infection rates, in our governments to handle the situation and the consequences of all the measures taken.

You will finally get our first Newsletter, with a lot of information which we hope will meet your interest.

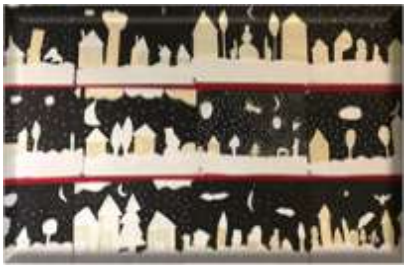
Bien cordialement / Mit freundlichen Grüßen / With best wishes,

A. Schmutz

André Schmutz
President of APEEEL2

2. GENERAL

a. APEEEL2's role in the School organisation during Covid-19 Crisis



One of APEEEL2's main roles has always been and remains to represent all parents' views and concerns. This has proved to be particularly challenging for us from the beginning of the sanitary crisis, as we have witnessed opinions and complaints which were often contradictory and conflicted with other parents' views and requests. This has been the case in particular regarding the decisions taken by our School Management about its organisation.

APEEEL2's role is not to take sides and support some parents' views against others. From the beginning of this crisis, our board members have attended regular weekly meetings with the School Management. APEEEL2 has ensured the School was always fully briefed about all parents' views, comments and complaints which were forwarded to us directly or via our class delegates.

As a small Parents' Association, we have neither the human resources, nor the legitimacy and often not the necessary time to run adequate surveys which could be rightly used to benefit one group of parents against another, as suggested by some parents. Decisions about the school organisation remains the sole responsibility of our School Management, while complying with the regulations of the Luxembourg authorities.

In many instances, even though internal meetings and preparations were intense, final decisions were taken at the last minute after we, as parents' representatives could raise parents' concerns and constraints to the School Management. As can be expected in this pandemic crisis, many factors were involved. Therefore, we always endeavoured to look at the overall school situation, and not any specific class level.

We always encouraged our School Director to communicate to parents every decision he made efficiently and in due time.

Unfortunately, the pandemic is not yet behind us, and we continue to attend regular meetings with the School Management on this topic. Please, do keep on sending us your suggestions, comments and queries to office@apeeel2.lu so we can ensure your voice will be heard.

b. Canteen management's request from the School



The School recently informed the Parent's Association that parents will have to start managing the canteen. APEEEL2's position is that the School cannot impose such obligations on parents.

The canteen has many unique challenges in terms of employment and finances, and the Parent's Association is run by volunteers. The amount of work that can be done by the Parent's Association depends completely on the generosity of volunteers.

APEEEL2 finds no basis in the convention that defines European School's statutes, the General Rules for the School or the decisions by the Board of Governors that requires parents to take over the organisation and management of the canteen.

To allow more time for discussion, the School has prolonged the existing contract with Eurest until September 2022. As we are not the only European School concerned with this type of request, we also asked for Interparents support. We informed parents about this issue at our latest Annual General Meeting on 14/12/2020 and we had a spontaneous group discussion with our members. Some parents expressed support for the proposed change, while others were worried about it. We will keep you updated as this issue progresses.

We would like to know how you feel about this important topic. Please send a message to office@apeeel2.lu and to the APEEEL2 Canteen Representative, Chris Knight, at chrisknight67@hotmail.com.

c. APEEEL2 AGM on 14/12

Pour la première fois cette année, notre assemblée générale s'est tenue en ligne le lundi 14 décembre 2020 et nous remercions tous nos parents membres qui étaient présents.
Vous trouverez le compte-rendu de cette assemblée ainsi que notre rapport annuel et les documents présentés en ligne sur notre site web. The draft minutes of our 2020 AGM are published – APEEEL2

d. APEEEL2 is recruiting for a part-time job in our office.



Comme vous le savez, notre association de parents est dirigée par un comité de gestion de parents bénévoles. Nous bénéficions cependant d'une petite équipe en place pour gérer l'association au quotidien dans son rôle de représentation des parents et dans la gestion des activités périscolaires.

Avec le surcroit d'activités auquel est confrontée notre association, le comité de gestion de l'APEEEL2 a pris la décision de recruter une personne supplémentaire à temps partiel pour la partie administrative et comptable.
Si vous êtes intéressés ou si vous connaissez quelqu'un intéressé par un poste de « Office and Accounting assistant », merci de consulter notre annonce.
APEEEL2 is recruiting a part-time Office & Accounting assistant ! – APEEEL2

3. Nursery & Primary

a. Christmas Card Competition



As every year, the School, in collaboration with APEEEL2, organised the traditional Christmas Card Competition in nursery and primary classes. This year, the theme of the contest was "*Christmas in my country*" and we were pleased to see the participation of so many classes.
The Christmas cards were exposed in the primary building where class teachers, 2 parents' representatives from APEEEL2 and pupils' class reps from P3 to P5 were invited to vote.

