Feedback from Nursery & Primary Education Council on 29/03/2023

Attended by APEEEL2 Representatives.

Your APEEEL2 representatives attended the Nursery & Primary Education Council held on Wednesday 29/03/23. We are pleased to share with you the main topics which were discussed at this meeting:

Organization for next school year

The enrolment period started beginning of March. The Management foresees reaching approximately the same number of applications as in previous years. At the time of the Council, not all registrations had been received and as category 1 parents can register at any time, nothing is yet definite:

- Only a few applications have been received for the Danish, Czech, and Hungarian sections which already have a low number of pupils in some classes.
- The Management doesn't foresee major changes in the number of classes. Even though there are 2 Greek Nursery classes with M1 and M2 pupils, there should be only one P1EL class next September.
- P2 classes in the FR section are at their size limit. The Management will only be able to create a 3rd class if new pupils from Category 1 enroll later.

APEEEL2 representatives expressed their concerns about the lack of pupils in some sections and asked which actions are being taken to promote our School. The Management answered that they are meeting with the different ambassadors to know more about newcomers' arrivals in the concerned language sections. They have also participated in a meeting with the staff from European Institutions to present our School. For the first year since the end of the Covid crisis, the School has organized an "Open Day" on 21 March for potential new Lux2 families.
APEEEL2 also asked for feedback about the few classes which have a very low number of pupils this year, such as the Danish and Czech classes in Nursery. Even though the interaction between pupils may be missing, teachers are doing a great job working with other Nursery classes on different projects, as well as on projects with Primary classes from their section.

School trips

P2, P3, and P4 school trips will be organized from April to June 2023.
This is the first year for the School Management to start working with the travel agency Denatravel which won the tender launched by the central office for all European schools.
The Management confirmed that information is reaching the teachers very late, and the School deadlines are not always respected by Denatravel. In addition, even though we did expect an increase compared to costs before the Covid crisis, the cost increase is significant.
APEEEL2 shared these remarks with InterParents, and our comments are similar to other European Schools also facing issues with Denatravel. InterParents added this point to the agenda of the Board of Governors in April 2023.

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APEEEL2 also complained about the strict rules imposed on teachers in their way to communicate with parents during school trips. The Management confirmed that all teachers have been trained by the School's Data Protection Officer. They are free to communicate as much as they want but they cannot send pictures.

This year, we have noticed that more parents are worried about letting their children go on school trips. There are several reasons for this concern, in particular the fact that families have lost the habit of going on these trips which did not take place for three years. The progressive learning process has also been lacking, since for example, some pupils find themselves in P3 or P4 having never travelled without their parents.
Even though APEEEL2 always supported school trips in Primary, we would have appreciated more communication from the School Management for this school year when school trips have resumed after a 3-year break. APEEEL2 insisted with the Deputy Director for Nursery and Primary to organize a plenary meeting with Primary parents where all practical questions about the trip's organization, program, accompaniment, medical service could have been raised by parents.

School trips in 2023/2024:
The School Management is seriously reflecting on some aspects of the school trips in Primary in the future, such as the choice of destinations etc... The starting point is to discuss the length of the trips, and then build a pedagogical project around seasons and geography. Of course, the price, as well as pupils' support and supervision in addition to the teachers will be scrutinized.
APEEEL2 expressed its support for a more pedagogical approach for school trips in general.

We kindly remind you of the school trips dates for P2, P3 and P4 levels:

- **School trip for P2 classes in Lalaye (France, Alsace)** – One group between 22 and 24/05/23 and a second group between 24 and 26/05/23.
- **School trip for P3 classes in La Bresse (France, Vosges) –** One group between 17 and 21/04/23 and a second group between 24 and 28/04/23.
- **School trip in P4 in De Haan (Belgian coast) –** From Monday 05/06 until Friday 09/06/23.

Projects in Primary

- **Bookmark Competition around the 10th-Anniversary theme** was organized in February. You can read more about this project on APEEEL2 website **https://www.apeeel2.lu/bookmark-competition-02-2023/**
- **Spring concerts** were organized in March**.**
- **Virlies concours:** this is a reading competition organized by the Ministry of Education. 1 pupil from P5FRC has been selected to represent Lux2 at the national level.
- **Exhibitions for parents:** several exhibitions presenting pupils' works during the European Hours and in Art classes are being prepared. We expect parents to receive an invitation to visit this exhibition soon.

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Projects in Nursery

- **Common project about the 5 senses.** You can read more about this project on APEEEL2 website **https://www.apeeel2.lu/common-project-in-nursery-about-the-5-senses-03-2023/**

Projects to come.

- Mathematics workshops
- Sports days in June

On various occasions, APEEEL2 representatives complained that projects organized in the School were not visible enough for parents. We are pleased to inform you that the School website is now more frequently updated, as promised by the School Director.
Do not hesitate to have a look at the articles already published:
In Primary: https://www.eel2.eu/en/news/vie-de-lecole-evenements/virliesconcours-2023-p5de-and-p5frc
In Nursery: https://www.eel2.eu/en/news/vie-de-lecole/greek-section-spotlight-nursery-and-primary-cycles

Transition between cycles

Transition M2 – P1
The transition will start in May and will have a more holistic approach. Nursery pupils will visit the Primary building, as well as the Primary canteen. Teachers are working on projects where pupils will be active participants.

Transition P5 – S1

- All P5 attended "Learn to Learn" sessions with Mrs Le Dorner. All feedback from teachers and pupils is positive. There will be continuity, as those sessions will continue in S1.
- The Transition Day for P5 pupils is being prepared. P5 pupils will have the opportunity to visit the Secondary building, attend lessons in Secondary and will participate in individual initiatives from teachers.
- P5 Ceremony for pupils and their parents is being prepared and planned for 05/07/23.

Meeting between the Deputy Director and pupils' representatives

- Mr Richard, Deputy Director for Nursery and Primary met with P3,P4 & P5 pupils' representatives first in November, and then again in March.
- The topics raised by the pupils are the following:
    - More games in the playground.
    - Better organization of the football area.
    - Canteen: for the first time, pupils acknowledged the food was better.
    - The possibility to have more and longer breaks.
    - More alternative places for the breaks (mini library…)

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- Mr Richard could not answer positively to all the requests, but he will work on some of the proposals. He said the pupils took their role very seriously and thanked their teachers for having prepared them well for their representative's role.

APEEEL2 Nursery & Primary Education Council Committee – March 2023

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