Due to the pandemic, it was not possible to organise a ceremony. However, Mrs Enza Petrone and Mrs Caroline Rabeau from APEEEL2 Management Committee, together with Mrs Petra Reinhardt, Deputy Director's assistant, were pleased to visit the classes and present prizes sponsored by APEEEL2 to the winning pupils.
This project was welcomed by the whole school community, especially in a period when so many pedagogical projects cannot be organised due to sanitary restrictions.

We would like to thank all pupils for their valuable participation and congratulate the winners!

M2FRA: Pascal Bosserelle Čarni
P1ENA: Béatrice Amordeluso
P2ENB: Julijan Potočnik
P3ENB: Charlotte Barwise
P4ITA: Marco Possenti Šarenac
P5FRB: Juraj Stec







b. Feedback from the Nursery and Primary Education Council from 15/12/2020

Some news about nursery: The Covid-19 situation prevents nursery teachers to work together on pedagogical projects like they used to do. However, they managed to recreate the happy Christmas atmosphere in the nursery building. Many small Christmas events were organised per class, and some of them were recorded for the parents. Santa Claus' visit in each class was successfully maintained. The common project presented Christmas boxes exposed in the nursery building and "Christmas in my country". This gave the feeling they all worked together even though they were not physically together.
In primary also, all common projects remain on stand-by, and the traditional Santa Lucia event in our school was not possible to organise this year. However, teachers are currently still finding specific events at their own class level.
Corridors in the primary building have been redecorated with nice colours, and big boards have been installed there to promote projects and exhibit children' artworks.

New supervisors: European Schools have been allocated with a specific Covid-19 budget which allowed the School to recruit 10 new supervisors: 5 in nursery and 5 in primary. They are primarily here to ensure sanitary restrictions are respected during the whole day. However, they also help on bus platforms, welcoming pupils and assisting them to find their bus, supervising playgrounds / classes until teachers arrive.






Primary Artworks from P2DE, P2IT and P2FRC

4. SECONDARY

a. L'enseignement à distance en rotation pour les élèves du secondaire

Le directeur de l'Ecole a confirmé le maintien du plan de rotation en janvier pour les élèves du secondaire comme il l'avait annoncé avant les vacances de Noël. Ce plan court jusqu'aux vacances de Carnaval pour montrer notamment que l'équilibre entre les semaines d'enseignement à distance et les semaines d'enseignement in situ est respecté entre les niveaux (sauf pour les S7 qui du fait de leur bac ont moins d'enseignement à distance).
Cependant, il est clair que si la situation le permet ou si les autorités nationales le recommandent, ce plan pourra être modifié, soit allégé, soit renforcé voire prolongé.

b. Career Guidance



L'orientation des élèves est un long processus qu'il faut savoir anticiper d'abord au niveau des choix des options que les élèves ont à faire pendant leur parcours au secondaire et ensuite pour leur choix d'études post bac. L'APEEEL2 est heureuse d'accompagner les parents dans ce processus. Vous trouverez beaucoup d'informations utiles sur notre site web.

Option Choices: All documents related to option choices in secondary, as well as all information about the European Bac are published on our website European Baccalaureate information / S3 & S5 Options choices – APEEEL2

Parcours Sup info: For all students who would like to study in France after their bac, *Parcourup* is the centralised platform you need to use. More information on PARCOURSUP – the centralised platform for registration to higher education in France – APEEEL2

Job Shadow Day is a great opportunity for students aged 16+ to get some experience in the Luxembourgish job market and develop their entrepreneurship spirit. More information can be found on Job Shadow Day 2021 for students aged 16+ / Register before 01/02/2021 – APEEEL2

Where do former students from Lux2 study? Every year, APEEEL2 is running a small survey with S7 students at the end of the school year, to find out where and which subjects they will study. The participation rate is not as high as we would hope for, but results can still help families in getting some ideas about the post-bac possibilities. Where did our 2020 Bachelors go and study? – APEEEL2

c. Bac 2021 with a short glance on bac 2020

APEEEL2 endeavours to accompany S7 parents all through this challenging year, informing them as soon as possible about the decisions made at central level. It is somehow crucial that, as S7 parents, you are registered on your class rep's mailing list, as we will only communicate important information on this topic through our class reps' network.

As S7 parents, you may have queries about the way Bac 2021 will be organised this year, knowing the sanitary restrictions which have been implemented.
Much information and many answers can be found in the following document Task Force Preparation for Bac 2021. These guidelines are also published in FR or DE on our website on https://www.apeeel2.lu/baccalaureate-info/. Please do not hesitate to contact us on office@apeeel2.lu if you have any further queries.



Prebac exams successfully started in-situ in our school this week. Some European Schools located in Italy and Germany do not yet know if and how they will be authorised to organise their exams in-situ. At Lux2, S7 students are allocated to 2 different examination rooms (Salle des Fêtes and the primary canteen) to guarantee social distancing between them. Good luck to all!

Regarding Bac exams in June and the sanitary crisis, for the moment, it is too early to know how the final exams will take place. For the records, as the situation should certainly be different this year, please find some information about the way decisions were made last year for the Bac exam 2020.
In April 2020, the BoG (Board of Governors) decided to cancel all final exams (written and oral). They also decided that a moderation would intervene whenever the difference in the distribution of final marks in comparison to previous years is statistically relevant.
Students were only informed at the end of May how their final Bac mark would be calculated, using the basis of the following proportions: 60% of the Pre-Bac marks, 20% of the A1 marks and 20% of the A2 marks.

In the end, the moderation which was applied resulted in a small decrease of the final mark for many students. With APEEEL2 and Interparents support, some students decided to launch an appeal, but in the end, all complaints were unsuccessful.
A Bac Ceremony in 2 groups (A in the morning and B in the afternoon) was organised on Friday 3 July 2020 in the Salle des Fetes at Lux2. Only students were authorised to attend, but the Ceremony was live streamed for parents and families.



Les élèves de S7 de la promo 2020 lors de leur cérémonie du bac
(2 photos de groupe rassemblées en une seule)

d. Science on Stage 2021



APEEEL2 is very pleased to support this initiative in Secondary, an exciting scientific challenge awaiting our Secondary students at Lux2.
In solo or in a group, all S1 to S7 students can take part in the competition and put their scientific knowledge to help the environment.
Students must choose a tutor amongst science teachers, and they can run for Junior or Senior selections depending on their age. APEEEL2 will financially contribute to the prizes rewarding the winners who will get the chance to participate to the ESSS (European Schools Sciences Symposium).
All the details can be found on Science on Stage 2021 project – registration deadline 12/02/2021 – APEEEL2

e. LGBT+ Support Group at Lux2



A group of secondary students, assisted by a secondary teacher, has regularly gathered in informal meetings at the school. They would like to propose the creation of a student-led LGBT+ Support Group, with the following 3 objectives:

1. To maintain an LGBT+ safe discussion space, in which they can foster self-expression, create a sense of togetherness and a connection with non-LGBT+ people.

2. To hold educational events – to answer questions and encourage awareness of LGBT+ issues in our school and society.
3. To advocate for LGBT+ needs.

APEEEL2 would like to support the LGBT+ Support Group in their efforts.

5. Periscolaire update

a. Le bon déroulement des activités périscolaires



Nos activités périscolaires ont débuté en octobre 2020 avec un certain nombre de mesures et de restrictions sanitaires qui sont venues s'ajouter au fur et à mesure des annonces du gouvernement. Grâce à l'implication de nos moniteurs et à leur capacité d'adaptation, les activités ont pu être maintenues la plupart du temps et aucune contamination au virus du Covid-19 n'a été initiée dans le cadre des activités périscolaires.

C'est évidemment pour les activités sportives que la situation est la plus tendue, les élèves ne portent pas de masque pendant les efforts physiques et il est très difficile d'assurer ces activités à distance. Certaines semaines, certaines activités ont dû être annulées ponctuellement pour suivre les mesures de l'école lorsqu'un niveau en particulier était en scénario 1.

Pour les semaines d'enseignement à distance, nous remercions nos moniteurs d'activités non sportives d'avoir fait preuve de flexibilité et d'avoir assuré une continuité de leur enseignement en dispensant leur cours en ligne.

Pour les vacances de Noël, certains professeurs de cours de musique particuliers ont même réussi à organiser des mini-concerts en ligne pour le plus grand bonheur des familles.

b. Pro-rata prices for courses still available (list)

This year again, we are pleased to give the opportunity to Nursery, Primary and Secondary pupils willing to try a group activity for 1 semester only, from Mid-January until 18 June 2021, to book a place at a pro-rata tariff where we still have availability.

All details, including how to book and the up-to-date list of available activities, are published on our website on Discounted Periscolaire activities from mid-January 2021 – APEEEL2

6. EVENTS

a. Art exhibition at Walferdange



Dans cette période de crise sanitaire, rares sont les occasions de sortir de chez soi !

Nous vous encourageons donc à aller visiter l'exposition d'art des élèves des 2 écoles européennes Lux1 et Lux2 au CAW (espace culturel) de Walferdange ouverte depuis le vendredi 15 janvier 2021 jusqu'au dimanche 7 février 2021.

L'entrée est gratuite, la vente des œuvres d'art se fait au profit de l'association « Regards d'enfants d'Ethiopie » qui se consacre à l'amélioration de l'état de santé et du mode de vie des populations par l'éducation sanitaire et l'offre de services médicaux. Pour plus de détails, merci de consulter notre site Art Exhibition in Walferdange from Lux1 & Lux2 students from 15/01 to 7/02 2021 – APEEEL2

Bravo aux élèves artistes pour leurs œuvres magnifiques, leur engagement et leur générosité !





Art Exhibition in Walferdange: artworks from Lux1 and Lux2 students

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